

Max-Eder Junior Research Group Program

Guidelines for making an application

Objective of the program and conditions for making an application

With this program - named after the late physician Max Eder, a pioneer of the Deutsche Krebshilfe - Deutsche Krebshilfe would like to make a contribution to promoting the next generation of scientists in the field of clinical or clinically oriented oncology. The projects of particular interest to the Max-Eder Junior Research Group Program are those which promise a transmission of fundamental research results into diagnostic or therapeutic applications of clinical oncology. The objective expressly includes research close to patients. An attractive scientific supporting program to a Clinical Trial can therefore also be funded as part of the Max-Eder Junior Research Group Program.

It is the intention of this program to support highly qualified young oncologists (Physicians during or after training to become a specialist as well as natural scientists with explicit focus on clinical aspects of the project), who are generally not older than 35 years of age when making the application, in establishing their own independent working group and further developing their scientific careers.

Applicants have the opportunity following postdoctoral training (scientific training after the conferral of a doctorate, which gives qualification to manage a group of junior scientists) to receive funding for four to seven years for the establishment of a junior research group. The environment of the junior research group must ensure the successful implementation of an oncology project focussing on clinical aspects. With regard to natural scientists, Deutsche Krebshilfe is assuming that the latter will generally establish their working group at a clinic.

Projects in whose results commercial companies have a direct economic interest are excluded from the funding.

The application must be associated with a change of location, in other words a return to Germany after a postdoctoral stay abroad or a change of location within Germany after postdoctoral training. In this program - in addition to the application itself - the qualification, scientific expertise and independence of the applicant will also be assessed. Applicants must therefore have documented the ability to independent scientific work through their own project-related publications (original work). As this is a program of excellence of Deutsche Krebshilfe, the applicant's own high-quality publications in scientific journals should already be in existence. The Junior Research Group Program is also open to applicants, who have completed their postdoctoral stay with a grant from the Dr. Mildred Scheel Stiftung für Krebsforschung abroad.

In order to assess your own prospects for a successful application as part of the Max-Eder Junior Research Group Program, you can find an overview of the working groups that are currently being funded on the homepage of Deutsche Krebshilfe

The host institution declares that it will provide appropriate support to the working group (staff, consumables, basic equipment).

In the case of Physicians, it is a requirement that they are released from their clinical obligations for six to twelve months. The applicant has the opportunity to apply for his own position. Total funding of up to EUR 800,000 can be applied for as part of the first period of funding (in principle four years).

Application and review process

- The application and review procedure takes place four times a year. The current deadlines for the submission of applications are announced on the homepage of Deutsche Krebshilfe <https://www.krebshilfe.de/forschen/foerderung/foerderprogram/nachwuchsfoerderung/>.
- Applications should be made three to six months before the end of postdoctoral training, but can also still be submitted within one year after the change of location.
- Applications will be examined by the Advisory Board of the Career Development Program of Deutsche Krebshilfe. If an applicant appears suitable in principle for the Max-Eder Junior Research Group Program on the basis of the application documents, a more detailed on-site evaluation of the applicant will take place in the context of an “interview”, in which among others the Manager / Director of the host institution and representatives of the Faculty will also participate.
- After the interview the Advisory Board will again discuss the application and make a recommendation. A decision on the application will subsequently be made by the Board of Directors of the Deutsche Krebshilfe - taking into account the recommendation of the Advisory Board.

Duration of funding

- As part of the initial funding, an application can be made for a period of funding of up to four years. In the case of applications, which are approved for four years, the provision of funds will be dependent on the successful progress of the project after two and a half years of funding. The evaluation of the progress of the project is based on the project presentations at the annual Max-Eder-Junior Research Group meetings as well as the annual meetings with the mentor from the Advisory Board.
- There is the option of submitting an application for an extension of the project for a further three years. The application for an extension should be submitted approximately six months before the end of the first period of funding. An application for funding totalling up to EUR 600,000 can be made for three years as part of the second funding period. Particularly high standards are set in the evaluation. The Advisory Board retains the right to carry out another on-site evaluation or to invite the applicant to a meeting for a presentation regarding the extension of the project. Excellent projects can be given continued funding for a further three years. However, projects that are rated very highly but do not meet the criteria for excellence will only continue to be funded for six to twelve months in the sense of phase-out funding.

