

## **Research Pool of TUC (Funding Line 2 [B])**

(please note, that the [german version of the "Richtlinie"](#) is the legally reliable document)

# **Start-up funding**

for early-career researchers to develop academic independence with the perspective of submitting a third-party funding application

## **Aims**

The House of Research and the university management board aim to provide early-career researchers with the opportunity to develop their own research profile and create a basis for a successful third-party funding application. The goal is to prepare and submit a third-party funding application with Clausthal Technical University as location of implementation, as well as to gain substantial international research experience. The call for proposals is open to all disciplines, but the research project should fit the research profile of Clausthal Technical University.

## **Call for proposals**

This call for proposals of the Start-up funding is open from January 2025, deadline for submission is August 31<sup>st</sup> 2025. A maximum of one application will be funded per call. There is no legal entitlement to funding.

## **Funding and Duration**

The Start-up funding provides up to €300,000 for personnel and material costs, including travel expenses, for a maximum term of 36 months. At the beginning of the funding period, a target agreement will be agreed on, which will be discussed annually with the mentor and supervised by a scientific management of Clausthal Technical University.

Travel and material expenses may not exceed 20% of the funding volume.

## **General Conditions**

Applicants are expected to have:

- a very good doctorate/PhD (preferably external from Clausthal Technical University) in a suitable discipline and 1-3 years of postdoctoral experience.
- evidence of excellent scientific achievements, e.g. excellent publications in suitable journals, awards and possibly initial experience with third-party funding.
- a convincing research concept for the Start-up funding as well as the planned follow-up third-party funded project, target plan, milestones as well as networking potential to existing research at Clausthal University of Technology.
- excellent English skills and ideally international experience in an academic context.

Applicants are requested to include a letter of support from the head of an institute or research center of Clausthal Technical University (with respect to the integration of the research project) as well as two external letters of recommendation.

Applicants are advised to seek counselling from the Research Services during application preparation, particularly regarding cost calculations/personnel expenses

and possible follow-up projects for supporting young researchers within the scope of the funding line. If the applicant completed their doctorate at TU Clausthal, some programs are excluded if the TU Clausthal is the location of the project.

### **Approval and Selection Procedure**

The application documents are submitted to the PostDoc-Office at Graduate Academy Clausthal TU and reviewed by a selection. The applications will be ranked, with the involvement of additional experts if necessary, and each will be accompanied by a proposal for a target agreement and a recommendation for a professional mentor.

The ranking of the applications will be presented to the House of Research, and a funding recommendation will be made to the Presidential Board.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

- Qualifications and competence of the applicant,
- Innovative approach, originality of the research topic,
- Quality of the research concept, thematic fit with the academic profile of Clausthal Technical University and future development opportunities,
- Suitability of the topic for the intended third-party funding,
- Project organization and milestone planning.

### **Project Progress and Completion**

The successful applicant should be integrated into the structures at Clausthal Technical University and engage in regular professional exchange with the mentor. The Funding Advisory Service of Clausthal TU offers continuously support with regard to the application for the intended follow-up project. The Graduate Academy provides an additional program for individual development.

At the end of the funding period, a financial and factual report must be submitted within 6 months. Furthermore, feedback is expected regarding whether the third-party funding application was submitted and successful.