

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

(please note, that the [german version of the "Richtlinie"](#) is the legally binding 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 Presidential Board of Clausthal University of Technology 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 University of Technology 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 University of Technology.

Call for proposals

This call for proposals of the Start-up funding is open from January 2025, deadline for submission is August 31st 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 staff and material expenses, including travel expenses, for a maximum period of 36 months. At the beginning of the funding period, a target agreement will be agreed on, which will be reviewed annually with the mentor.

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 University of Technology) 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 with existing research groups 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 University of Technology (with respect to the integration of the research project) as well as two third-party letters of recommendation.

Applicants are recommended to seek consultation with Funding Advisory Service during their preparation for application, particularly regarding cost calculations/personnel expenses and possible follow-up projects for supporting young

researchers within the scope of the funding line. In the case the applicant has been awarded the doctoral degree at Clausthal University of Technology, some programs are excluded if the Clausthal University of Technology is the future location of the project.

Approval and Selection Procedure

The application documents are to be submitted to the PostDoc-Office at Graduate Academy Clausthal University of Technology and will be reviewed by a committee. The applications will be ranked, additional experts will be involved, if necessary, a proposal for a target agreement and a recommendation for a professional mentor will also be suggested for the committee.

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, novelty of the research topic,
- Quality of the research concept, thematic fit with the research profile of Clausthal University of Technology and development opportunities for the future,
- 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 University of Technology and engage in a regular professional exchange with his or her mentor. The Funding Advisory Service of Clausthal University of Technology offers continuous support with regard to the application for the intended follow-up project. The Graduate Academy provides an additional program for individual development.

Within six months after the end of the funding period, a financial and factual report must be submitted. Furthermore, feedback is expected regarding whether the third-party funding application has been submitted and whether it was successful.