

Information for Applicants

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Funding Line: TRANSFER

The TRANSFER funding line is part of the internal research funding framework and is designed for the purposes of validating research findings for their later transfer and practical application and/or preparing them for commercial exploitation. Initiative grants under the TRANSFER funding line are allocated by the Transfer Committee for the further development of intellectual property-based technologies (especially technical copyrights and in particular patents and registration), copyright protected works and software, expertise/expertise-based material¹) in order to help bridge the gap between basic research and practical applications for the benefit of wider society. Patent applications, market research, competitive analyses, and prototype creation are eligible for funding. The allocated funding lays the groundwork for acquiring third-party funding (public application-oriented/exploitation-oriented funding programs, commissioned research with companies), and/or generating revenue through commercial exploitation in the medium term, including via research-based spin-offs. The funding line supports both technical and social innovations. Social innovations are new social practices and organizational models that aim to find viable and sustainable solutions to the challenges we face as a society. Examples include multi-generation housing blocks, carsharing services, and reusable containers for food and beverages.

The required coaching module forms a core element of the funding line and focuses on developing the participating researcher's entrepreneurial skills through consistent coaching, further training, and workshops.

Scope of Funding

Up to 40,000 euros, one-time payment.

Use of Funds

The following modules can be applied for (see also: supplementary information sheets on the individual modules):

- B – Basis (material resources, contracts for work and services, project-related travel expenses);
- P – Personnel (extending/supplementing existing employment contracts)
- C – Coaching

Expenses for conference and partnership travel may be funded via Module B (Base) in duly justified exceptional cases.

For Module P (Personnel), the intention is to supplement existing employment contracts for research staff for a funding period of up to six months, in order to ensure the projects are implemented in a focused and efficient manner. Deviations are possible in exceptional cases where there is a valid justification.

¹ Please refer to: Guidelines on the Protection and Commercialization of Intellectual Property at Freie Universität Berlin: https://www.fu-berlin.de/forschung/service/patente-und-lizenzen/media/IP_leitlinien_EN.pdf

Eligibility

Any researcher with a doctorate who is a member of Freie Universität Berlin is eligible to apply. The applicant must have an ongoing employment relationship with Freie Universität Berlin for the duration of the funding period. Tangible, definable intellectual property-based research results that show particular promise in terms of potential exploitation must already be in existence at the time of application. Freie Universität Berlin as an institution must have a relevant share of these property rights and/or rights of exploitation at its disposal. A concise final report must be sent to the Transfer Committee office after the project has been completed and before a new application is submitted for the funding line, together with concrete steps concerning the further procurement of application-related and/or exploitation-related external funding (or an application for such funding) and/or regarding commercialization partners. If further exploitation seems ill-advised after validation, then this must be detailed in writing.

Application Process

Applications can be submitted electronically to the office of the Transfer Committee via transfer@forschung.fu-berlin.de. The [application deadlines](#) are stated on the homepage. The Transfer Committee will deliberate over the applications during its regular meetings. A consultation with the Patent and Licensing Service and VI A/SHIFT is required prior to submitting the application; this should be carried out at least four weeks before the application is submitted to the Transfer Committee. Applications must be submitted in the correct format, together with the applicant's CV. Applicants may submit only one application per meeting of the Transfer Committee. Any additional applications that are submitted will not be considered.

Co-financing from Departments/Co-payments

Co-financing is not required.