

A blurred, 3D-style logo of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in white, set against a blue background with light rays.

# Meet the German Research Foundation

## *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)*

German Science and Innovation– on the Road Again in 2025

October 2025

# The DFG – About Us

- ▶ The DFG is the largest self-governed **funding organization for basic research** in Germany
- ▶ Budget of **€ 3.9 billion** in 2023 (source: 2/3 federal government, 1/3 state governments)
- ▶ Funded roughly **31,750 research projects**
- ▶ DFG funding goes to **universities (90%)** and non-university research institutions (10%)



# The DFG – Our Mandate



- ▶ The DFG funds **research projects in the area of knowledge-driven research**;
- ▶ helps shape the overall conditions and standards of academic research;

It takes particular care to promote

- ▶ international **cooperation**,
- ▶ **early-career researchers**,
- ▶ **fair participation by everyone** in science and the humanities.

# DFG Funding Principles



- ▶ Basic research in **all STEMM fields and the humanities**
- ▶ **Bottom-up** choice of research topics
- ▶ Everything done **in competition/peer-review**
- ▶ **No deadlines\***

\* excl. Priority Programmes, international calls etc.

# DFG Eligibility Requirements



## Researchers

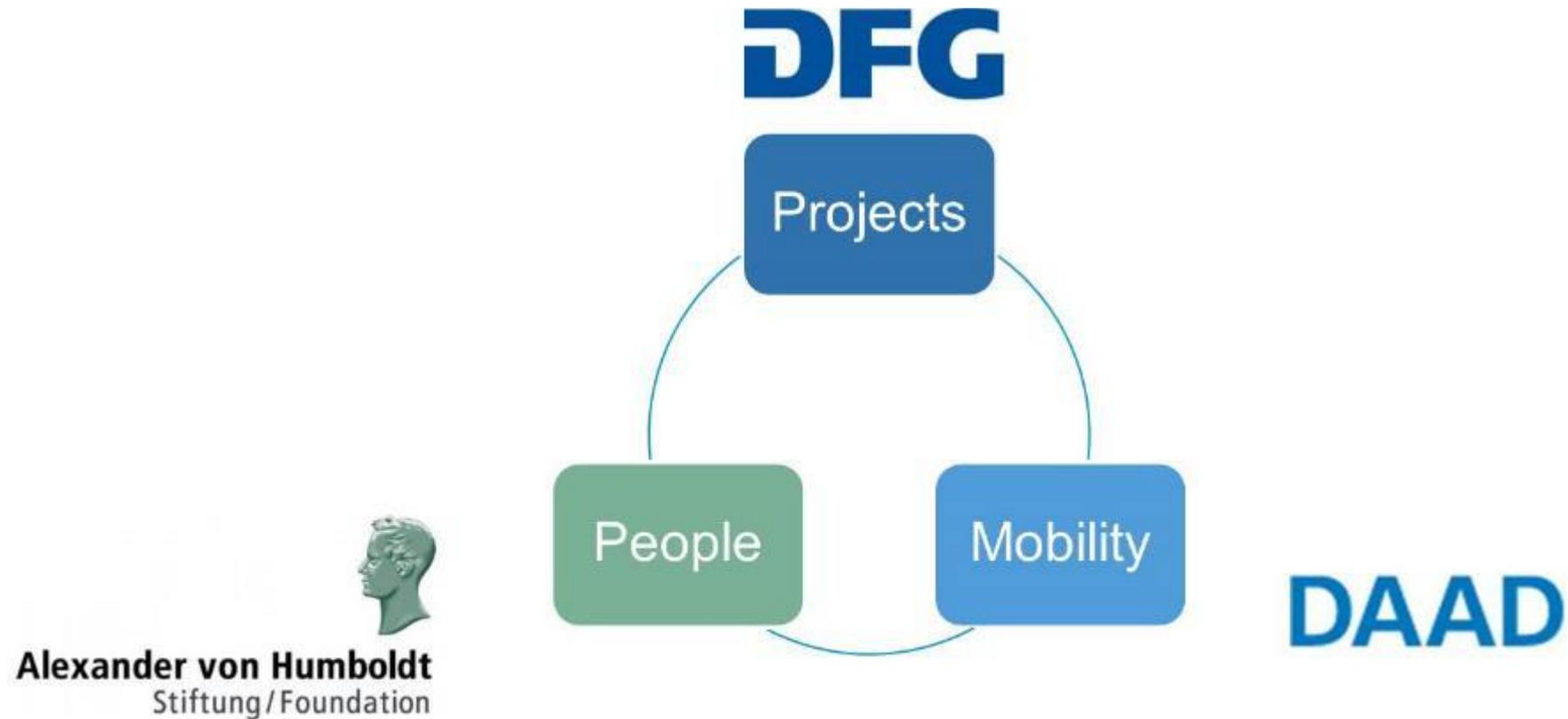
- ▶ who have completed their scientific training, i.e. who hold a **doctorate** and
- ▶ who (would like to) work **in Germany**

