AnGuS - Application Support in the Humanities and Social Sciences

On 15.12.2020, the Rectorate decided to provide central funding for profiling and research support in the humanities and social sciences. In 2021 and 2022, a total of up to €1 million will be available for this purpose.

The funds are to support initiatives for research projects in the humanities and social sciences – both individual and collaborative projects – and aim directly at fostering the acquisition of third-party funding.

Angus (used here as acronym from the programme’s German title), derived from the Irish Aonghus, is a common name in Ireland and Scotland and means power, strength. The programme is intended to further develop the research strength of the humanities and social sciences at RUB.

I Procedure

In order to facilitate rapid support of research initiatives with the aim of a third-party funding application, the procedure is single-stage. Researchers can approach the Vice Rector for Research or the Research Support Office in Department 1 with their topic and their need for support. To do this, they submit a short concept of 2–3 pages (project, envisioned application-scheme for external funding, next steps), a short list of publications from the last 5 years and an overview of the researchers involved. On this basis, a consultation meeting is held with the Vice Rector for Research, after which the Rectorate decides on the funding, its scope and duration. In doing so, it will also take into account the goal of supporting profile building in the humanities and social sciences, which is anchored in the current HEP. For its decision, the Rectorate may seek external expertise if necessary. In the case of support for an initiative, the grantees submit a short report (2–3 pages) at the end of the funding period to document the progress of the planning/preparations; if necessary, this can be followed by a discussion with the Vice Rector for Research.

There is no deadline for applications, but applications should be submitted by the beginning of 2022.

II Short Concept (2–3 pages)

The following points should be presented in the short concept: 1. a brief description and classification of the research topic/field, 2. what type of externally funded project is planned or what proposal is to be submitted at the end of the funding period (goal), 3. next steps and planned measures for preparing the third-party funding application, including a timetable, and 4. the naming and explanation of the support measures that are being applied for, including an overview of costs (funded measures – see point V below). An overview of the participating researchers with short CVs as well as a short publication list of the last 5 years of the participants with relevant or related/preparatory work on the planned topic must be submitted as attachments.
III Criteria for Funding

In order to receive resources to support an initiative, the following criteria must be met:

- a research topic/field is to be developed or worked on with the aim of subsequently submitting a proposal to a third-party funding body; measures for setting up infrastructures, networks or platforms are not eligible for funding
- the applicants have a recognisable research or publication strength or – in the case of researchers who are still at an early stage of their career – show potential for it
- the planning for the next steps is plausible; the requested support measures are appropriate

Researchers whose topic/research project is already funded by one of the MERCUR funding lines cannot submit an application.

IV Eligibility to Apply

All doctoral researchers who are employed as professors, junior professors, post-doctoral researchers, junior research group leaders or similar at the RUB are eligible to apply. Doctoral candidates and post-doctoral researchers can and should be included in the activities.

V Supported Measures

The following measures (exemplary naming) can be financed – depending on need and appropriateness – usually for 1–2 semesters:

- substitutes for 1 semester (both for individual research projects and for the planning of joint projects)
- temporary reduction of the teaching load by 2–4 SWS – depending on teaching load (a reduction to 0 SWS is not possible)
- organisation of internal workshops or conferences (preparation of collaborative projects)
- temporary (partial) funding of staff to coordinate / support the project’s development
- temporary funding of SHKs and WHKs
- short visits by international researchers to prepare joint publications (programme of the International Office)

Infrastructure, equipment, office equipment or costs for publications are not financed; in exceptional cases (e.g. in the area of the Digital Humanities), costs for software or the like may partially be financed if this is necessary and useful for the preparation of a third-party funding application. Conversions of temporary employments into permanent ones are also not financed.

The respective funding, i.e. what is appropriate, depends on the one hand on the intended third-party funded project and on the other hand on the equipment situation of the respective researchers / the institute / the faculty. The funding is available for the preparation of the common, competitive application formats (collaborative projects or individual research grants such as ERC or Koselleck applications) of the funding bodies DFG, federal government, state, EU and foundations, but not for applications for DFG individual research grants (‘Sachbeihilfe’) or comparable programmes.
In the consultation with the Vice Rector for Research, it is discussed whether the announced measures for the development or preparation of the research project on the way to the third-party funding application are the right ones and to what extent funding would be helpful. The Rectorate subsequently decides on the funding.

VI Duration and Interim Conclusion
In the summer of 2021, an interim summary will be drawn based on the applications received up to that point and the funding that has been provided or approved, in order to determine whether the funding measures are suitable.

VII Contact
Please send your applications to the Research Support Office in Department 1:

abteilungsforschung@ruhr-uni-bochum.de

If you have any questions, you may contact the following persons in the Research Support Office:

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