Eligibility Requirements

- Holders of a W1 junior professorship, people who have already qualified as a professor or holders of an apl. professorship are entitled to apply to the Max-Eder Junior Research Group Program.
- Holders of a W2, W3 or foundation professorship are not entitled to apply - even if the professorship is limited in time.
- During the application and review process, Deutsche Krebshilfe is to be informed about applications for a professorship position and ongoing appointment procedures.
- The acceptance of a professorship is to be notified immediately to Deutsche Krebshilfe during the review process and also during funding of a Max-Eder project.
- Candidates, who already receive funding for a junior research group program from another funder - also intramurally - are also not entitled to apply (for example Emmy Noether working group, ERC Starting or Consolidator Grant, Heisenberg-Professorship, DKFZ junior research group program ...).

Parallel applications to other third-party funding

- It is possible to submit a parallel application to a junior researcher program of another funding organisation that is similar to the Max Eder Junior Research Group Program in terms of objectives and structure - even if the work programs are thematically identical or similar. Deutsche Krebshilfe must be informed immediately and unsolicited both at the time of the application and also during the review process about corresponding applications to other funders.
- If another junior researcher grant is taken up during the ongoing review process (Max-Eder Junior Research Group Program) that is similar to the Max Eder Junior Research Group Program in terms of objectives and structure (support for the establishment of an own research group), the review process will be stopped.
- After written notification of funding in the Max-Eder Junior Research Group Program, Deutsche Krebshilfe must be informed within a period of three months about the acceptance or rejection of the Max-Eder funding. Otherwise the Max-Eder application will be considered to have been withdrawn.
- The use of a junior researcher grant, that is similar to the Max Eder Junior Research Group Program in terms of objectives and structure (support for the establishment of an own research group), excludes funding within the Max Eder Junior Research Group Program - even if the work programs have different thematic focuses (In this sense, for example, intramurally funded junior research group leaders and working group leaders of Max Planck Research Groups and Helmholtz Young Investigators Groups are also excluded from simultaneous funding under the Max Eder Junior Research Group Program. Nor is funding within the framework of an ERC Starting or Consolidator Grant of the European Research Council (ERC) compatible with simultaneous funding in the Max Eder Junior Research Group Program.).
- During ongoing funding under the Max-Eder Junior Research Group Program, Deutsche Krebshilfe must be informed immediately and unsolicited about other applications and funding commitments, if these are junior research programs, that are similar to the Max Eder Junior Research Group Program in terms of objectives and structure. In the event that other funding is claimed, the support within the framework of the Max-Eder Junior Research Group Program will end immediately (if necessary also retrospectively if the Deutsche Krebshilfe office was informed late about the acceptance of other funding).

Application Guidelines

Applications must contain the information and appendices listed below under 1 to 10. Please use all the section numbers and the complete section titles from this guideline. Please mark points, which are not relevant to you, with "not applicable" (if necessary, with reasons). The application is to be submitted in two copies (an unbound original, one complete bound application copies; address: Deutsche Krebshilfe, Abteilung Förderung, Buschstr. 32, 53113 Bonn). The application copy is not screened for completeness. The copy must also contain **all** the appendices.

In addition, the following are to be sent with the application submission as an e-mail to foerderung@krebshilfe.de (not exceeding 15 MB, no ZIP-file format):

- **one** PDF file, which contains the complete application documents, - including all the appendices to the application.
- Information about 1.2. and 3. ("Project title", "Summary of the project description") as a Word document. For applications written in English, the "Project Title" and the "Summary of the Project Description" must also be submitted in German.
- Curriculum vitae of the applicant as a PDF file.
- Publication list of the applicant as a PDF file.

Applications should not exceed 20 pages (excluding appendices, font size 12, single line spacing).

1. General information

(If necessary, please comment here on the points mentioned under "Eligibility Requirements ")

1.1 Applicant

- Forename, surname, academic title
- Date of birth, age at the time of the application

1.2 Project title

(Maximum 160 characters; including blank spaces)

1.3 Institution, at which the project is to be carried out

- Full name of the institution
- Postal address
- Telephone and fax number (with area code), e-mail address

1.4 Institution, at which the applicant is currently working and can be contacted

- Full name of the institution
- Postal address
- Name of the head of the institution
- Telephone and fax number (with area code), e-mail address

Please inform us immediately of any changes of address!

