



Funding Opportunities of the DFG

for Early Career Scientists

Anjana Buckow | IAP and Universität Rostock | 13 June 2019

Topics

1 | The DFG – About Us

2 | DFG Funding Opportunities

3 | Proposal and Review Process

4 | Advice for Applicants

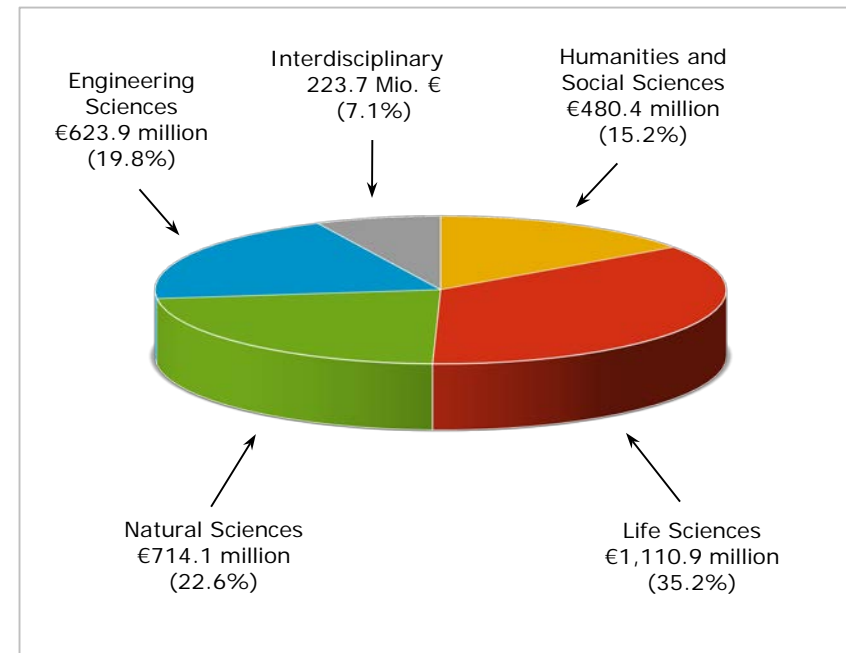
5 | Links and Resources

The DFG's mission Statement

The DFG

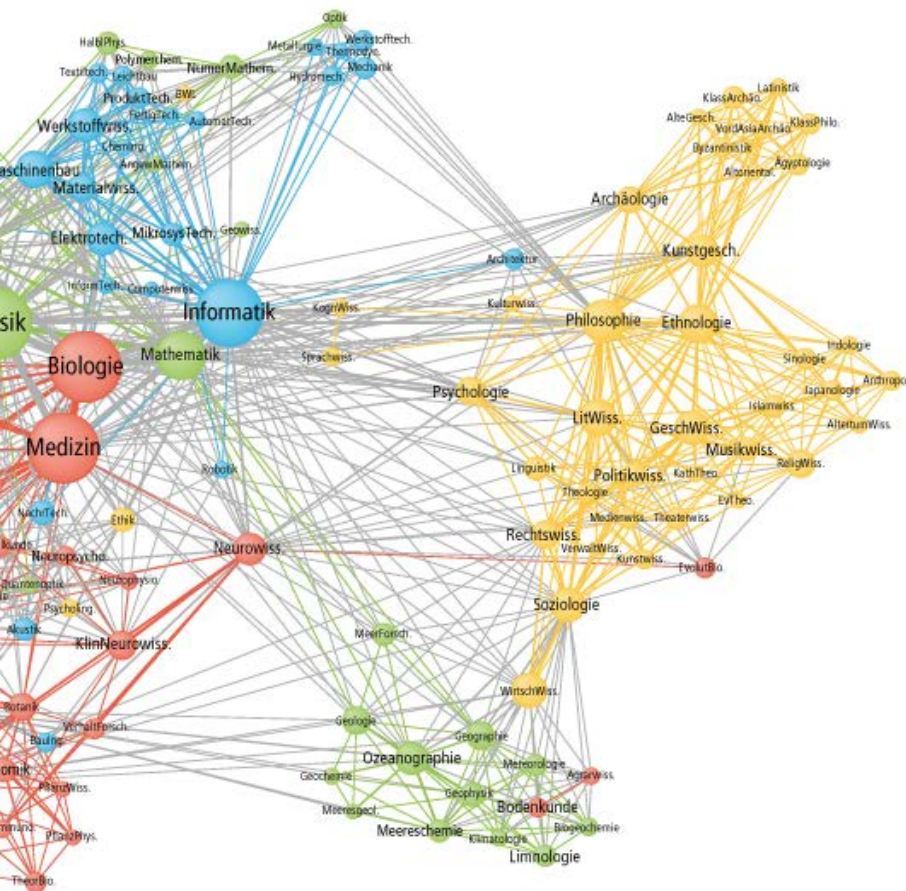
- ▶ serves **all branches of science and the humanities**
- ▶ fosters **scientific excellence** through competition
- ▶ supports **international cooperation in research**
- ▶ **advises** political and social decision-makers
- ▶ supports the **transfer of knowledge** between science and industry

Funding in 2017, by scientific discipline



The DFG – About Us

Funded projects



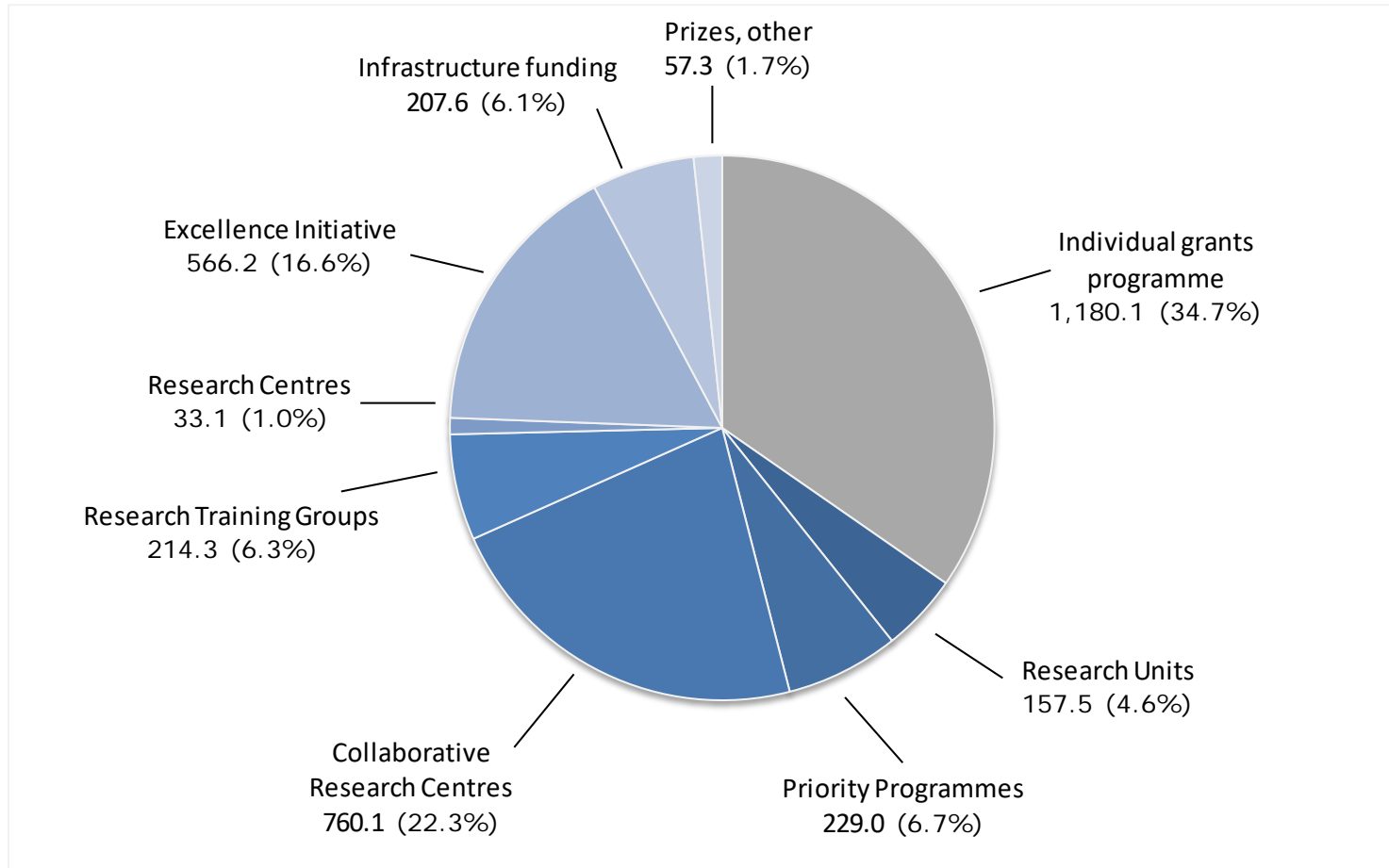
In **2018**, the DFG funded almost **33,000** projects

- Individual research projects
- Research collaborations
- Research infrastructure
- Coordinated programmes

The DFG – About Us

Programmes funded in 2018

Research funding for new and ongoing projects by programme for calendar year 2018 (in €m and %)

