UNIVERSITÄT PADERBORN
Die Universität der Informationsgesellschaft

Guideline
Paderborn University Research Award
- "Bold Ideas for Science" -

1. The Concept

Extraordinary research projects (with an interdisciplinary approach) that feature visionary ideas, bold hypotheses, creative and unconventional technologies or innovative and courageous methods outside the mainstream should be given the opportunity to be realised. In the process, the most innovative approaches, ways of thinking, mindsets and methods from various disciplines should be taken into account. We are looking for projects that are completely new and unusual and might challenge currently accepted knowledge and expertise. Funding is provided for an initial project phase with the aim of examining and testing out this idea more closely. If the project fails or is not feasible, an explanation of the obstacles that hindered it is the desired result.

It is only the innovative and bold research idea that counts.

2. Applicants / Project Team

The following formal requirements must be met and apply to co-applicants as well.

- Completed doctoral degree or higher academic qualification (you must be qualified for independent research)
- You must have a verifiable employment contract with UPB
- Active involvement in research and teaching is required

3. Funding

- The amount of the funding is 150,000 EUR
- The duration of the funding period is max. 18 months.
- One project will be supported each year.
- The funds can be used flexibly for all material and personnel costs incurred, but the funds must explicitly and demonstrably serve the purpose of achieving the research objective, e.g.:
  o Involvement of cooperation partners from the academic/scientific community (in Germany and other countries)
  o Research stays at other institutions
  o Invitations to visiting scholars/researchers
  o Workshops or project meetings
  The funding cannot be used to finance the applicant's own position.
- Only one idea/project outline per person/project team can be submitted during each application period.
- Ideas that have already been rejected cannot be presented again, generally not in a modified or revised form either.

4. Formatting Specifications

The application documents should be submitted as follows:
Page format A4, font Arial, font size 11 point, line spacing no less than 1.2, page margin "normal"

5. Application Documents

The following documents must be submitted:

a) Completed application form (https://www.uni-paderborn.de/en/zv/formulare)

b) Introductory profiles of the researchers involved and their research focus areas

c) Short CV (max. 2 pages), including information about your position at the institute and listing up to ten selected publications (if applicable, short CVs of co-applicants)

d) Doctoral degree certificate of Young Scientists

e) Project outline (max. 76 lines)

f) Cost plan / information on the planned use of funds (see information in Section 3; max. 1 page)

g) Declaration of consent to data processing (originally signed by applicants and co-applicants)

The application must be submitted to the Committees Head Office, Department 2.2, in electronic form (1 PDF file).

Project outline (max. 76 lines)

Use the following structure for your outline:

1. Idea: Describe your research idea, highlighting the unique, bold aspects and unusual methods (max. 20 lines)

2. Objective: Describe the specific desired objective (max. 3 lines)

3. Methods: Outline the methods you indicated that should lead to the success of the concept (max. 20 lines)

4. Prospects of success: Describe the expected gain in knowledge and insights weighed against the possible risks (max. 10 lines)

5. Relevance to the research award: Why should Paderborn University consider your research idea? In particular, also describe why your project has an interdisciplinary nature. Explain the value and importance of your research project for the academic/scientific community (20 lines)

6. Summary: What makes your project special, and a more bold one, in comparison to others, and why will the findings enrich academia/science if it is successful (max. 3 lines)?

6. Application Dates and Deadlines

The current application dates and deadlines are announced on the website of the Committee for Research and Junior Academics (FK) and can also be found in the current call for applications. The plan is to award the prize on an annual basis.

7. Selection and Evaluation Process

The selection takes place in two consecutive FK meetings (1st session: preliminary selection based on the application documents; 2nd session: invitation of up to 3 candidates to present the research project). All programme requirements as well as the merit and coherence of the idea/project outline are considered in the preliminary selection.

8. Award Ceremony and Presentation

A quick project start is essential. The award itself is presented during Paderborn University's New Year's reception. About two years after being granted the award, the award winners will be invited to a presentation, at the University's Research Day, where they will present their results in the form of a presentation (30 minutes), regardless of whether the project is successful, fails or is not feasible. The aim is to further develop the "Paderborn University Research Award" funding initiative based on the experiences of the funded project participants. The winners will be notified of the date of the presentation 4 months in advance.

Contact persons:

Department 2

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