1.5 Institution, at which the applicant worked during his postdoctoral training

- Full name of the institution
- Postal address
- Name of the head of the institution

1.6 Change of location

Please state here when you are intending to move to the institution (date), at which the project is to be carried out, or whether and when (date) the change has already taken place. If you move location during the review process of your application, please inform us of your full address (full name of the institution in Germany, postal address, telephone and fax number (with area code), e-mail address) or initially at least an e-mail address, at which you can be reached even during your move.

1.7 Estimated total duration of the project applied for funding

1.8 Application period

(The period for which funding is being applied)

2. Table of contents with page numbers

3. Summary of project description

Summary of the planned project stating the main objectives of the project. The summary of the project description must not be longer than one page. Please do not insert any figures, graphs, footnotes or references to other sections of the application or the list of publications in the summary.

4. Information on the research project

4.1 State of research

The current state of research should be presented concisely and precisely in its direct relation to the specific project and as justification for the project applied for funding, citing the most important relevant work of other scientists (an application should be comprehensible without having read the literature cited).

4.2 Own preliminary work

The project-specific preliminary work should be presented in a concrete and complete manner, with reference to own and external literature. (see number 10.2)

4.3 Objectives of the planned project

Condensed presentation of the scientific objectives (no longer than one page). The objectives of the project can also be mentioned in the form of a list.

4.4 Work program

Detailed description of the planned project during the application period (four years for the first funding period, three years for the second funding period). All the methods used in the implementation of the project, should be mentioned and - if they are not standard methods - described briefly (reference to publications where appropriate). Which methods are already available, which are to be developed, what assistance is needed outside your own research group? The quality of the work program is a decisive factor as to whether the project can be funded.

4.5 Timetable

Schematic presentation of the timetable of the work program (no longer than one page)

5. Requested Funding

5.1 Staff/Personnel

The following details are required

- Designation of the post applied for (for example Technician, postdoctoral researcher, PhD Student, physician). If the persons for whom the personnel funds are requested are already known, please give their names.
- The intended duration of employment (for example “for four years”).
- The remuneration group according to TV-Ä or TV-L in Euro are not required. You will receive a table of the currently valid average staff rates from the Deutsche Krebshilfe office on request to make it easier to plan the total amount of the funding being applied for.
- A precise description of the duties of each position applied for (a reference to the work program is not sufficient). The application for your own position is possible. Please take note of Point 6.6. of this guideline on this subject.

5.2 Equipment

This include, in particular, scientific equipment.

The following information is required

- Please name the equipment.
- Acquisition costs in € including VAT, less the discount/rebate. Please include the current quote/estimate of the eligible supplier. Copies of catalogues from suppliers or an internet website will not be accepted.
- For each case, include a detailed explanation of why you need the proposed equipment for the implementation of the project, especially in relation to the existing facilities in the host institution.

Please note that equipment, which belongs to the basic equipment of an institution or a clinic, will in principle not be funded by Deutsche Krebshilfe.

5.3 Consumables

Please mention the consumables (for example 'chemicals', 'antibodies') or group the consumables according to experimental-methodical aspects (for example 'materials for CGH analyses', 'materials for ELISPOT', 'materials for immunostaining'), and specify the amount in Euro of each funding year for each position.

5.4 Purchasing and keeping laboratory animals

Please note that it must be comprehensible to the reviewers to see how the funding applied for purchasing and keeping laboratory animals is composed in detail. State the funding applied for in accordance with the following table for the entire funding period applied for.

Species	Number	Ø Period kept in weeks	Purchasing costs*		Costs for keeping animals		Site of animal keeping
			per animal	total	per animal/ week	total	
			total: €		€		

* Including value added tax and if applicable packaging and transport

Purchasing costs: Please include the current quote/estimate of the eligible supplier. Copies of catalogues from suppliers or an internet website will not be accepted.

Costs for keeping animals: Please state separately which costs are included in the position 'Costs for keeping animals', for example animal feed, animal care, electricity, water etc. The application can only include costs which are not part of the basic infrastructure of an animal facility (e.g. building, water, electricity). Additional funding for animal experiments (for example medication, anaesthetics, instruments and similar) or other funding, for example for serological investigations of the animals, will be assigned to the funding for Consumables, Equipment or Other Costs. We therefore ask you to list those funds there.