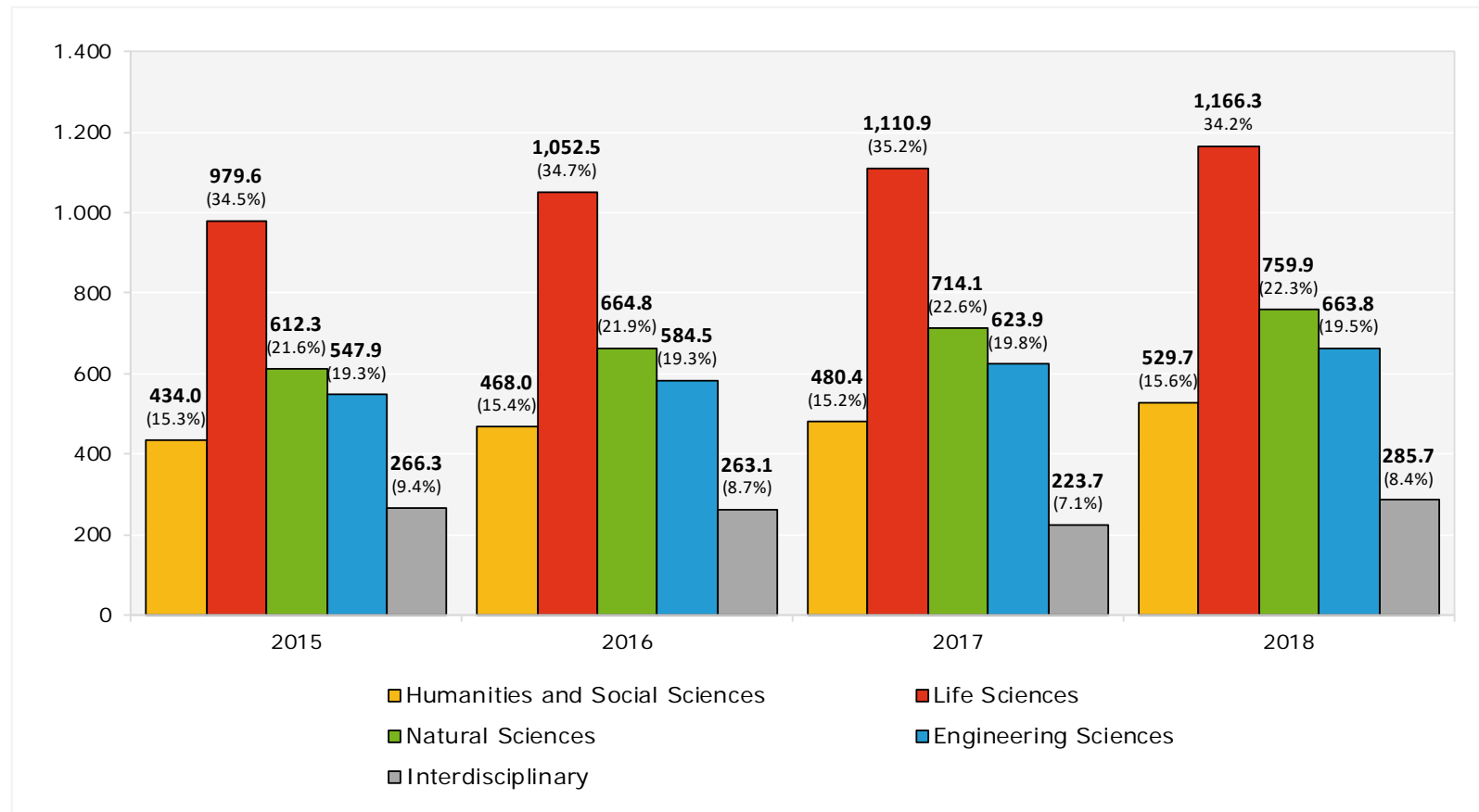


DFG Funding Opportunities for Early Career Scientists

The DFG – About Us

Funding by discipline 2015-2018

Amount of research funding awarded by scientific discipline for each calendar year 2015 to 2018 (in €m and %)



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5 | Links and Resources

DFG Funding Opportunities

Eligibility



Researchers

- ▶ who have completed their scientific training, i.e. who hold a **doctorate** and
- ▶ who would like to work **in Germany**
- ▶ of **any age**

DFG Funding Opportunities

Funding principles

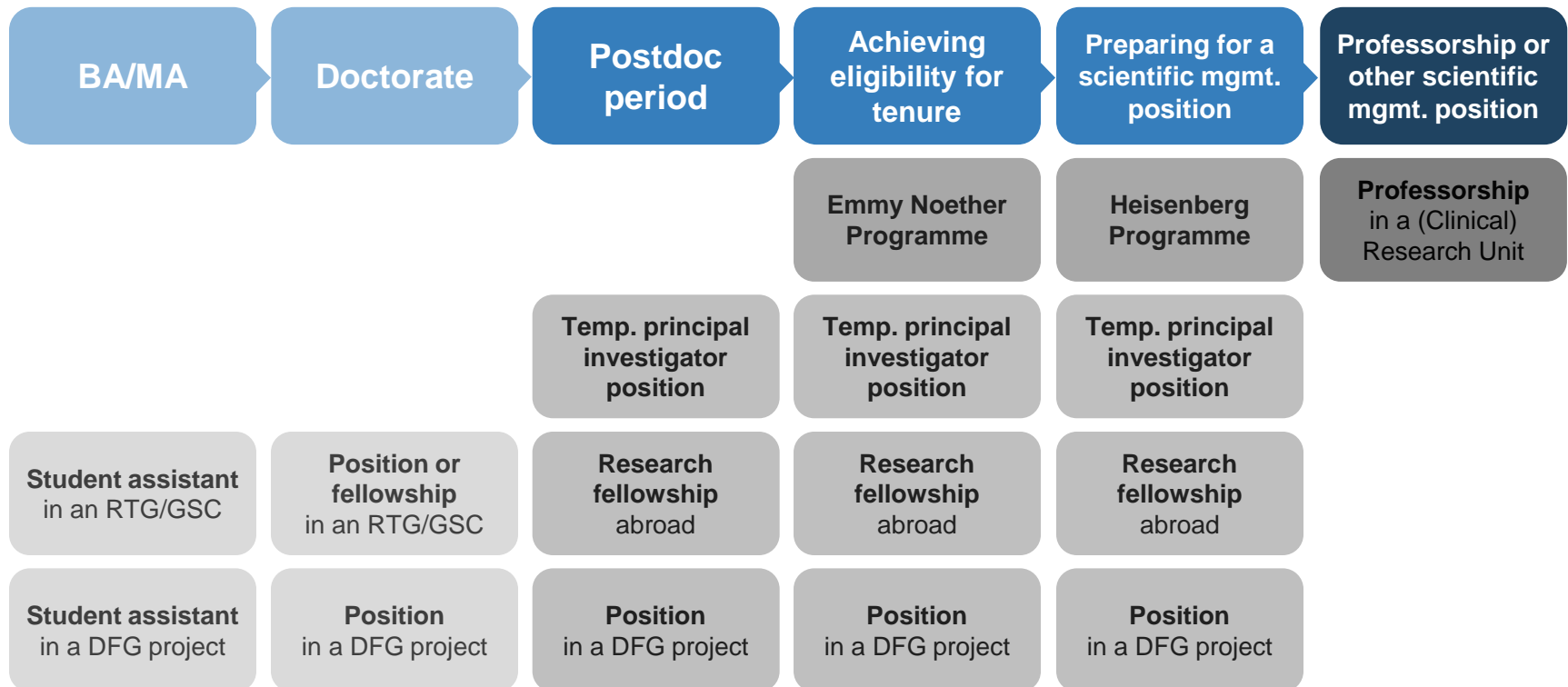
- ▶ **Research topic:** open, bottom-up
- ▶ **Type of research:** basic research in any field of science and the humanities
- ▶ **Note:** individual career phases and family-related career breaks are considered
- ▶ **Deadlines:** none*



* Exceptions: Priority Programmes, international activities, workshops for early career investigators

