

Call for proposals

UR Potentials 2026

The program *UR Potentials* aims to promote early scientific independence and supports early career researchers in acquiring third-party funding and in setting up and expanding their own research groups. Only members of the University of Regensburg are eligible to apply.

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 researchers
- **Workshop „Proposal Writing“:** Guaranteed place and free participation in the workshop
On demand in consultation with the mentors at the expense of one's own funding; possibility of booking individual application coaching to process a complete draft application¹
- **Award:** *UR Potentials Stage 1* status (certificate)
- **Collegial Counseling:** Mutual exchange and networking

Who is eligible to apply?

Early career researchers employed at the University of Regensburg², who have completed their doctorates with outstanding results³ no later than four years⁴ 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".

¹ For more information on this offer (trainer, procedure, costs, etc.), please contact Ms. Christiane Kellner at WIN: tt-koordination@ur.de

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ Periods of childcare may be considered (up to two years per child can be credited for female researchers and one year for male researchers. If proof of childcare periods exceeding one year is provided, an extension of up to two years per child is also possible for male researchers.).

Selection Process

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

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 potential for a career in science or humanities

Application

Applications for the funding period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 may be submitted online from university net or via VPN **as of 1 February until 31 March 2026**:

[Stage 1 - Early Independence - Intranet - Universität Regensburg](#)

(Contact: ur-potentials@ur.de)

The funding decision will be announced by 15 June 2026.

Application documents

- Summary and project description: including institution and name of funding program, details of the planned positions applied for (own position, staff positions) and a statement of the necessity of funding by UR Potentials (up to four pages in total)
- Appendix: Generally understandable 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, scientific achievements and own career goals; 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 University of Regensburg. The statement should (a) evaluate the applicant's research achievements to date, (b) assess the planned research project's chances of receiving funding, (c) comment on the applicant's career prospects, and (d) include a declaration of consent to act as a mentor and support the application.
- Statement by the Dean of Research
- For researchers employed in project-related positions: Declaration of consent by the person responsible for the project² [\[Download template declaration of consent\]](#)
- 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 June 2027⁵. The University of 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 University of Regensburg's *Anreizsystem für Drittmittelinwerbung* is excluded.

⁵ 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; at the discretion of the applicant's faculty, if applicable additionally: 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 July 2026 to 30 June 2029 further fundings can be awarded.

Who is eligible to apply?

Early career researchers employed at the University of 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 July 2026 to 30 June 2029 may be submitted online from university net or via VPN **from 1 February until 31 March 2026 at the latest:**

[Stage 2 - Early Research Group - Intranet - Universität Regensburg](#)

(Contact: ur-potentials@ur.de)

If the application criteria are met, grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis depending on the funds available.

⁶ Periods of childcare may be considered (up to two years per child can be credited for female researchers and one year for male researchers. If proof of childcare periods exceeding one year is provided, an extension of up to two years per child is also possible for male researchers.).

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 University of 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 University of 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 University of Regensburg and who will transfer a granted project (as described under objectives) to the University of 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:

[Stage 3 - Programs of Excellence - Intranet - Universität Regensburg](#)

(Contact: ur-potentials@ur.de)