5.5 Travel Costs

Funding can only be applied for trips that are absolutely necessary for the implementation of the study. (for example travel to collaboration partners). Please state whether and to what extent travel funding (breakdown by number of trips, number of travellers, costs per route) is being applied for. Give reasons for the need for the planned trips.

Funding for trips to scientific meetings cannot be applied for separately. However, if approval is given, there is the option of using up to EUR 1,000 p. a. cost-neutral from the funds approved for Consumables and/or purchasing and keeping laboratory animals (if applicable) for this purpose. However, in this case the requested sum may not amount to more than 10 % of the total funds approved for the relevant position, from which the funds are reclassified.

5.6 Other Costs

This includes for example contracts to third parties. If contracts are to be awarded to third parties, concrete offers with descriptions of the tasks to be carried out are to be enclosed.

Funding for publication costs cannot be applied for separately. In the case of approval, there is the option of using up to EUR 750 p. a. cost-neutral from the approved funds for Consumables and/or purchasing and keeping laboratory animals (if applicable) to cover the costs for the publication of scientific results. However, the financing of abstracts or reprints is ruled out. Furthermore, the reclassified total must not amount to more than 10 % of the total funds approved for the relevant position, from which the funds are reclassified.

Overhead costs are not covered by Deutsche Krebshilfe for fundamental considerations.

6. Requirements for the implementation of the project

6.1 Detailed justification

For the selection of the host institution

6.2 Description of the scientific environment

6.3 Integration / Inclusion

Of the project applied for funding in research projects that are already in existence at the host institution

6.4 Cooperation

With other scientists (if applicable, enclose signed cooperation agreements). In case of cooperations with the former postdoctoral laboratory, please enclose - if possible - a delimiting statement of the head of the postdoctoral laboratory on the topic of the project.

6.5 Equipment and facilities of the host institution

6.6 Support for the junior research group by the host institution

Please address the following points

- Staff to be provided
- Funding provided for consumables
- Funding provided for purchasing and keeping laboratory animals
- Facilities provided (laboratory and office workspace)
- Description of the technical equipment in the premises
- Options for the use of the available infrastructure
- Period of time for release from clinical obligations (for Physicians)
- If the position of the applicant is applied for at Deutsche Krebshilfe, then in the case of Physicians, the boards of Deutsche Krebshilfe expect the candidate to be completely released from his or her clinical obligations for the applied period. In addition, the exemption must be granted for at least another six months.

Please state whether there is the prospect of a contribution to support the junior research group from the accepting institute / the accepting clinic or by the Faculty, and enclose the corresponding commitments from the institute / clinic Manager / Director and / or the Dean.

Generally, our committees assume the following support for a funded junior research group

- Provision of a Technician - or a PhD-Student
- Provision of funding for Consumables and if applicable funding for purchasing and keeping laboratory animals in the total amount of EUR 10,000 to EUR 20,000 p.a.
- Provision of own laboratory and office workspaces for all members of the research group, equipped with the necessary technical devices for the processing of the project
- Free options to use all the necessary resources of the establishment
- Release from clinical obligations for at least six months

7. Other information

7.1 Opinion of the Ethics Committee

If investigations on humans or on human sample material are envisaged, it is necessary to obtain an opinion from the responsible Ethics Committee, which shows that there are no concerns about the implementation of the project (can also be submitted at a later date).

7.2 Genetic engineering

If genetic engineering work is envisaged, please enclose the fully completed and signed form 'Genetic engineering work at safety levels 1 and 2' as an appendix to the application.

7.3 Animal experiments

If animal experiments are envisaged, please enclose the fully completed and signed form "Animal experiments", the table shown under 5.4. and the cost proposals for the purchasing of the animals.

7.4 Third-party funding

If applicable, provide a list of all the third-party funding, which you have received to date or have applied for, stating the project title, the (potential) funding organisation, the duration of funding (applied for) with precise statement of months and the respective total amount of the funding (applied for).

7.5 Fellowships

If applicable, a list of all the fellowships, which you have received so far or not yet received, indicating the funding organisation and the duration of funding.