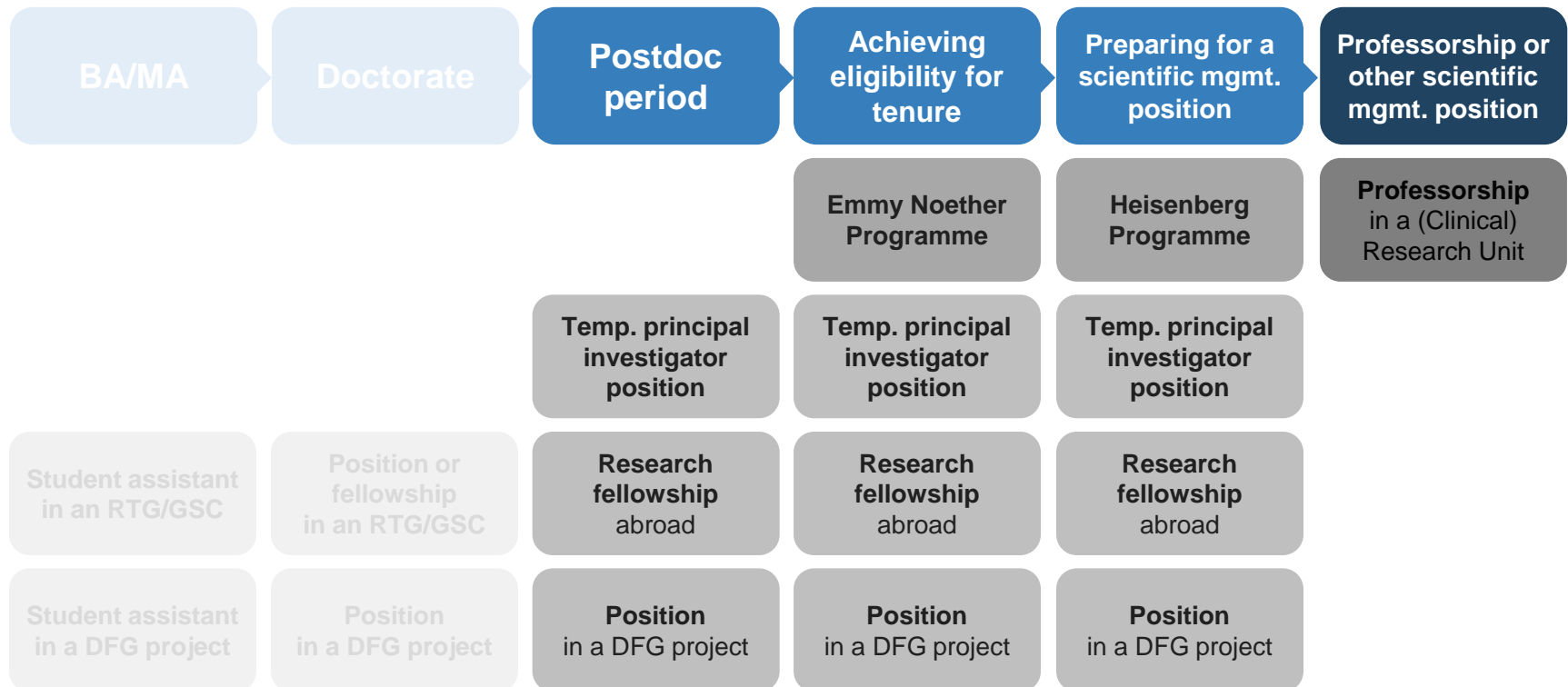
DFG Funding Opportunities

For early career researchers



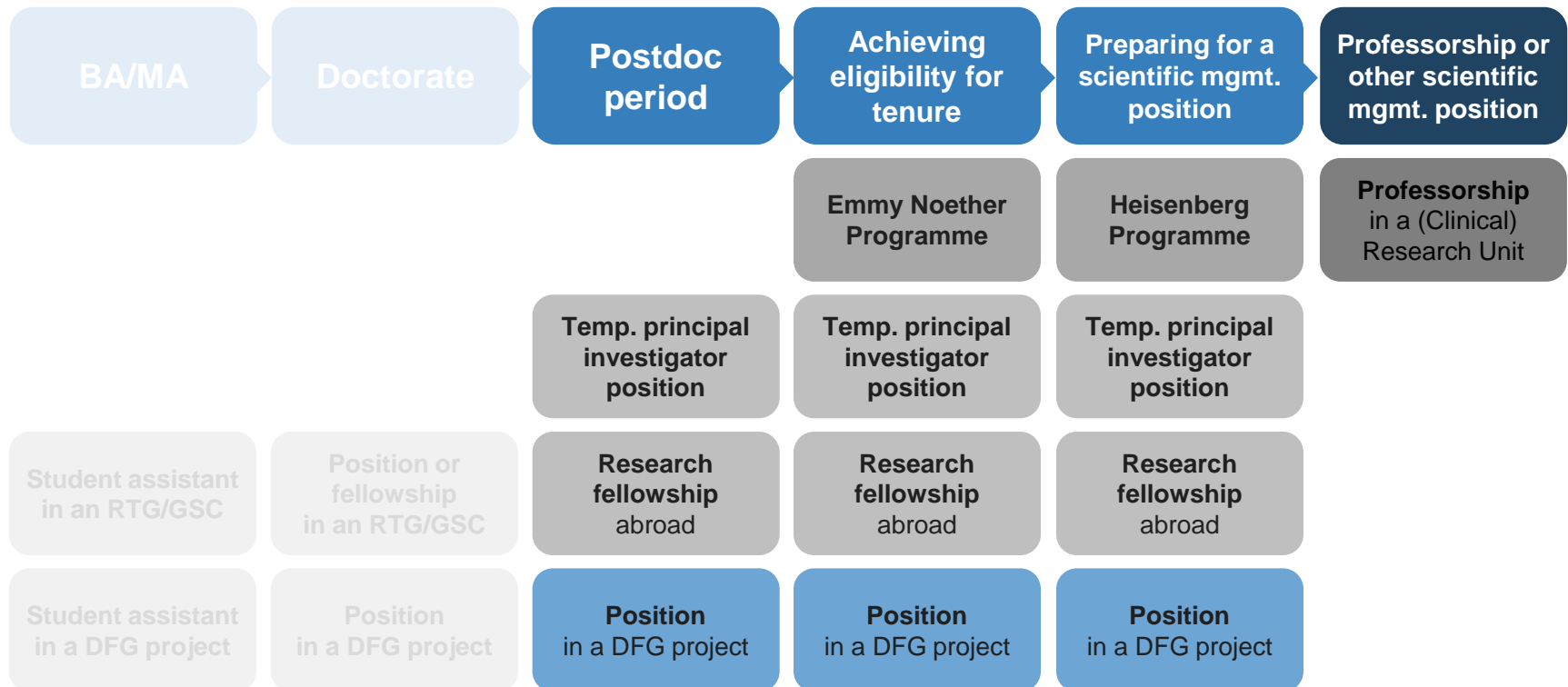
DFG Funding Opportunities

For early career researchers



DFG Funding Opportunities

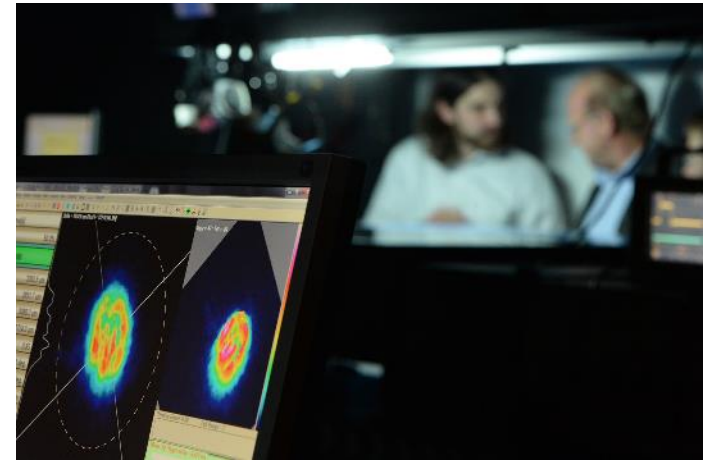
For early career researchers



DFG Funding Opportunities

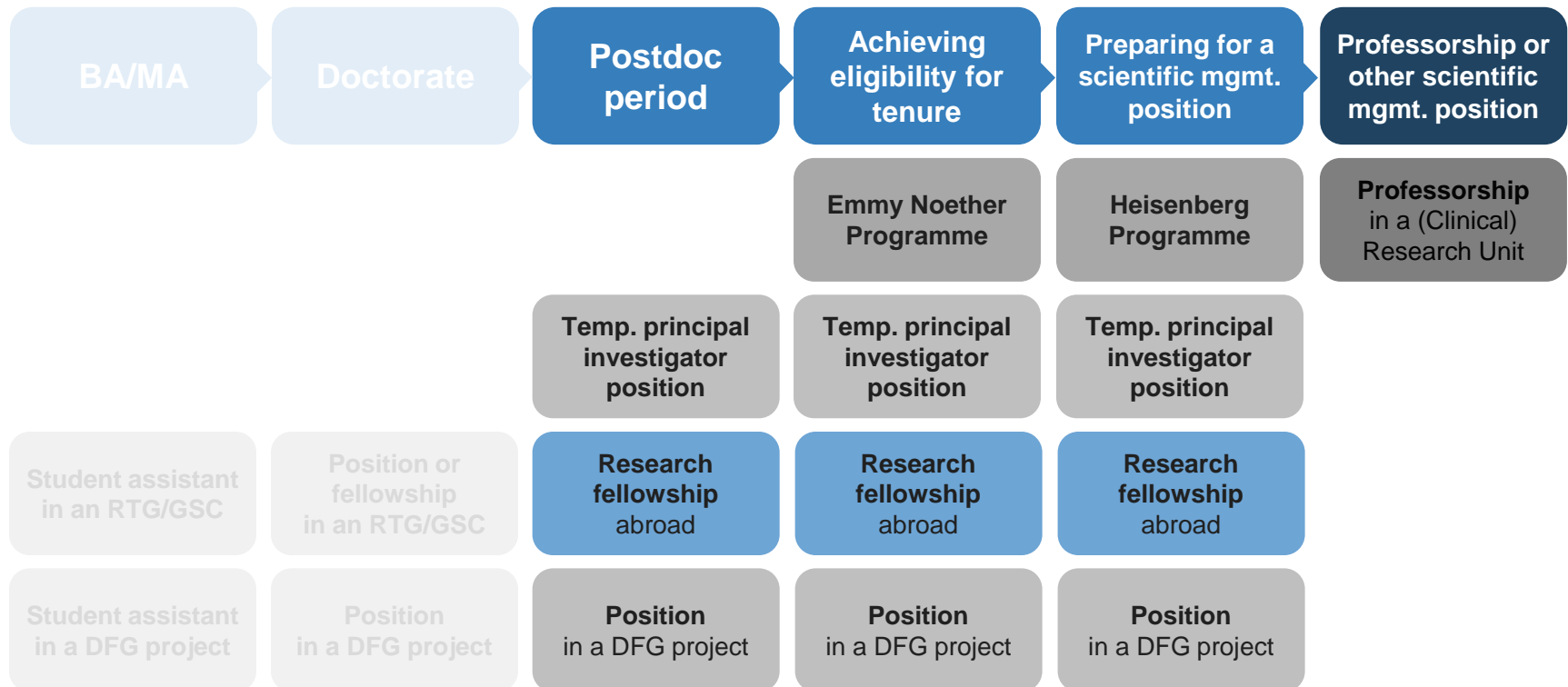
Working in a DFG-funded project

- ▶ Positions for **doctoral researchers** and **postdocs**
- ▶ At a German university or research institute
- ▶ **Duration** of funding depends on project
- ▶ **Position** (E13-E14 TvöD/TV-L)
- ▶ **Apply with the project's PI**



DFG Funding Opportunities

For early career researchers



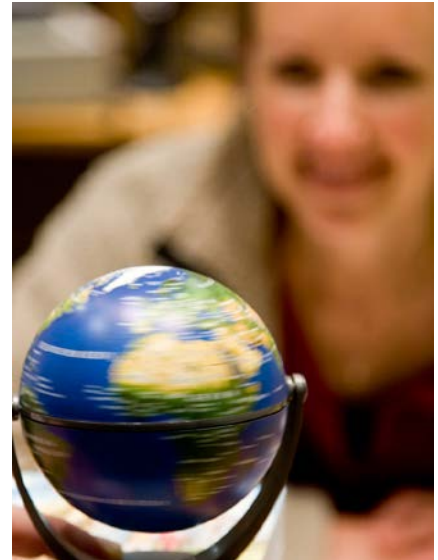
DFG Funding Opportunities

Research fellowships (*Forschungsstipendien*)

- ▶ Fellowships for **postdoctoral** researchers for a research project **abroad**
 - ▶ Duration of max. 2 years
 - ▶ Possibility of max. 6-months return grant
 - ▶ Basic fellowship allowance = €1,750
 - + direct project costs
 - + foreign allowance
 - + cost of living allowance
 - + child allowance (where applicable)
 - + travel allowance
- **award calculator** at DFG website

▶ Proposal to the DFG

DFG Funding Opportunities for Early Career Scientists



DFG Funding Opportunities

Research fellowships (*Forschungsstipendien*)

Benefits for fellows with children:

