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Intramural funding programs at the Medical Faculty of Münster (MFM)

Funding Program	Focus & Target Group	Type of Funding	Duration / Deadline	Link / Info
Innovative Medical Research (IMF)	Start-up funding for research projects, Start-up funding for innovative and risky pilot projects, Exchange program and scholarships	Personnel (research projects), equipment, material funds, assistants (pilots)	up to 1 to max. 3 years / April 1 and October 1	IMF Website
Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Research (IZKF)	Regular projects, Clinical Translation Start Trial program (ClinicStarT), Clinician scientists (CareerS groups), Junior Research Group, Core Units	Personnel & consumables (for regular projects)	3 or 4 years (for regular projects) / current deadlines see linked website	IZKF Website

Structured Career and Early-Career Programs at the Medical Faculty of Münster

Funding Program	Target Group & Focus	Type of Funding	Duration / Deadline	Link / Info
CareerS (Clinician Scientist Program)	**Medical Students**, **Physicians** in clinical specialisation training (Starter + Boost), Group Leader (Boost) until Professor / combining research and clinical work	Typically 50 % protected research time during specialisation training, mentoring, structured curriculum, support from career network & material funds, travel funds (Boost) or personnel and material costs (Group)	Flexible (1 year Starter, 3 years Boost) / March 1 and September 1	CareerS Program Student Starter Boost Group Professor
InFlame (Medical Scientist Program)	**Natural scientists** (Postdocs) with a research focus on inflammation and infection.	Funding of applicant's position, consumables, targeted mentoring toward professorship/leadership role	Up to 4 years / contact coordinator for current deadlines	InFlame Program Contact + Committee
Mediziner-kolleg (MedK) Medical College	**Medical students** and their **mentors**	Scholarship of 934 € for 6 months of the 1-year program	The call for applications is issued twice a year. The deadline is April 30 / October 30	MedK Program
Gender Equality programs	Increasing the proportion of women in top positions (cascade model)	Flexible research time, seminars, Congress trips, specialist training events, MOMENTUM Women's Leadership, First class! - Mentoring	Up to 2 years / current deadlines see linked website	Support programs

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Internal Funding Programs at the University of Münster

Funding Program Link/Info	Target Group & Focus	Type of Funding	Duration / Deadline
IDEAS Ideas	Supports unconventional, **early-stage research ideas** + high innovation potential. Researchers at the University of Münster **from postdoctoral level** onwards are eligible to apply. Funding line is aimed at individual researchers or small teams. Eligibility requires that the proposed project is not (yet) suitable for other internal or external funding programmes and can therefore only be realized through IDEAS.	Funding is provided for exploratory research activities, including: ▪ early-stage research and feasibility testing ▪ development of novel methods or concepts ▪ generation of preliminary data ▪ consumables ▪ personnel costs (under defined conditions). Applications for, and funding of, **the applicant's own position are excluded** from this programme. Projects must not have received prior internal funding to be eligible. ▪ up to **€80,000** per project	▪ Duration: up to 12 months ▪ Open to all disciplines ▪ The call is issued annually. ▪ Next application deadline: **03. August 2026**
START Start	Enables **established researchers** at the University of Münster to initiate **new collaborations or further develop existing initiatives.** Eligible applicants are **permanently employed researchers** at the University of Münster. Applications should include at least **internal partner**s and **are encouraged to integrate external collaborations**, in particular international and non-university partners.	Funding is provided for activities that initiate or strengthen collaborations, including: ▪ workshops / networking events ▪ exchange formats with internal and external partners ▪ travel and coordination activities ▪ exploratory studies, service contracts, extension of existing fixed-term contracts may also be funded. **New staff positions are not eligible for funding**. ▪ up to **€50,000** per project	▪ Duration: up to 12 months ▪ Open to all disciplines
ADVANCED Advanced	Supports **established researchers** in **preparing highly competitive collaborative grant proposals at national / international level**. Aims to strengthen research consortia & to support third-party funding proposals at an advanced stage. Eligible applicants are **established researchers** at the University MS in **the role of lead applicants or spokespersons** of a planned collaborative proposal.	Funding is provided for: ▪ preparatory research activities ▪ personnel support for proposal development ▪ consortium meetings, workshops, retreats ▪ travel related to proposal preparation Clearly defined target funding scheme, demonstrate a realistic perspective for submission, and be expected to result in the submission of a competitive collaborative proposal (either a **project sketch** or a **full proposal**).	▪ Duration: up to 12 months ▪ Open to all disciplines

