

CALL

CHALLENGES FOR EUROPE: SUMMER SCHOOLS

Summer Schools: Next Deadlines: 5 May 2022,...

Profile Areas: Societal Transformations



area of research: humanities, cultural and social sciences



type of funding: summer schools (thematically open)



up to 80.000 Euro



up to 4 days to 2 weeks



research teams working on European challenges



main applicant has to be a member of a German university/research institution;
participants from at least 3 European countries

1 OBJECTIVES

Profile Area “Societal Transformations”

This is one of three profile areas. In this profile area the Volkswagen Foundation supports research addressing multifaceted aspects of transformation processes. It encourages cross-border and multi-perspective approaches and wishes to open up new ways to participate in shaping social transformations.

Call: Summer Schools in “Challenges for Europe”

The original call addressed the future of Europe and the changes the continent is undergoing. To contribute to the European Vision, the Volkswagen Foundation started the initiative “Challenges for Europe” in 2017. Its aim is to stimulate basic research on issues affecting Europe and the European Union. With the summer school program, the Foundations wants to enable research-based impulses for future cooperation within Europe and strengthen academic collaboration among European scholars, with a focus on Early Career Researchers.

2 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Schools addressing “Challenges for Europe”

Funding is available for summer schools that aim to equip selected young academics (particularly doctoral candidates but also post-doctoral researchers) with new insights and knowledge on the broad field of “Challenges for Europe”. Participants from at least three different European countries should be involved. Interdisciplinary approaches are appreciated.

In order to ensure efficient working conditions, the number of participants should not exceed 60 persons, including the speakers; depending on the theme, a smaller number may sometimes be advisable. In line with the summer schools' focus on young scientists, the participants should significantly outnumber the lecturers. It has to be ensured that all participants are proactively involved in the event. Speakers should be available beyond their lectures for exchange and discussion with the participants. A summer school can last anything between four days and two weeks.

In order to promote the active participation of all participants and a comprehensive exchange of opinions, programs should contain varied and especially interactive event formats. There is to be a substantial share of doctoral candidates and post-doctoral researchers from German research institutions. The general idea is not only to extend the participants' knowledge, but also to enable them – at an early stage of their career – to develop and establish contacts beyond national borders and individual disciplines. Experts from other countries should also be invited to participate as speakers.

The main applicant has to be affiliated with a German university or research institution. The summer school itself can take place in Germany or in another European country. We are also open for applications that wish to establish new kinds of formats for a summer school.

If you are interested in the summer school program, please contact us directly via email (see contact addresses below).

3 WHAT WE OFFER

The Foundation offers its financial support for the following items:

- Funds for student/research assistants for preparing and running the event, including the costs for the compilation of working materials and their publication in the internet (or photocopying where required).
- Expenses for catering and accommodation; rental of premises.
- Travel expenses for participants and speakers.
- Funds for child care within the scope of the event.
- Up to 500 EUR for non-personnel costs (e.g. for materials and event programs).
- Funds for open access publications and/or science communication measures can be applied for

The budget for a summer school is limited to 80,000 EUR.

No funds can be provided for the following items:

- Partial financing of a summer school already funded elsewhere.
- Travel cost subsidies for individual visitors to a summer school.
- Costs of honoraria, assistants and similar items (in exceptional cases it is possible to apply for an allowance for lecturers who are not part of the scientific community, public administration or business representatives, e.g. self-employed persons).
- Any supplementary programs, costs of travel to the event or accommodation and catering for accompanying persons.
- Travel and accommodation costs for participants from industry.

4 APPLICATION AND TIMELINE

Summer Schools: Proposals are to be submitted in English. Applications for summer schools are subject to written review.

There are two separate deadlines per year for applications for summer schools. In the interest of a smooth review process, applications have to be submitted at least six months prior to the event date.



5 CHECKLIST AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

Please submit your pre-proposal using the electronic application system of the Volkswagen Foundation.

The following information and data (.pdf) are required:

- Details on the applicant, co-applicant(s) where applicable and grant recipient (institution).
- The summer school title and proposed date.
- Budget and justification.
- Short scientific curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages) of the applicants
- A list of up to five publications of each applicants (e.g. monographs, articles, websites, blogs, science communication) including a short self assessment of their impact in the respective field
- German and English summary of the project (in each case max. 300 words) including the date the event is planned to take place.
- The proposal itself (detailed description and reasoning, max. 5 pages) with explanations on how the event is to be advertised and how the participants will be selected. It should also be clarified which “Challenge for Europe” the summer school addresses and in how far it supports knowledge on transformation processes in Europe.
- A self-assessment with answers to the following three questions (max. one page): What is the innovative aspect of your summer school topic concerning “Challenges for Europe”? How do the contents of the summer school differ from regular courses? Which new fields are opened up for the participants by attending the summer school? You can use the template under *Further Information* to create your self-assessment.
- List of speakers and participants, their home institutions and area of studies (please list lecturers and young researchers separately). The list of participants can be completed or replaced by details on the announcement of the event and the planned selection procedure for participants. You can use the template under *Further Information* to create the complete list of participants. If required, the list of participants can be supplemented by the call for the event and the planned selection procedure for the participants.
- (Tentative) Program of the event including details on the respective event formats.

If the event is organized by both German and foreign colleagues, the person in charge should be an academic from a German university or research institute. According to the statutes, the Foundation can only grant funding to universities and other scientific institutions.

6 CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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For telephone appointments:
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Additional Information

- › [Application FAQs / Information for Applicants from Abroad](#)
- › [Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips](#)
- › [Personnel Rates Scientific Personnel](#)
- › [Link to Webpage “Challenges for Europe”](#)

Please inform yourself about the electronic application system of the Volkswagen Foundation prior to submitting your application. Information can be found in the document “[Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips](#)”.