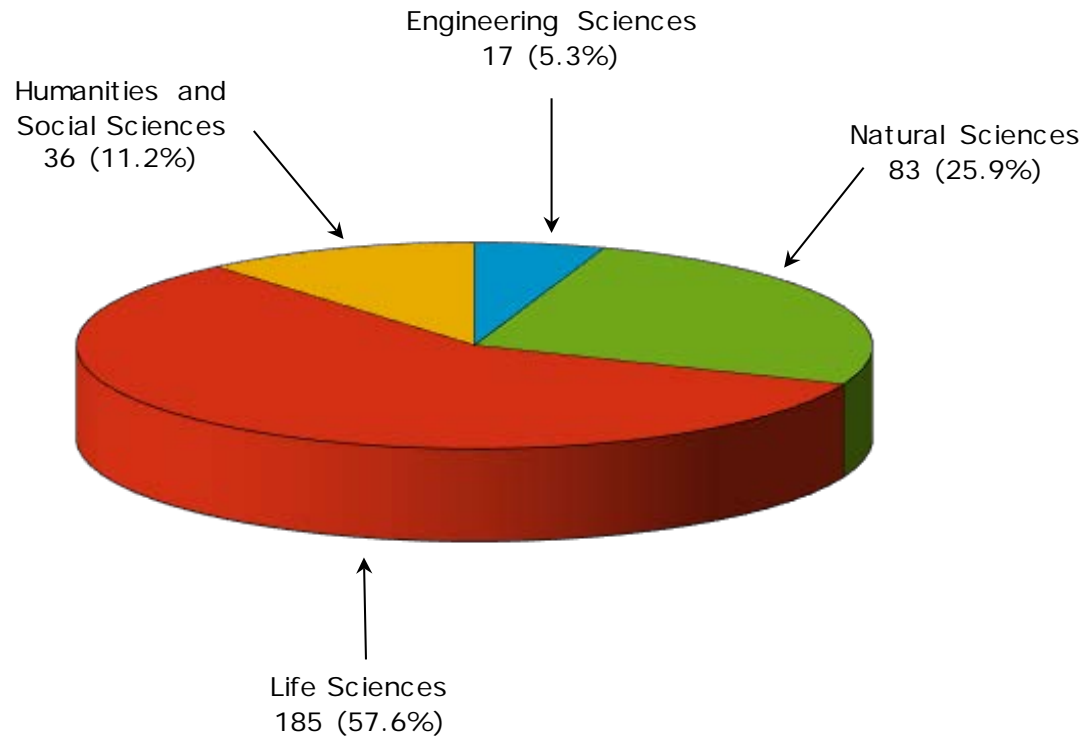
- ▶ €400 **child allowance** for the first child
+ €100 for each additional child
- ▶ The fellowship can be **extended** by max. 12 months
or costs for **childcare** can be reimbursed
 - Up to $12 \times €1,750 = \text{max. } €21,000$
 - Childcare costs must be verified by presenting invoices
and payment receipts
- ▶ Extension and reimbursement of childcare costs can
be **combined**



DFG Funding Opportunities

Research fellowships (*Forschungsstipendien*)

Number of new research fellowships* by scientific discipline 2018



Total number of fellowships: 321

* not including return grants

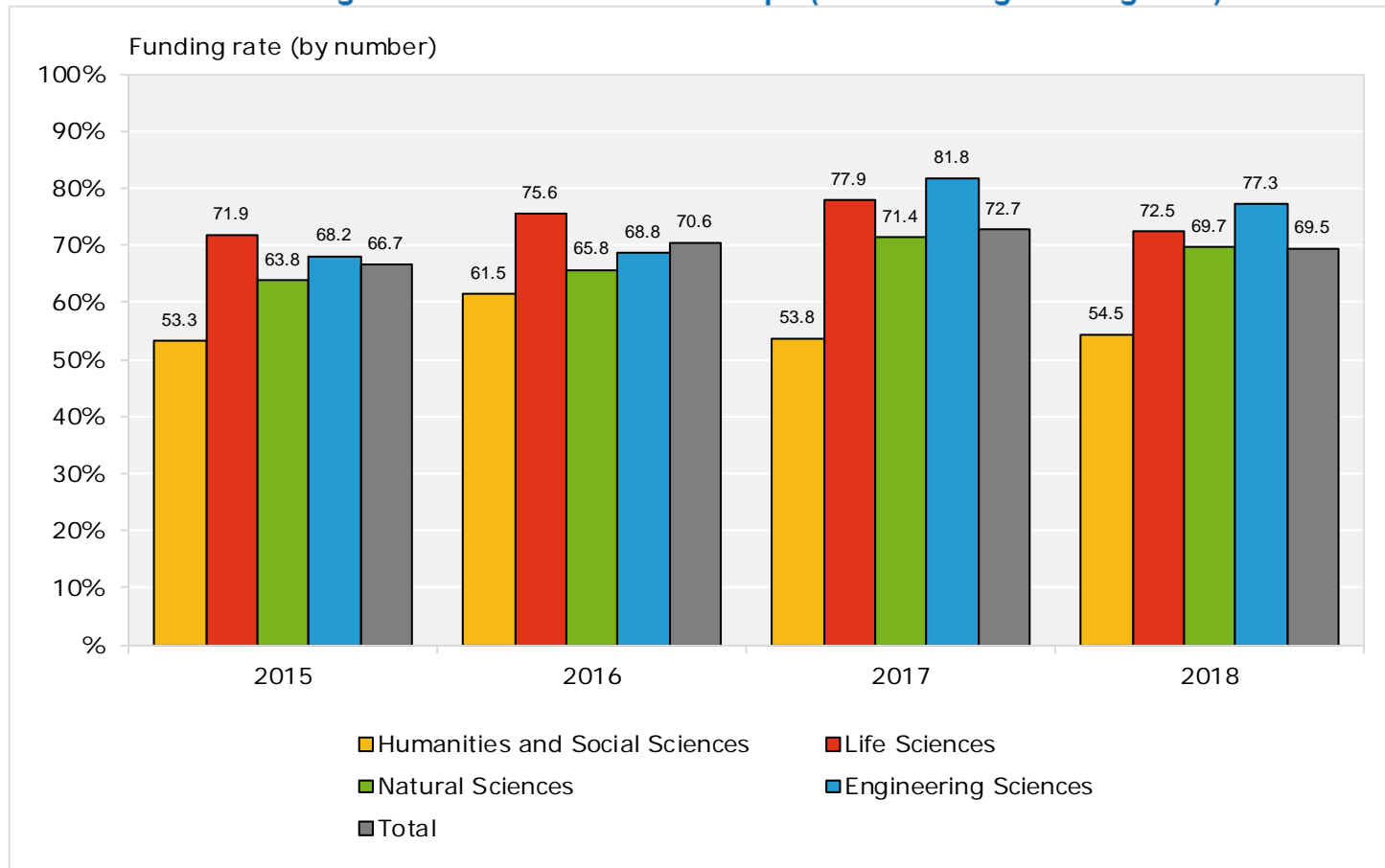
Titel der Präsentation / Name des Referenten (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

17 Ort, Datum (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

DFG Funding Opportunities

Research fellowships (*Forschungsstipendien*)

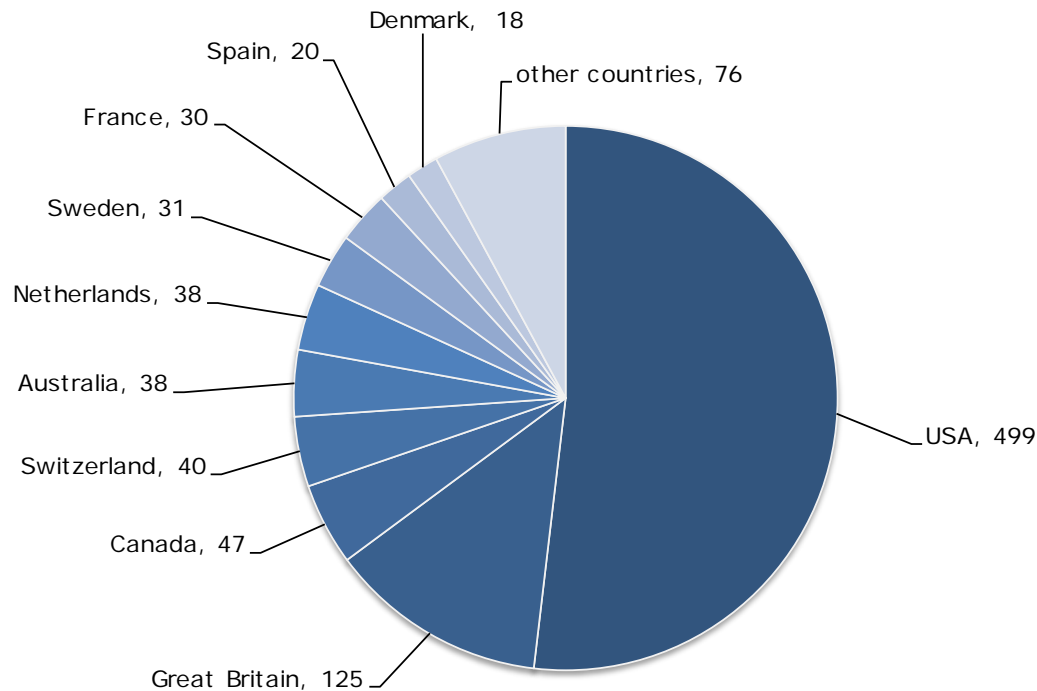
Funding rates for research fellowships (not including return grants)



DFG Funding Opportunities

Research fellowships (*Forschungsstipendien*)

Research fellowships – destinations for research visits 2018

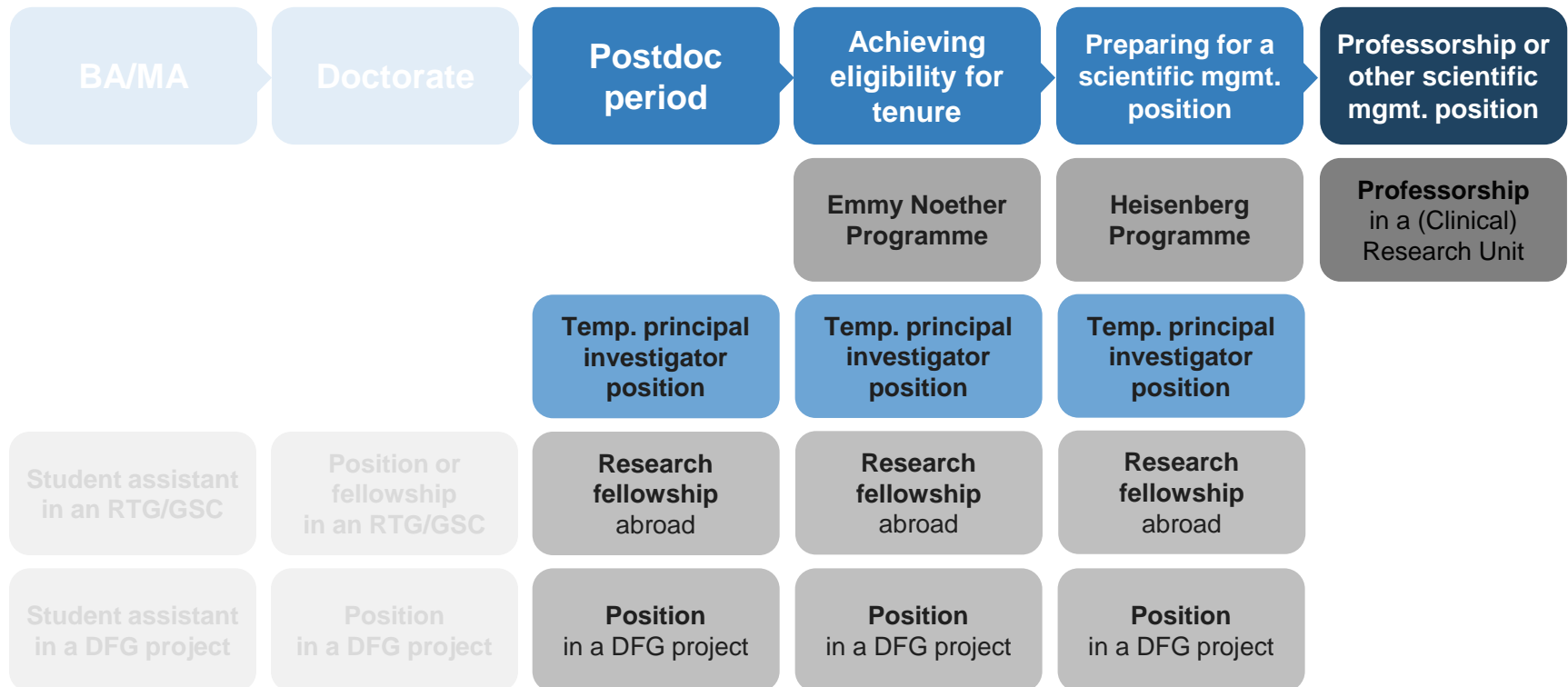


* Based on ongoing research fellowships in 2018, not including return grants.