8. Confirmation that the application has not been submitted to any other funding organisation

Confirmation of the following declaration:

"No equivalent or thematically similar application has been submitted to any other funding organisation or has already been processed and advocated by any other funding organisation. During the processing of this application by the German Cancer Aid, I will not submit any equivalent or thematically similar application to any other funding organisation."

If this is not applicable (see "Parallel application to other funding organisations"), state this here.

Supplementary funding from the host institution is excluded from this confirmation. However, if applicable, please state precisely whether you have already made an application for supplementary funding from the host institution or whether you intend to make such an application, stating the project title, the possible duration of funding and the possible amount of the funding. If you are already taking up supplementary funding from the responsible organisation, please state the project title, total amount of the funding and duration of funding. In the event that an equivalent or thematically similar application has already been refused by a different funding organisation, the funding organisation, the title of the project and the reasons for the refusal are to be notified.

9. Signature

Place, date, signature

10. Appendices

10.1 Curriculum vitae in table form (with indication of months)

(Taking particular account of the scientific career path).

10.2 Complete list of your own publications

The list of publications (please state all the authors of a publication: not 'et al.')

 must be arranged as follows (in each case in chronological order and by stating the 'impact factor'):

1. First and last authorships (please mark shared authorships and explain in a footnote)
2. Co-authorships (stating your own contribution to the publication, in the form of 1-2 sentences below the respective citation)
3. Reviews
4. Case reports
5. Invited lectures
6. Posters (max. from the last five years)

7. Manuscripts submitted for publication; they can be enclosed (without mentioning the journal).
With regard to submitted manuscripts, Deutsche Krebshilfe should be informed about the status of publication during the review process.

If manuscripts are accepted for publication by the corresponding journal, but have not yet been published, please state them as 'accepted by ...' or 'in print in ...'. Please enclose the corresponding confirmations with the application (confirmation of receipt at the journal or confirmation that the manuscript has been accepted for publication). Please enclose a maximum of five reprints of the most important publications. Please do not list publications, which are still 'under preparation'.

With regard to applications for an extension, state under the relevant publications whether these are the results of the work program of the first funding period. Also briefly state the objectives of the first funding period work program, that were processed here.

10.3 Written confirmation from the Manager / Director of the host institution

For Physicians: that the applicant is released during the first year of funding for at least six months from his clinical obligations and he is subsequently also granted sufficient scope to implement and support the project. If Physicians are applying for funding for their own position, we request that the notes under 6.6 are observed.

For natural scientists and Physicians: that the applicant is granted the option of a postdoctoral lecture qualification.

10.4 Signed cooperation agreements, if applicable

Also, for example for the option of using human sample material. In particular written agreements with the former guest laboratory of the applicant should be enclosed here, if there might be subject-based overlaps with the subject of the guest laboratory.

10.5 Consent of the responsible Ethics Committee, if applicable

For the implementation of the project (can be submitted subsequently). A positive opinion must have been provided from the Ethics Committee at the latest at the beginning of the funding i.e. when the funding is paid out.

10.6 The fully completed and signed form 'Genetic engineering work at safety levels 1 and 2', if applicable

10.7 The fully completed and signed form 'Animal experiments', if applicable

10.8 Other appendices

Contact

Please contact the Funding Department of Deutsche Krebshilfe before making an application.
Your Contact is **Dr. Matejka** (Telephone: 0228/729 90 202, e-mail: matejka@krebshilfe.de).

Please note

No legal claim for funding can be derived from the submission of an application. The applicant has no claim that a submitted application should be returned.

The German Cancer Aid retains the right to check for duplicate funding by providing other external funding sources with the applicant's information (name, theme and objective of the project).

The acceptance of a research grant obligates the funding recipient to comply with the rules of Good Scientific Practice and Good Clinical Practice, respectively. The rules of Good Scientific Practice are described in detail in the user guidelines for research funds from the German Research Foundation (DFG preprints 2.01 and 2.02). In the event of scientific misbehavior, sanctions can be concluded. In particular, scientific misbehavior is present when false information is provided deliberately or with gross negligence in a context of considerable scientific

importance, or the intellectual property of others is violated or their research work is impaired. The circumstances of the individual case are always decisive.

Status: October 2021

