

## Excellence Funding Programme for Established Scientists

### Applicants' Guidelines for [Project Outlines](#)

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#### A. Introduction

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German Cancer Aid is launching a second call to support long-term 'high-risk - high gain' research projects. The objective of the programme is to fund well-established, excellent scientists in pursuing innovative, ground-breaking ideas in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer as well as in adopting conceptual new approaches. The programme will provide scientists with the opportunity to work on projects that cannot be funded within the scope of other German Cancer Aid funding programmes or by institutional core funding.

The programme is aimed at individual scientists who are already established research leaders with an outstanding academic CV and who can demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.

Please note that collaborative scientific projects ('Verbundprojekte') as well as structural funding ('Strukturfördermaßnahmen') cannot be considered for funding.

Funding of up to a maximum of € 1.5 million is available for a period of up to 5 years.

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#### B. General Comments / Procedure

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##### Applicant's profile

Professors and group leaders working at a university in the field of clinical or basic clinically oriented cancer research are eligible to apply. We wish to point out that applications are not accepted from members of profit-making organizations, from persons living and working outside of Germany or from persons who are not permitted to publish results in a generally accessible form. Scientists based at non-university research institutions may also apply if they intend to propose a project that cannot be carried out as part of the regular work at their institution.

Applicants are encouraged to evaluate their track-record and research independence against the below-mentioned benchmarks, in order to judge their likelihood for success and to avoid investing effort in proposals that are very unlikely to succeed:

- Applicants will be expected to have a proven track record of achievements in cancer research in the past 10 years and at least matching one or more of the following benchmarks,
- for instance: up to 10 significant publications as main author in leading international peer-reviewed journals, or major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals.
- They may also demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well-established international conferences, organization of international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes, academy memberships etc.

In order to assess your own prospects for a successful application, you can find an overview of the grantees of the first call of applications that are currently being funded on the homepage of German Cancer Aid.

### **Application and evaluation procedure**

The application and evaluation procedure will comprise two steps:

- Project outlines have to be submitted no later than **September 22, 2022, 1:00 pm**.
- In case of a favourable preliminary evaluation, deadline for full applications will be February 23, 2023, 1:00 pm.

During both procedural steps, every proposal will be evaluated for the two most important elements of this programme: the scientific quality of the proposed project and the track record of the applicant.

Project outlines must be in English. The project title has to be submitted also in German. Please use the section numbers as below, with the corresponding titles. The requirements for project outlines are described in detail in the following sections. Please do not exceed page limits.

Please submit all required documents, by e-mail only, to:

**foerderung@krebshilfe.de** (one PDF document, not exceeding 10 MB).

**Subject: 'Excellence Funding Programme for Established Scientists - Outline'**

Within two weeks of receipt of the project outline by the offices of German Cancer Aid, the applicant will receive a written confirmation of receipt. If you fail to receive a confirmation of receipt, please send an e-mail to the Funding Department of the German Cancer Aid ([foerderung@krebshilfe.de](mailto:foerderung@krebshilfe.de)), giving the full project title and your telephone number.

### **Note:**

Contacting members of the reviewer committee in the context of the evaluation of the application, can be interpreted as an attempt to influence their decisions and will lead to termination of the evaluation process.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Dr. Kerstin Matejka, 0228 / 72990-202, e-mail: [matejka@krebshilfe.de](mailto:matejka@krebshilfe.de)

## C. Guideline for Project Outlines

To simplify the evaluation process for the reviewers:

- Address all points mentioned in the guidelines, repeating all section numbers / letters, as well as the complete section titles.
- The following parameters must be respected for the layout:

Page Format	Font Type	Font Size	Line Spacing	Margins
A4	Times New Roman, Arial or similar	At least 11	Single	2 cm side 1 cm top and bottom

In fairness to all applicants, the page limits will be strictly applied. Only the material that is presented within these limits will be evaluated.

### Please note:

German Cancer Aid reserves the right to refuse and send back incomplete applications or applications, which have not been prepared according to the guidelines. Therefore, we urge you to address all points in the guidelines. Please use the section numbers as below, with the corresponding titles.

### 1. General Information

**1.1 Project title** in English and German (not more than 160 characters each, including commas and spaces)

#### 1.2 Applicant

- First name, surname, degree
- Full name of the institution at which the applicant works
- Postal address
- Telephone and e-mail address

#### 1.3 Keywords

Please select 4 - 8 keywords.

#### 1.4 Requested Funding Period (in months)

### 2. Project Description (max. two pages)

Description of the overall concept and the main focal points of the project. This description should demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition, feasibility and potential impact of the scientific proposal. This description must be understandable without references to additional literature. Note that reviewers are not required to read any of the works you cite.

#### Uniqueness of the project

Please briefly explain what makes your project unique and why it cannot be implemented within the framework of other funding programmes (particularly the Research Grants programme). Non-university applicants should explain why the project cannot be carried out with the basic funds provided by their home institutions.

#### Out of the box thinking

Describe how the proposed project differs from your own previous research. Highlight new conceptual approaches and innovative aspects compared to your previous work.

Note: Project description must not exceed two pages max. References should be included (they do not count towards the page limit).

### **3. Publication list**

Please list your 10 most important publications from the last 10 years (please state all the authors of a publication: not 'et al.' and the journal's impact factor). If applicable, please highlight those publications that relate directly to the proposed project and that document your preliminary work. This list serves as an important basis for assessing your proposal.

### **4. Tabular Curriculum Vitae (max. five pages)**

The CV should include the standard academic and research record. Use the template available from German Cancer Aid website (<https://www.krebshilfe.de/forschen/foerderung/ausschreibungen/>).

To enable reviewers to assess an applicant's scientific track record appropriately, applicants may indicate in their CVs any circumstances that might have hampered their scientific work, for example periods in which a researcher was unable to work continuously due to childcare obligations or due to a prolonged serious illness or disability.

### **5. Project-relevant participation in commercial enterprises**

Please indicate if you are the owner of a commercial enterprise or a stakeholder in one. If so, please state how your research project is linked to the company's portfolio, activities, or production.

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### **Additional Comments**

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- No legal claim for funding can be derived from the submission of an application. The applicant has no claim that a submitted application should be returned.
- German Cancer Aid retains the right to check for duplicate funding by providing other external funding sources with the applicant's information (name, theme and objective of the project).
- The acceptance of a research grant obligates the funding recipient to comply with the rules of Good Scientific Practice. The rules of Good Scientific Practice are described in detail in the user guidelines for research funds from the German Research Foundation (DFG preprints 2.01 and 2.02). In the event of scientific misbehaviour, funding can be terminated. In particular, scientific misbehaviour is present when false information is provided deliberately or with gross negligence in a context of considerable scientific importance, or the intellectual property of others is violated or their research work is impaired. The circumstances of the individual case are always decisive.

July, 2022