** Recipients of research fellowships can undertake more than one research visit.

DFG Funding Opportunities

For early career researchers



DFG Funding Opportunities

Temporary position for principal investigators (*Eigene Stelle*)

- ▶ Individual Grants offer an opportunity to pursue research project in Germany
- ▶ Allows flexibility
- ▶ Funding for staff, consumables, travel, instrumentation, publication funding etc.
- ▶ Additional module: **Temporary position for principal investigator**



DFG Funding Opportunities

Temporary position for principal investigators (*Eigene Stelle*)

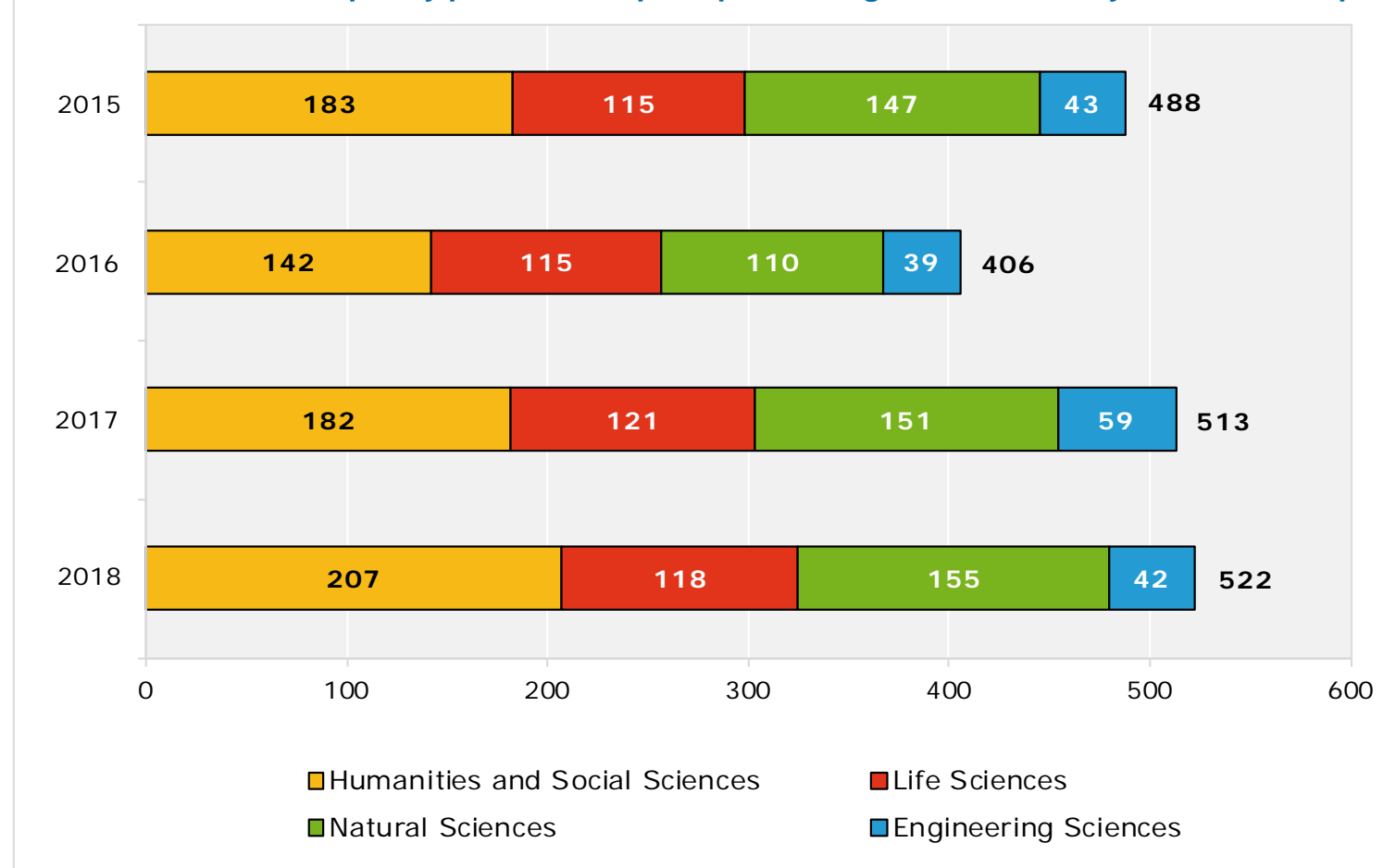


- ▶ For **postdoctoral** researchers
- ▶ Research in **Germany** → the host institution becomes the employer
- ▶ **Duration** of generally up to 3 years
- ▶ **Position** (E13 to E14 TVöD/TV-L) + project funds
- ▶ **Proposal to the DFG**

DFG Funding Opportunities

Temporary position for principal investigators (*Eigene Stelle*)

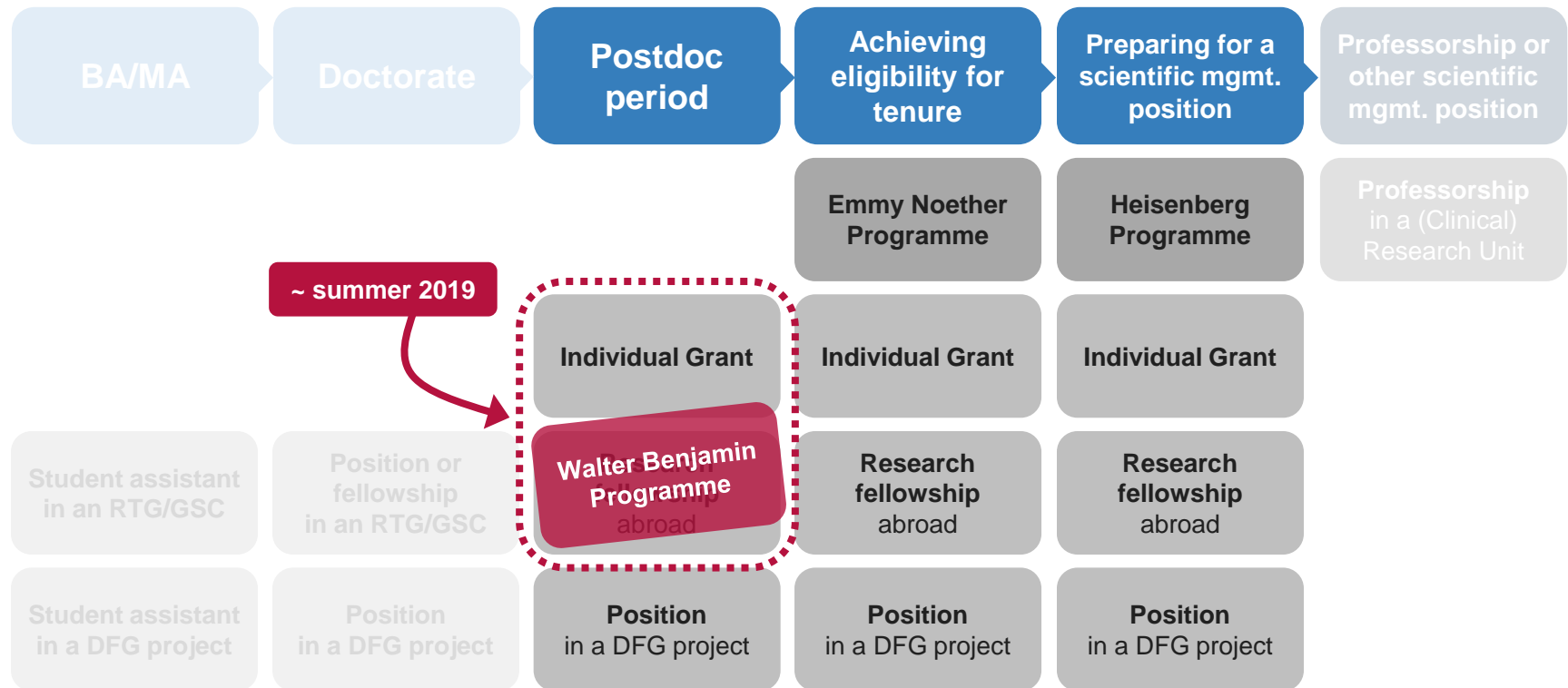
New awards in the temporary positions for principal investigators* scheme by scientific discipline 2015 to 2018



Titel der Präsentation / Name des Referenten (über Einfügen --> Kopf- und Fußzeile einstellen)

DFG Funding Opportunities

For early career researchers



Walter Benjamin Programm

Starting July 2019

- ▶ **Aim:** early development of an independent scientific profile
- ▶ **Early phase** of a research career
- ▶ To carry out **one's own research project**
- ▶ **Free choice** of host: research institute in Germany or abroad
- ▶ Important feature: **support of mobility**
- ▶ **Integration in research networks, mentoring** and further training opportunities by an experienced researcher/scientist at the host institution



Walter Benjamin Programm

Starting July 2019

- ▶ Duration: **two years**
- ▶ **Funding:**
 - abroad: stipend
 - in Germany: position

→ A period abroad and a period at a German university can be combined
- ▶ A flexible allowance for direct project costs of 250 Euros/month
- additional projects costs/consumables must be provided by the host institution