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National Funding Programs (Germany)

Funding Organization	Programs (Examples)	Link / Info
German Research Foundation (DFG)	**Research Grant / Temporary Position for PIs:** Classic project funding (usually 3 years). **DFG's** call for proposals with **European cooperation partners** in the **Weave Lead Agency procedure** **DFG-NWO procedure** (pilot until July 2027) **SFB / FOR:** Large collaborative projects.	Individual Research Grants | DFG Postdocs, professors, interdisciplinary consortia. Focus on excellence in basic research and translational medicine. Weave Lead Agency Thematically and temporally limited research project as a grant in individual funding with partners from other European countries. DFG-NWO procedure Funding Opportunity for Dutch-German Basic Research Funding opportunity for joint Dutch-German research projects. Collaborative Research Centres University, multidisciplinary, up to 12 years Research Units Medium-term close cooperation, up to 8 years
Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)	**Medical Research for Healthcare:** Translational and clinical research, networks. **Current announcements** from the BMFTR **Health Research:** Specific calls regarding e.g., oncology, infections, digital health.	Collaborative research, often requiring partners from industry or other universities. Health - BMFTR Calls Cancer research latest cancer related call: Age and cancer - NDK (example call, expired)
Federal Joint Committee (G-BA)	**Innovation Fund:** New forms of healthcare delivery and healthcare research.	New forms of care (NVF) and health services research (VSF) for clinicians, health services researchers, health economists. Funding - G-BA Innovationsfonds
German Centers for Health Research (DZG)	**Clinical Research Funding:** Project-related funding at respective DZG sites (e.g., DZHK, DKTK, DZIF).	Interdisciplinary cooperation between physicians and scientists from university and non-university institutions DZG :: DKTK Joint Funding Ausschreibung 2026 :: DKTK (example call, expired)

European and International Programs

Foundation/ Organization	Programs (Examples)	Link / Info
European Union	**Horizon Europe (Cluster 1: Health):**	Large collaborative projects on topics like precision medicine, digital health, public health. Funding volume often amounts to several million euros. Cluster 1: Health - Research and innovation - European Commission
European Research Council (ERC) (The new application timelines for starting and consolidator grants, valid from 2027, are highlighted)	**Starting Grant** **Consolidator Grant** **Advanced Grant**	Starting Grant: Applying immediately after successfully defending PhD, and at any time within the following ten-year period, up to €1.5 million for 5 years Consolidator Grant: Applicants will be eligible to apply between five and fifteen years after defending their PhD, up to €2+1 million for 5 years (Researchers will be awarded no more than one Starting Grant and one Consolidator Grant during their career). Advanced Grant: Active exceptional leaders, up to €2,5+2 million for 5 years ERC grant application in 2027: what you need to know
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)	**Postdoctoral Fellowships** **Doctoral Networks** **Staff Exchanges**	Funding program for doctoral education and postdoctoral training of researchers. Mobility across borders and exposure to different sectors and disciplines Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships
European Research Services GmbH (ERS)	**Consulting, no funding**	ERS offers consulting and partnership for EU-funding programs. (Free of charge for University members) European Research Services Mr. Oliver Panzer: oliverpanzer@european-research-services.eu

Foundations and Regional Funding

Foundation/ Organization	Programs (Examples)	Link / Info
German Cancer Aid (Deutsche Krebshilfe - DKH)	various programs such as **Clinical research & clinical-related basic research** or **The Max Eder Junior Research Group Program**	The largest funding instrument for translational and clinical oncology in Germany (Project funding, Junior Research Groups etc.) Deutsche Krebshilfe/German Cancer Aid
Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (EKFS)	**Clinician Scientist Professorships** **Excellence Fellowships** **Memorial Fellowships** **Key Projects**	Funds excellent medical research projects, junior research colleges, and clinician scientist programs Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung EKFS Clinician Scientist Professorships EKFS Excellence Fellowships EKFS Memorial Fellowships EKFS Key Projects
Heinrich-Hertz-Stiftung (NRW Foundation)	**Outgoing or incoming Research visits**	Heinrich-Hertz-Stiftung