# DFG Funding Portfolio

Applicant	Individuals				Institutions			Prizes	
Funding Focus	Investigators	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Individuals	
Funding Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Walter Benjamin Programme</li> <li>› Research Fellowships</li> <li>› Emmy Noether Programme</li> <li>› Heisenberg Programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Individual Research Grants</li> <li>› Reinhart Koselleck Projects</li> <li>› Package Proposals</li> <li>› Initiation of International Collaboration</li> <li>› Research Units</li> <li>› Clinical Research Units</li> <li>› Clinical Trials</li> <li>› Projects in Priority Programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Centres for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences</li> <li>› Scientific Networks</li> <li>› Workshops for Early Career Investigators</li> <li>› Project Academies</li> <li>› International Scientific Events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› New Instrumentation for Research</li> <li>› Specialised Information Services</li> <li>› Information Infrastructures for Research Data</li> <li>› Infrastructures for Scholarly Publishing</li> <li>› e-Research Technologies</li> <li>› Digitisation and Indexing</li> <li>› Coordinating Roles and Responsibilities in Information Infrastructures</li> <li>› Licences for Digital Content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Collaborative Research Centres/ Transregios</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› (International) Research Training Groups</li> <li>› DFG Research Centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Major Research Instrumentation</li> <li>› Major Instrumentation in Research Buildings</li> <li>› Major Instrumentation Initiatives</li> <li>› Core Facilities</li> <li>› Open Access Publication Funding</li> <li>› Open Access Publishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› National Research Data Infrastructure</li> <li>› State Major Instrumentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize</li> <li>› Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize</li> <li>› Communicator Award</li> <li>› Copernicus Award</li> <li>› Albert Maucher Prize in Geoscience</li> <li>› Bernd Rendel Prize in Geoscience</li> <li>› Ursula M. Händel Animal Welfare Prize</li> <li>› von Kaven Award</li> </ul>

# Support for International Activities

## Different Funding Sources



# International Funding with DFG

## The Basics

- ▶ Support for international cooperation is available **in basically all funding programs, in any topic and discipline**
- ▶ **No specific funds** for international collaboration allocated – projects with international components will be evaluated alongside all other proposals
- ▶ There are many **different funding mechanisms** to collaborate with a researcher abroad
- ▶ The DFG **funds the German side** and relies on **matching funds for international partners**

# DFG Funding for International Cooperation

## Initiation of International Collaboration

### Objective

Seed funding to jumpstart international collaboration

### Type and Extent of Funding

#### Modules

- ▶ Bilateral workshops
- ▶ Trips abroad
- ▶ Guest visits

The modules can be combined. Funding is available for a maximum of 1 year.



