Call for Applications - Bielefeld Young Researchers Fund (BYRF) – Special Funding Line ‘Corona’

The Corona pandemic poses special challenges for young scientists.

Bielefeld University would like to support them in this difficult situation and offers a special funding line in the Bielefeld Young Researchers Fund (BYRF). The aim is to reduce pressure and uncertainty and to offer concrete assistance for corona-related disadvantages.

Therefore, the BYRF will add a special funding line ‘Corona’: The line is open to applications from doctoral candidates and postdocs (up to 5 years after the doctorate, plus family time) at Bielefeld University who, due to the pandemic, were unable to carry out their research or qualification projects as planned. This is a one-time special funding line, there is no legal claim to the funding.

Applications are possible for the following measures:

- **Research subsidies (up to 5,000 €)**

  Applications for research subsidies include, for example, the costs of experiments that could not be carried out or to finance the digitization of necessary archive documents. Applicants are asked to briefly describe the corona-related, additional costs needs related to their respective qualification project.

- **Travel funds (up to 3,000 €)**

  Travel funds can be used to support the resumption of networking activities that are currently not possible, for example, for archive trips or short research trips to international host institutions, if they cannot be financed by other available funds.

- **Scholarships**

  Young researchers, whose qualification projects have been delayed due to the pandemic, and who have no other funding option via third-party and budgetary funds, can apply for a Corona Career Bridge for the duration of a maximum of 6 months.
  - PhD students receive a funding of €1,250 per month.
  - Postdocs receive a funding of €2,000 per month.
  The scholarship amount can be increased by the faculties or scientific institutions by a maximum of 500 € each.

In order to receive the funding, applicants briefly describe the concrete corona-related disadvantage for their research or qualification project. This particularly requires the substantiation as well as the duration of the delay with a concrete time specification.

The essential criteria for the assessment are the plausible presentation of:

1. Corona-related additional care-tasks (e.g. due to lack of child care, caring for relatives in need),
2. Health restrictions related to Corona (e.g., as a result of own illness or special psychological stress).
3. Corona-related barriers or challenges for implementing research or qualification projects (e.g. closure of research facilities and laboratories, lack of access to archive material, lack of opportunity for stays abroad).

Applicants first submit their applications to their respective faculty no later than May 14th, 2021. The faculties check whether no other funding is available and forward the applications to nachwuchsfonds@uni-bielefeld.de by May 28, 2021. With their signature or forwarding of the application, the faculties confirm their support of the application and indicate their approval to co-finance the funding by covering 50% of the funding costs.

Funds will be available by August 1st 2021 the earliest and must be spent no later than December 31st 2022. If the total amount of funding requested exceeds the funds made available in the funding line, the applications will be evaluated comparatively and, if necessary, reductions in the individual subsidy amounts or limitations of the funding measures will be made.
Applicants can find further information on eligibility, scope and start of funding, application procedure and award criteria in the NOTES for Applicants at the BYRF.
Please only use the APPLICATION FORM provided on the BYRF-website to submit your application. Further information as well as all of the necessary documents are available for download on the homepage for young scientists: www.uni-bielefeld.de/nachwuchsfonds.

If you have any further questions, please send an e-mail to nachwuchsfonds@uni-bielefeld.de.