Funding programmes of the DFG

Starting July 2019: Walter Benjamin Programme

Criteria

► Applicant

- Qualified to carry out the project
- Scientific potential, career prospects

► Project

- Independent, original
- Excellent in relation to current career stage

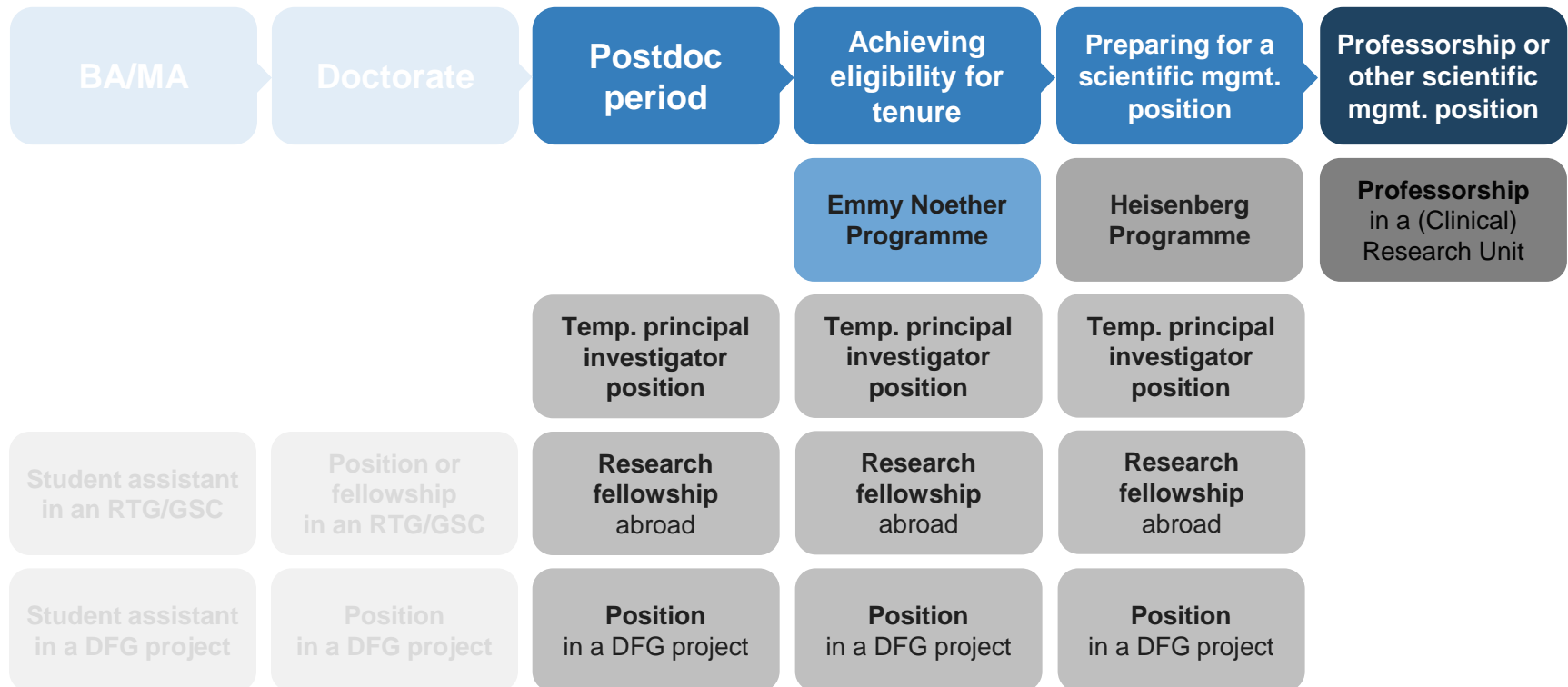
► Environment

- Declaration of host (in Germany) as to the support for the career development of applicant provided by host institution and host researcher
→ not a letter of support



DFG Funding Opportunities

For early career researchers



DFG Funding Opportunities

Emmy Noether Programme

Emmy Noether Programme

- ▶ Path to early **academic independence**
- ▶ Eligibility for professorial appointment by leading own **independent junior research group**



Requirements

- ▶ Postdoctoral **research experience** of at least 2 and max. 4 years (medicine: up to 6 years), +2 years per child
- ▶ Substantial **international research experience**

DFG Funding Opportunities

Emmy Noether Programme



- ▶ For excellently qualified **postdoctoral** researchers
- ▶ Research **in Germany** → host institution becomes the employer
- ▶ **Duration** of generally 6 years
- ▶ **Position** (E15) + project funds
- ▶ Position for temporary substitutes for **clinicians**

DFG Funding Opportunities

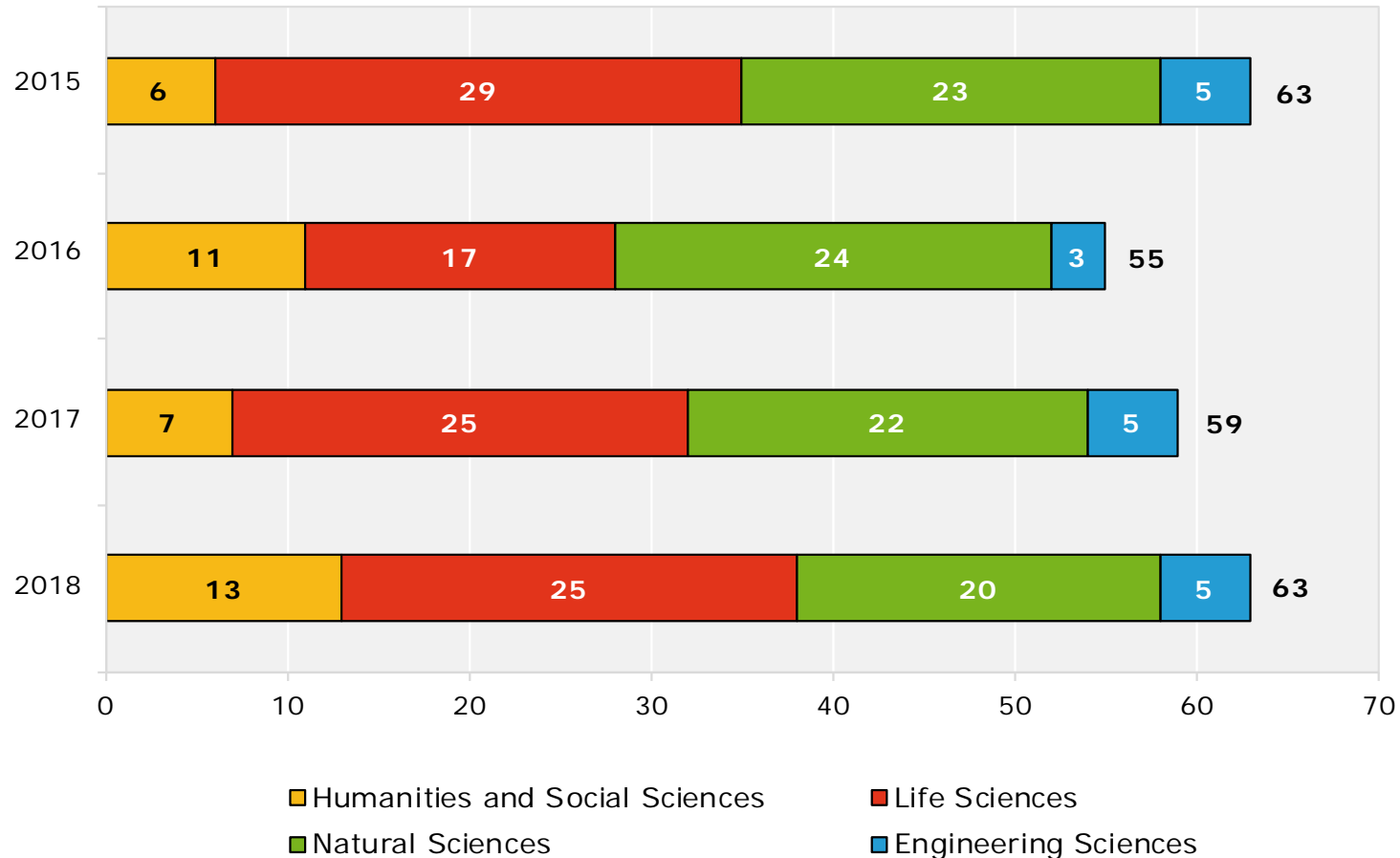
Emmy Noether annual meetings



DFG Funding Opportunities

Emmy Noether Programme

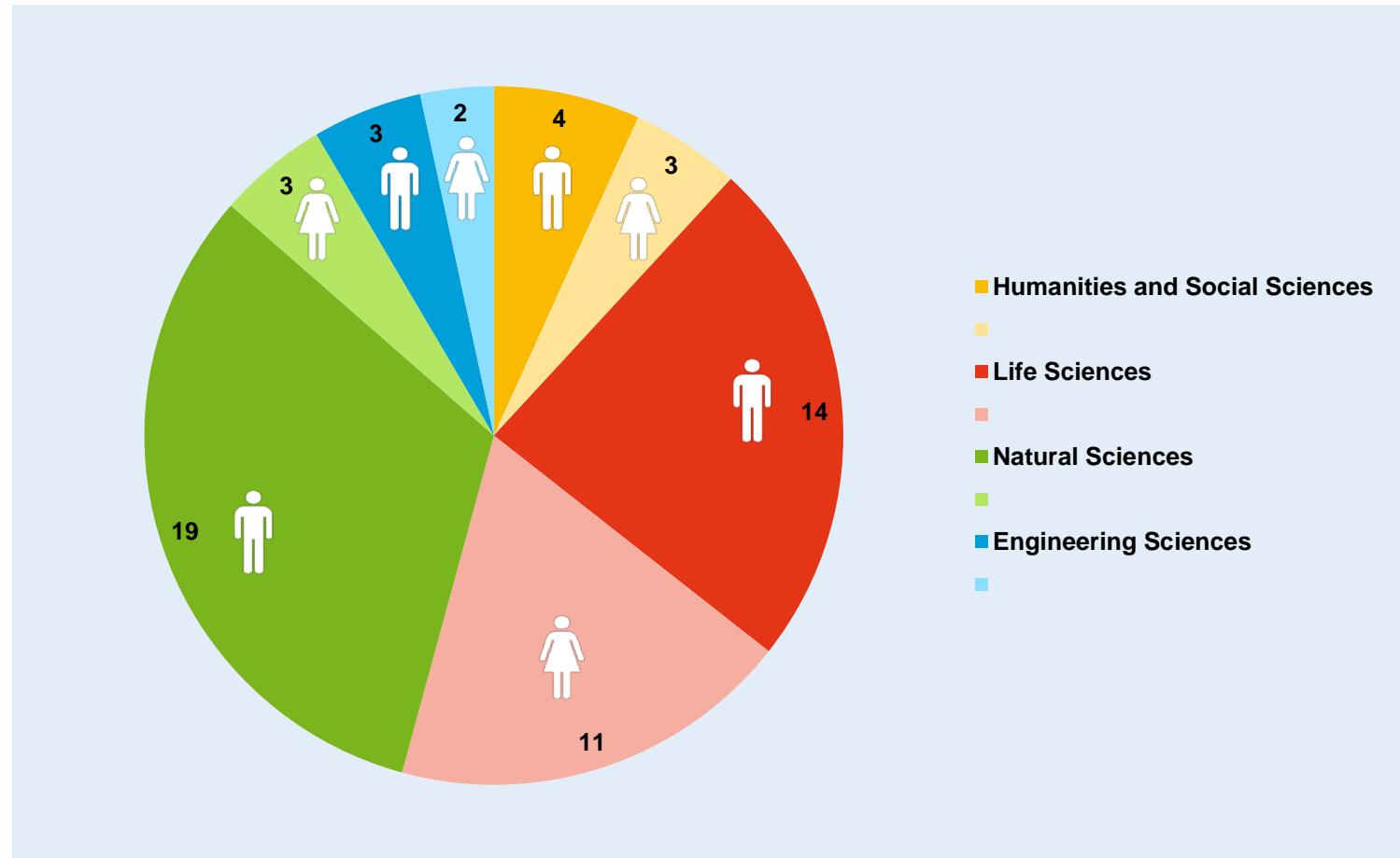
Number of new Emmy Noether independent junior research groups by scientific discipline 2015 to 2018