# DFG Funding for International Cooperation

## Scientific Networks

### Objective

Multi-year scientific exchange and cooperation on a topic area of choice across locations

### Type and Extent of Funding

- ▶ Up to 3 years
- ▶ 10 to 20 members (no more than half of them may be from abroad)
- ▶ Travel, coordination and publication costs



# DFG Funding for International Cooperation

## Individual Grants Program

### Objective

To carry out a thematically defined research project within a specific time frame

### Type and Extent of Funding

- ▶ Up to 3 years (+ renewal option)
- ▶ Staff, consumables, scientific instrumentation etc.
- ▶ **Travel costs and guest visits**
- ▶ Temporary Position as Principal Investigator (module)
- ▶ **Mercator Fellows** from abroad (module)

} Basic module



# DFG Funding for International Cooperation

## Module: Mercator Fellows

This module is available *within the Individual Research Grant Program* (and coordinated programs)

Mercator Fellows are supposed to

- ▶ Strengthen **research (and teaching) in Germany**
- ▶ **Contribute to the objective** of the research project
- ▶ Support **early-career scientists**

Funding is available for a research stay of 3 – 12 months (may be divided into 3-month blocks).



# DFG Collaboration with the US

**NSF**

- MoU extended 2024
- Joint research programs: Physics, Geoscience, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Advanced Manufacturing
- In preparation: Mathematics, Cyber Security, Chemistry

**NEH**

- MoU since 2024
- Joint research program in preparation

**NIH**

- No MoU

# Where to Find Current Calls

DFG > Profile > International Cooperation > DFG Representation Abroad > DFG Office North America

## DFG Office North America



DFG Office North America: New York City, Washington DC and San Francisco

The USA and Canada play a leading role within the context of increasing globalization in science and research. North America – and especially the USA – continues to be the most competitive research region in the world. More than a quarter of the global funds spent on research and development are invested here, and more than half of all DFG-funded research fellows travel to North America after completing their doctorate for their important first career step.

The DFG maintains regional expertise at its headquarters in Bonn as well as running its own North American office in three locations: Washington D.C., New York City and San Francisco.

- In Washington D.C., the DFG maintains close ties with North American funding organizations, facilitates transatlantic research projects, and helps to shape science policy dialogue.

**Calls for Proposals in North America**

[Further Information](#)

## Recent Calls for Proposals with Partner Organizations in North America

Call for Proposals	Timeline / Submission Deadline	North American Partner Organizations	More Info
<b>Open Research Area for the Social Sciences</b>	Since June 2023  Submission of Proposals: <b>14 November 2023</b> , 5pm EST/23pm CET <i>(all proposals will be submitted through SSHRC Convergence Portal. Applicants based in Germany are also required to submit their proposals using the DFG's elan portal)</i>	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)	<a href="http://bitly.w">http://bitly.w</a>  <b>Webinar for applicants to 21 September</b>
<b>NSF-DFG Funding Opportunity for Collaborations in Physics</b>	Since June 2023  Submission on a rolling basis <i>(If the DFG is the lead-agency. For NSF as lead-agency, please refer to the NSF-Physics Division for specific timing of deadlines)</i>	National Science Foundation (NSF)	<a href="http://bitly.w">http://bitly.w</a>
<b>NSF-DFG Lead Agency Opportunity on Collaborative Research on Climate Change (NSF-DFG GEO)</b>	Since June 2023  Submission on a rolling basis <i>(please refer to NSF-GEO programmes for specific timing of deadlines)</i>	National Science Foundation (NSF)	<a href="https://bit.ly">https://bit.ly</a>

[DFG - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft - DFG-Büro Nordamerika](#)

# Where to Find Partners

## ➤ GERiT



[GERiT: German Research Institutions | DFG](#)

## ➤ GEPRIS



[DFG - GEPRIS](#)

