

VolkswagenStiftung - Change! Fellowships and Research Groups

Description

Funding for researchers in Germany to collaborate with partners from social practice in order to develop knowledge, methods and scenarios for transformation processes through joint research, initiate and advance such processes in society and anchor transdisciplinary research in science.

Fund ID:

S25878

Current Status

Open for Applications

Funding body:

VolkswagenStiftung (Volkswagen Foundation)

Application deadline:

28-03-2024

Maximum value:

€ 1,800,000

Extended Description

VolkswagenStiftung (Volkswagen Foundation) is an independent, non-corporate, non-profit foundation dedicated to the support of the humanities and social sciences, as well as science and technology in higher education and research.

The **Change! Fellowships and Research Groups** is a funding programme aimed at scientists at least two years after their doctorate who have recognised the potential of non-scientific sources of knowledge for their research on transformation processes. In collaboration with their non-scientific partners, researchers should address social problems, gain insights into factors that promote or inhibit change, and develop knowledge, methods and scenarios for designing transformation processes. It is possible to involve different practice partners in the different phases of the project. The aim is to actively initiate change processes using the findings and strategies from joint research.

The initiative is open to topics from all disciplines, provided that the content of the project is related to transformation processes and their design, and methodologically incorporates transdisciplinary research approaches. The findings for transformation processes must be translated into recommendations for action and implemented at appropriate points in society.

The programme offers two possible pathways:

- **Fellowships** for postdoctoral researchers two years after completing their doctorate, and for junior professors.
- **Research groups** for established researchers who already have a permanent employment contract.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible for the programme are postdoctoral researchers from two years after completing their doctorate, junior professors, as well as scientists in advanced career stages with permanent employment contracts. Candidates can be based at universities or non-university research institutions in Germany, or have a target institution in Germany.

The involvement of non-scientific groups of actors (eg networks from civil society, non-governmental organisations, associations, authorities, small businesses etc) is required.

Additional Information

The Foundation will be offering webinars in the run-up to the deadline to answer questions about the application process. The dates will be announced on the [funding website](#). Participation on one of the offered dates is recommended.

Value Notes

The funding period is five years. In individual cases, a second funding period of another two years might be possible.

Fellowships:

- Funding available to postdoctoral researchers includes funds for their own position, personnel resources for up to three research assistants, as well as material and travel resources. The amount of funding can be up to €1.8 million.
- Junior professors can apply for funding for up to three research assistants, as well as material and travel resources. In exceptional cases, they may also apply for funds for their own position (eg to bridge the gap at W1 without a tenure track). The amount of funding can be up to €1.5 million.

Research groups:

- To set up a research group, funding can be requested for up to two research assistants, as well as material and travel expenses. Up to €1.3 million is available for this purpose.

Overhead costs are not included in the maximum funding amounts listed. Funds can also be applied for project-related expenses for non-scientific partners.

Restrictions

Senior professors and professors who plan on leaving during the project period are not eligible to apply.

Applications submitted in the same or similar format to other funding organisations will not be considered.

Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted in English via the VolkswagenStiftung [application system](#).

For fellowships, the submission deadline is **28 March 2024 (14:00 CET)**.

For research groups, the submission deadline is **24 April 2024 (14:00 CET)**.

Decisions will be made in December 2024.

Next deadline for both pathways is expected in 2025.

Useful links

- [🌐 VolkswagenStiftung - Change! Fellowships and Research Groups \(in German\)](#)

Related calls and deadlines

2024 Deadline for Fellowships

Application end date:
28-03-2024

2024 Deadline for Research Groups

Application end date:
24-04-2024