DFG Funding Opportunities

Emmy Noether Programme

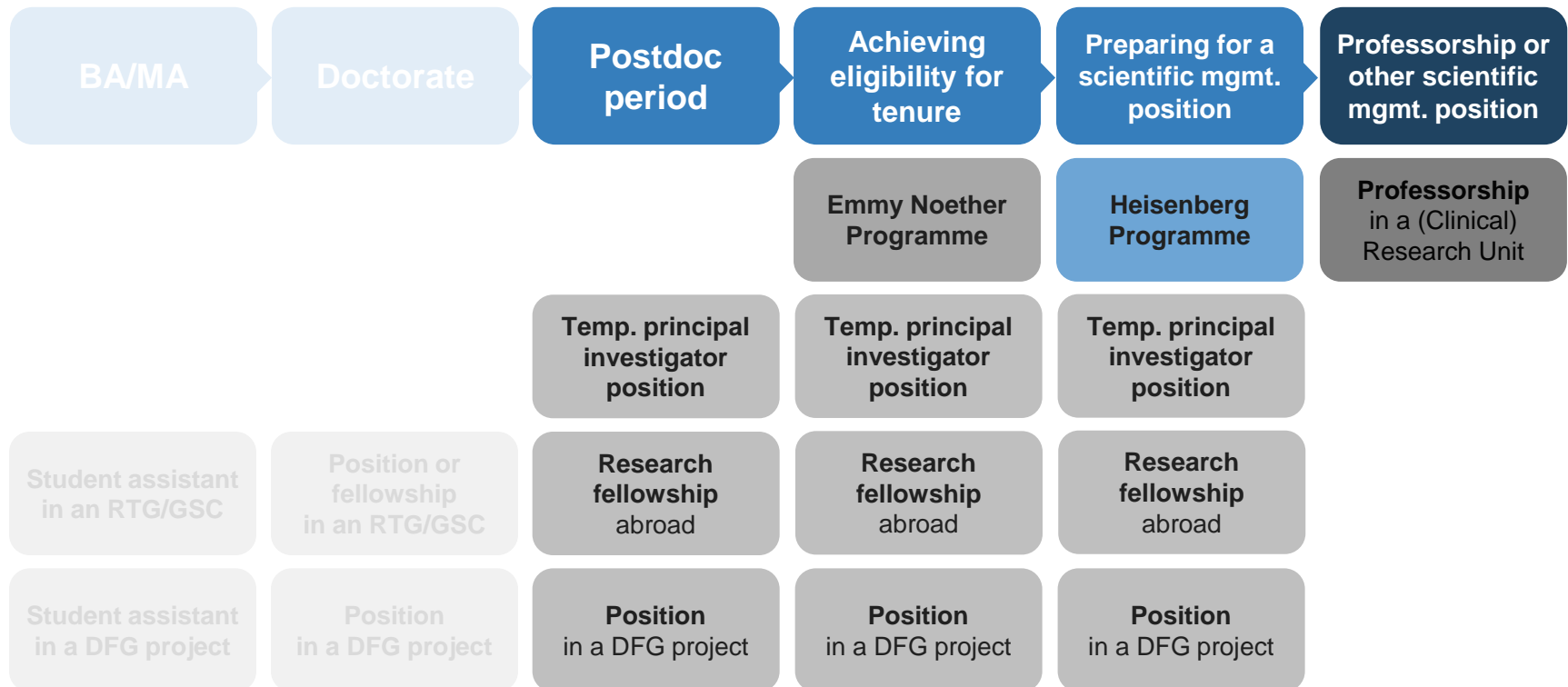
New proposals approved within the Emmy Noether Programme in 2017, by scientific discipline and gender



DFG Funding Opportunities for Early Career Scientists

DFG Funding Opportunities

For early career researchers



DFG Funding Opportunities

Heisenberg Programme

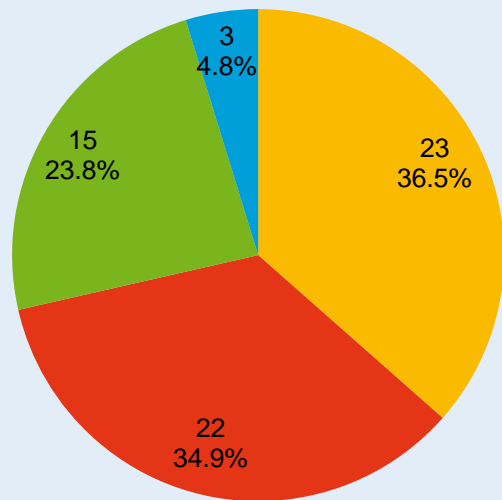
- ▶ For researchers eligible for **professorial appointment**
- ▶ **Duration** of max. 5 years
- ▶ Flexible **type of funding**
 - Fellowship € 4,450
 - Position E-15 TVöD/TV-L
 - Position for temporary substitutes for clinicians
 - Professorship W2 or W3 → host university must establish permanent professorship
- ▶ Flexible **research funds**: € 12,000
- ▶ Fellowship and positions may be combined with research grant proposal
- ▶ **Proposal to the DFG**



DFG Funding Opportunities

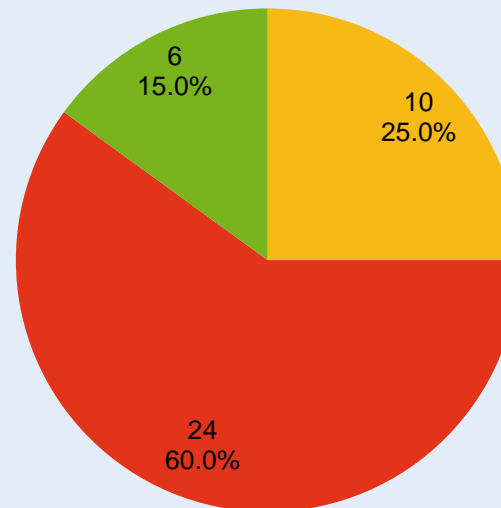
New grants in the Heisenberg programme in 2017 (!)

Heisenberg fellowships



Heisenberg Fellowships (63)

Heisenberg professorships



Heisenberg Professorships (40)

- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Engineering Sciences

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Proposal and Review Process

Basic tips

- ▶ Carefully review and follow the guidelines and proposal instructions
 - Relevant information can be found on the DFG website
- ▶ Contact us if you have any questions
- ▶ Put yourself in the reviewers' shoes
- ▶ Seek honest criticism from colleagues
- ▶ Start with smaller projects
- ▶ Plan a feasible timeline: On average, the time to decision is over six months



Proposal and Review Process

Modular funding opportunities



DFG Funding Opportunities for Early Career Scientists
Modul Öffentlichkeitsarbeit [10/11]
Module Public Relations [10/11]

Proposal and Review Process

The proposal

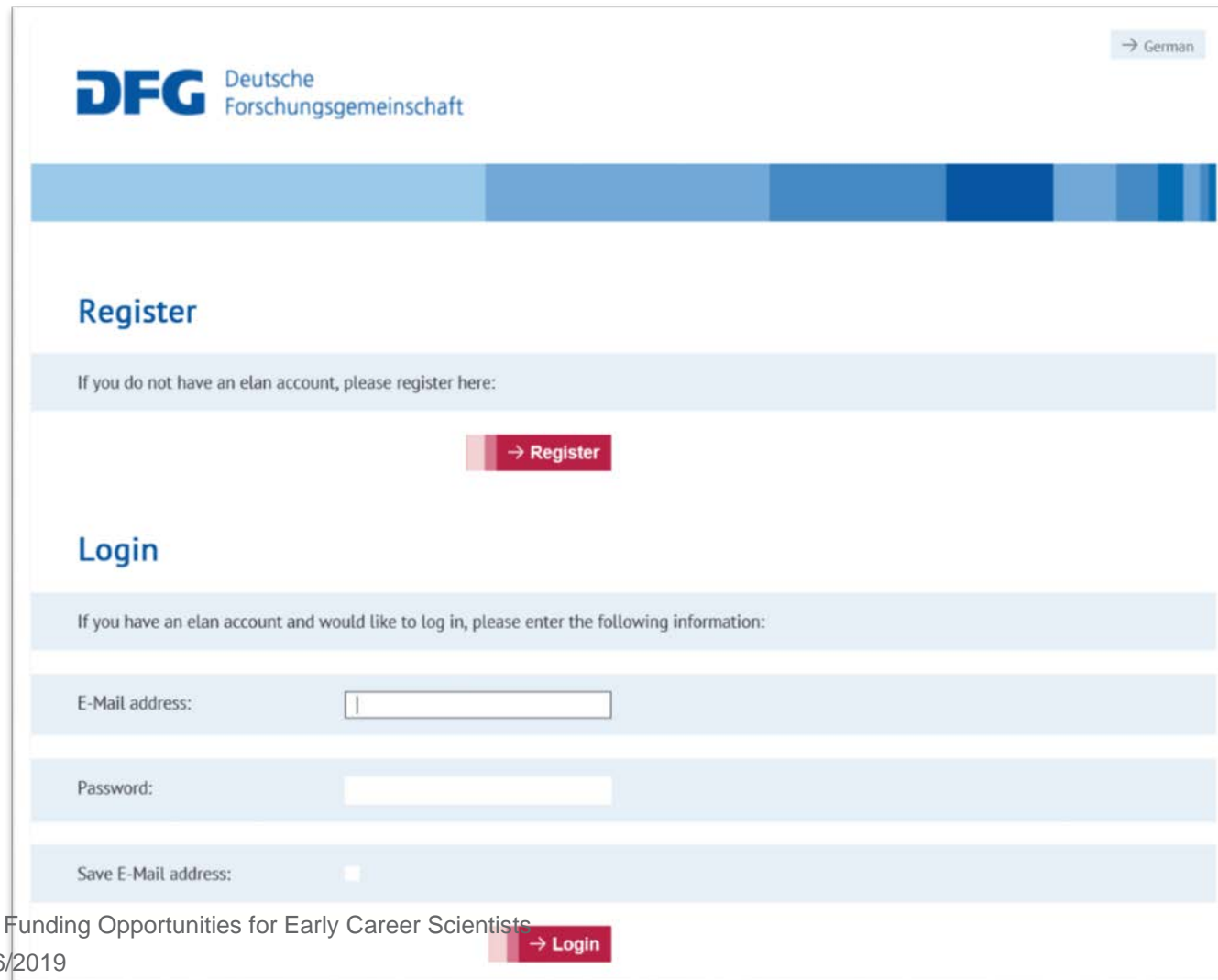
A proposal consists of three parts:

1. **General information** → Applicant data, obligations, rules of good scientific practice
2. **Project description** → Current state of research, preliminary work, objectives, schedule
3. **Appendices** → CV that includes a limited number of publications



Proposal and Review Process

Electronic proposals and reviews via *elan*



The screenshot shows the DFG elan web interface. At the top left is the DFG logo (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). At the top right is a language selector button labeled "→ German". Below the header is a decorative blue bar. The main content area has two sections: "Register" and "Login". The "Register" section includes the text "If you do not have an elan account, please register here:" followed by a red "→ Register" button. The "Login" section includes the text "If you have an elan account and would like to log in, please enter the following information:". Below this text are three input fields: "E-Mail address:" with a text box, "Password:" with a password box, and "Save E-Mail address:" with a checkbox. At the bottom of the login section is a red "→ Login" button.

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

→ German

Register

If you do not have an elan account, please register here:

→ Register

Login

If you have an elan account and would like to log in, please enter the following information:

E-Mail address:

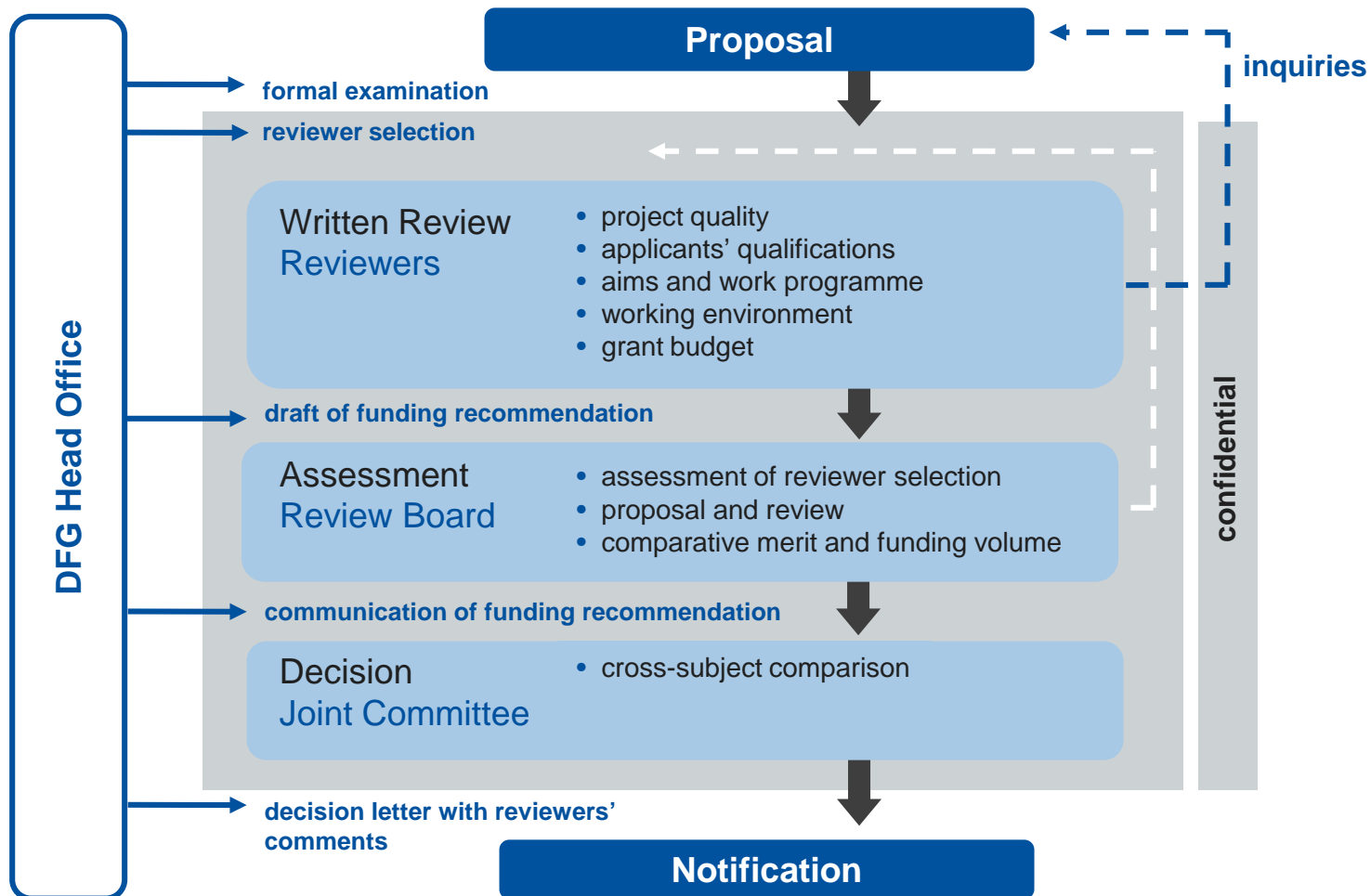
Password:

Save E-Mail address: ☐

→ Login

Proposal and Review Process

In the individual grants programme



Proposal and Review Process

Review boards (*Fachkollegien*)



Proposal and Review Process

If at first you don't succeed...

- ▶ Don't be discouraged
- ▶ Take reviewer comments seriously but not personally
- ▶ Consult the DFG Head Office if you need advice or feel that you have been treated unfairly
- ▶ Consider reviewer comments – they might give you some pointers for reworking your proposal



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Advice for Applicants

Research career

- ▶ Develop your own and independent research profile
- ▶ Publish independently (if possible)
- ▶ Be flexible – find the best environment for your research
- ▶ Build networks of collaboration partners
- ▶ Develop alternative plans
- ▶ Take advantage of advice and information services



Advice for Applicants

On submitting proposals



- ▶ Decide on the proposal language: English or German
- ▶ Inform DFG Head Office in case a conflict of interest or competitive scenario exists
- ▶ Communicate openly with DFG Head Office staff

Advice for Applicants

Your CV

- ▶ Structure it clearly
- ▶ Include prizes, fellowships and awards
- ▶ Include time away from research (relating to family or illness, dependent care, etc.)
- ▶ List up to 10 of your most important publications



Advice for Applicants

Grant budget

- ▶ No upper limits
- ▶ Needs to be realistic and justified by the project
- ▶ Supplemental, project-specific needs vs. existing resources at the higher education institution
- ▶ Helpful to talk with others or seek advice from other grant applicants, recipients, institutions/organisations
- ▶ Information on staff amounts provided on the DFG website

Advice for Applicants

From a reviewer's perspective

- ▶ Is the project important?
- ▶ Is the project idea current and original?
- ▶ Will the project result in significant findings? What new knowledge will be generated – what gaps in current knowledge would be filled?
- ▶ Is the applicant (or team of applicants) suitably qualified to carry out the project successfully?
- ▶ Are the proposed methods up to date and suitable for addressing the research question?
- ▶ Can the work programme be completed within the proposed timeframe?

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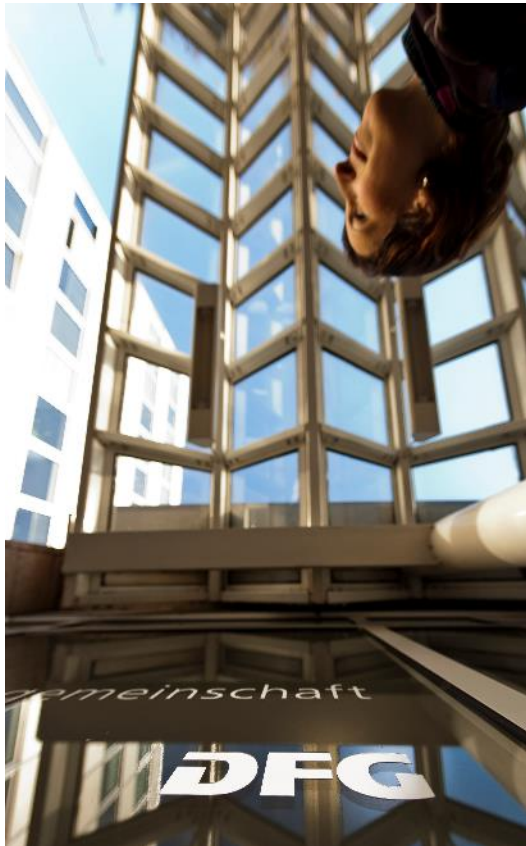
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Links and Resources

Helpful addresses



- ▶ Early career grant programmes at a glance:
www.dfg.de/research_careers
- ▶ Programme information:
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes
- ▶ DFG contacts: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office
- ▶ DFG facts and figures: www.dfg.de/facts-figures
- ▶ DFG funding atlas: www.dfg.de/fundingatlas
- ▶ GERiT – German research institutions at a glance:
www.gerit.org/en
- ▶ DFG German Project Information System (GEPRIS):
gepris.dfg.de/en
- ▶ General questions: info-nachwuchs@dfg.de



For more information

- ▶ on the DFG: <http://www.dfg.de/en>
- ▶ on DFG-funded projects: <http://gepris.dfg.de/en>
- ▶ on over 25,000 German research institutes: <http://www.gerit.org/en/>