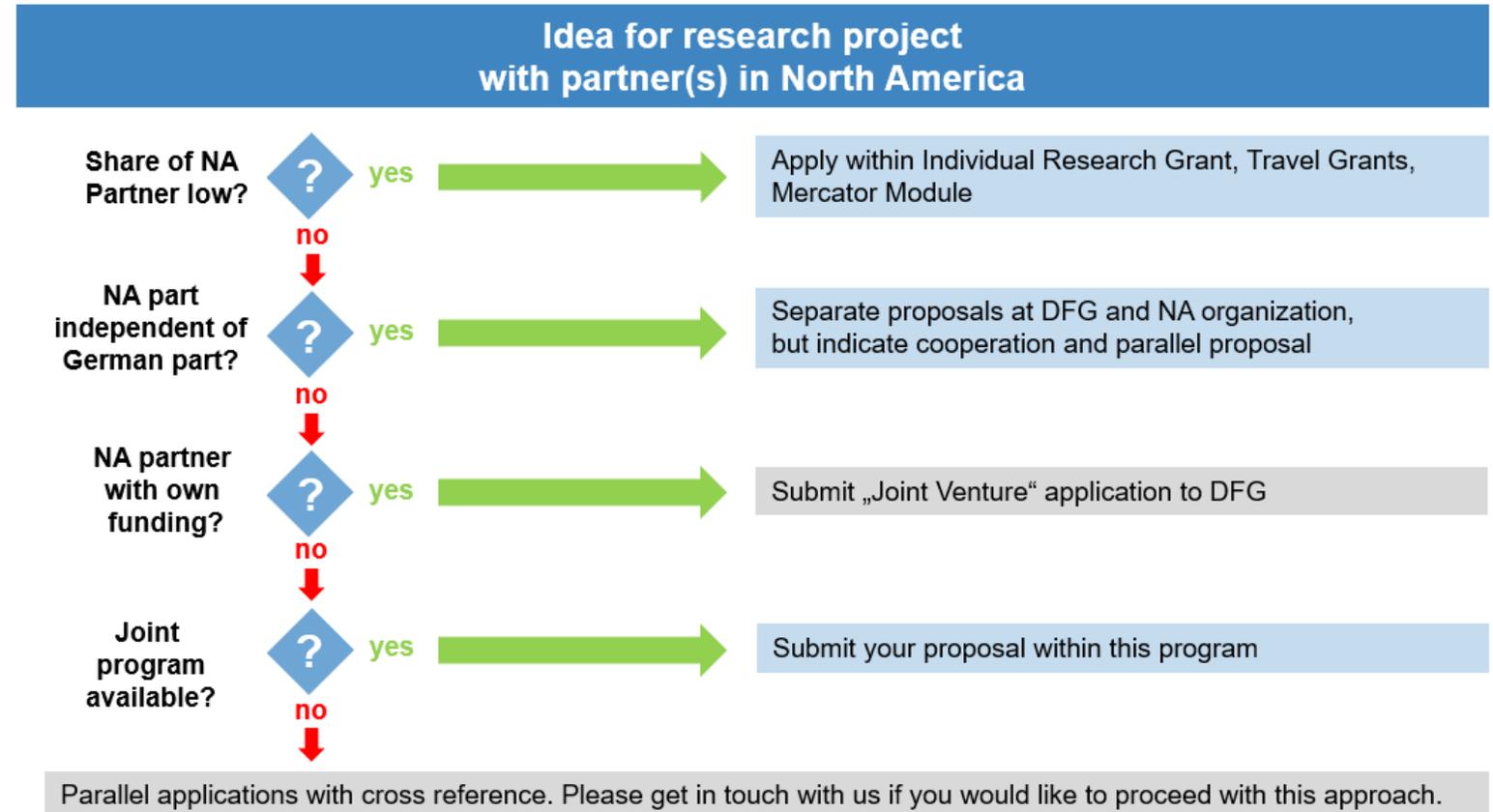
## ➤ Funding Atlas 2021



[DFG - Fundingatlas 2021](#)

# A Flowchart to Guide You through the Process

Idea for collaboration between German and Canadian partners



DFG

**Thank you very much for your attention!**



**DFG Office North America**  
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