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Medical Research (Funding) & Scientific Careers at the Medical Faculty of Münster

Activity	Programs / Structures (Examples)	Link / Info
Research Foci	Inflammation & infection Vascular System Neural Systems Cell Differentiation, Regeneration and Neoplasia	Research Foci: The main research foci of the Faculty of Medicine
Research Networks	Cells in Motion Interfaculty Centre **MFM coordinated Collaborative Research Centres (CRC/SFB)** CRC1748 CRC1450 CRC-TRR332 **MFM coordinated Clinical Research Units (CRU/KFO)** CRU342 CRU326 **Graduate Schools / Research Schools / Colleges** OCC CiM-IMPRS MGSE Medical Scientists ReproTrack.MS **Network of University Medicine (NUM)** NUM **The Innovation Fund of the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) MFM coordinated projects** EXPERT IntersectionHF SES-Empower DiaLog TrachCare THEON	Research Networks: collaborative research projects. In such initiatives, researchers from the Faculty of Medicine collaborate with partners from other faculties of the University of Münster as well as from other external institutions
University Research and Treatment Centres	Translational Centre for Inflammation (TRACI) Neuroinflammation Reproductive Health	University Research and Treatment Centres (URTC) Establishing URTCs
Further research support information	**Research funding & Scientific Careers** **Research Infrastructure & Support** **Research output counts**	Support & Career Infrastructure & support Research output counts
Advice and support	**Service Point Science for Students (SerWiS)** **Service Point Wissenschaft für wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter*innen (SerWiM)** **Resources & Tips for Continuing Education**	SerWiS SerWiM Continuing Education

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Information services on funding programs and calls for proposals

- **Newsletter and research via FIT Information Service**

The FIT Information Service provides you with regular updates on funding programs and calls for proposals. Register once with your University of Münster E-Mail address* at FIT and select the scientific fields, types of funding, funding bodies, and frequency at which you would like to receive the newsletter. After registering, you will also have access to the database for research purposes [FIT instructions: FiT instructions].

*Please note: You can only subscribe to the FiT newsletter via an email address from the University of Münster! However, it is of course possible to set up forwarding to your UKM email account. If you do not have a University of Münster email address but would like to use this service, please note that all academic and/or teaching staff have the option of setting up such an address (see CIT - Uni-Kennung under "Apply for university ID").

- **ELFI - Electronic Research Funding Information**

ELFI is a service center for electronic research funding information in German-speaking countries. A database provides information on research funding and allows for targeted, personalized use. In this database, you will find comprehensive information on ways to obtain funding. From funding programs to financing of material and travel costs, prizes, and scholarships, all conceivable funding opportunities are included. Users receive extensive information on funding institutions and their programs. The original call for proposals texts, information sheets, and forms can be downloaded directly. In addition to a short summary, addresses, contact persons, deadlines, and funding amounts are also provided for each funding opportunity.

- **EU-Funding & Tenders Portal**

In this portal (F&T-P), you will find all currently advertised calls within the EU framework.

- **Cluster Medicine.NRW – Current calls for funding**

Here (current calls) you will find a compilation of current funding announcements in the field of "innovative medicine."

- **Federal funding finder**

The federal funding finder (Förderfinder des Bundes) helps you research suitable funding for research, innovation, or development projects.

- **Foundation search**

The foundation search (Foundation search) is the most comprehensive online navigation aid for German foundations. This is a service provided by the Association of German Foundations.

- **DAAD scholarship database**

Here (DAAD scholarship database) you will find information about scholarship programs offered by the DAAD and other selected funding organizations.

- **Humboldt sponsorship programs**

Humboldt programs (Sponsorship programs) sponsor academic collaborations between foreign and German researchers by granting research fellowships and awards

- **SAFIR Proposal Toolbox**

The toolbox provides a comprehensive overview of the services and structures at the University of Münster. It supports applicants in developing cross-cutting themes and presenting institutional frameworks.