

Call for proposals

UR Potentials 2024

The program *UR Potentials* aims to promote early scientific independence and supports early career scientists in acquiring third-party funding and in setting up and expanding their own research groups.

UR Potentials Stage 1 - Early Independence

Objectives

The independent acquisition of third-party funding is an essential step towards scientific independence. The pillar *UR Potentials Stage 1 - Early Independence* aims to support early career researchers in preparing their own applications for third-party funding.

Scope of funding

- **Funding:** Up to € 17,000 for material costs/travel expenses/student assistants to support research activities necessary for the preparation of a third-party funding proposal
- **Scientific mentoring:** Expert support from two experienced senior scientists
- **Workshop „Proposal Writing“:** Guaranteed place and free participation in the workshop
- **Award:** *UR Potentials Stage 1* status (certificate)
- **Collegial Counseling:** Mutual exchange and networking

Who is eligible to apply?

Early career researchers employed at the Universität Regensburg¹, who have completed their doctorates with outstanding results² no later than four years³ prior to the start of the funding period, and who aim to submit a proposal (of at least 0.65 x TV-L E13 position for 24 months) to a funding institution with recognized review process, or a proposal to the DFG funding program “Scientific Networks”.

Selection Process

The call for proposals is issued once a year. Up to six projects can be funded per call. Projects will be selected in a competitive internal selection process by the University Board based on recommendations made by the Research Council.

¹ For those employed in project-related positions (third-party funded and project positions), the decision to submit an application is at the discretion of the principal investigator.

² Scientists who have submitted their dissertation are eligible to apply if the doctorate is completed at the start of the funding period and an outstanding result is expected.

³ Periods of childcare may be considered (the period can be extended by two years per child).

Funding criteria

Proposal

- Quality: Is the current state of research described precisely, is it an up-to-date topic with high scientific relevance, have the objectives been clearly defined? Are the chances of setting up a successful third-party funding proposal to be realistic?
- Work program: Has a feasible and targeted work program been developed that is suitable to prepare the planned third-party funding proposal and/or to significantly increase its chances of getting funded?
- Appropriateness of requested funds
- Feasibility: Can the work program be implemented with the requested funds and within the 12-month time frame?

Applicants: Scientific achievements and future potential

Application

Applications for the funding period 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025 may be submitted online from university net or via VPN **until 26 June 2024**: [UR Potentials](#) (Contact: ur-potentials@ur.de)

The funding decision will be announced by 30 August 2024.

Application documents

- Summary and project description (up to four pages in total)
- Appendix: Lay summary, figures, references, and budget justification
- Research profile: Academic CV including information on degree programs, doctorate (including date of the oral examination), stages of academic/professional career and scientific achievements; if applicable: information on children (number, month and year of birth)
- Joint statement by the two scientific mentors proposed by the applicant on the project and the research profile. One of the two mentors must be a member of the Universität Regensburg.
- For researchers employed in project-related positions: Declaration of consent by the person responsible for the project¹ [\[Download template declaration of consent\]](#)
- if applicable: Statement by the ethics committee
- if applicable: License for animal testing

Funding conditions

A proposal for third-party funding (minimum volume: 0.65 x TV-L E13 position for 24 months) to a funding organization with a recognized review process, or a proposal to the DFG funding program "Scientific Networks" must be submitted within the funding period of one year, i.e., by 30 September 2025⁴. The Universität Regensburg must be informed of the funding organization's decision on the proposal. Additional project funding via funding lines 4 / Seed Grant or 5 / Basis Anreiz of the Universität Regensburg's *Anreizsystem für Drittmittelinwerbung* is excluded.

⁴ In justified cases, a further extension of three months may be requested.

UR Potentials Stage 2 – Early Research Group

Objectives

The pillar *UR Potentials Stage 2 – Early Research Group* aims to promote early career researchers who have already succeeded in independently acquiring third-party funding and who want to establish and expand their own research group.

Scope of funding

- **Funding:** 500 €/year for a period of three years; if applicable and at the discretion on the applicant's faculty: Matching
- **Award:** *UR Potentials Stage 2* status (certificate)
- **Coaching and Trainings:** Individual coaching on career development and workshops
- **Collegial Counseling:** Mutual exchange and networking

For the funding period 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2027, up to 20 fundings⁵ can be awarded. If the application criteria are met, grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Who is eligible to apply?

Early career researchers employed at the Universität Regensburg who have already succeeded in independently acquiring third-party funding of at least 0.65 x TV-L E13 position for 24 months from a funding organization with recognized review process, or funding in the DFG program "Scientific Networks", and who have completed their doctorates no later than six years⁶ prior to the start of the funding period.

Application

Applications for the funding period 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2027 may be submitted online from university net or via VPN **from 3 June 2024:** [UR Potentials](#) (Contact: ur-potentials@ur.de)

⁵ For the funding periods 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2028 and 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2029, at least five further grants will be provided. Application periods will start in May 2025 and May 2026, respectively.

⁶ Periods of childcare may be considered (the period can be extended by two years per child).

UR Potentials Stage 3 –Programs of Excellence

Objectives

The pillar *UR Potentials Stage 3 –Programs of Excellence* awards outstanding early career researchers for proposals on junior research groups in programs of excellence from funding organizations with recognized review process: Emmy Noether program, Heisenberg program, BMBF Emerging researchers groups, Sofja Kovalevskaja Award, Helmholtz Investigator Groups, ERC Starting Grants, and comparable. Funding is also provided for grant proposals on independent junior research groups for a period of at least three years in subject-specific programs with recognized and competitive review processes (e.g. Liebig Fellowships, Max Eder Junior Research Groups). Proposals for DFG individual research grants are excluded.

Scope of funding:

- **Funding:**
 - Lump sum of € 10,000 upon application (proof of submitted funding proposal)
 - For approved grants, an additional € 20,000 can be provided to strengthen infrastructure (on separate application)
 - Incomings will receive a lump sum of € 30,000 to strengthen infrastructure if the grant is fully transferred to the Universität Regensburg
- **Award:** *UR Potentials Stage 3* status (certificate)
- **Coaching and Trainings:** Individual coaching on career development and workshops
- **Collegial Counseling:** Mutual exchange and networking

Who is eligible to apply?

- Scientists employed at the Universität Regensburg who are eligible to apply to the programs listed under “objectives” according to the respective guidelines
- Scientists who will take up a position at the Universität Regensburg and who will transfer a granted project (as described under objectives) to the Universität Regensburg for the entire funding period (incomings)

Scientists holding a permanent professorship are not eligible to apply.

Application

Applications may be submitted online from university net or via VPN any time: [UR Potentials](#)
(Contact: ur-potentials@ur.de)