

## Call for Applications: Early Career Researcher Award – ‘Exploring New Frontiers’ (10,000 EUR)

The University of Bayreuth is committed to fostering innovative research that addresses the pressing issues of our time. To support our Early Career Researchers in advancing their career and supporting their academic independence, we are pleased to announce the “Early Career Researcher Award: Exploring New Frontiers”.

This research grant, funded by the University of Bayreuth Foundation, aims to support postdoctoral researchers and young faculty members at the University of Bayreuth with innovative research ideas that have the potential to have a significant impact on their field. The maximum funding amount is 10,000 EUR. Support will be granted for a novel research idea that has not yet been financed by external sources.

This provides a unique opportunity to support the academic independence of postdocs and Early Career Researchers and to take a tangible step towards establishing their own research profile. Funding will be provided in particular for the preparation of prestigious third-party funding applications, high-caliber publications or events with international reach and impact.

We invite Early Career Researchers at the University of Bayreuth (up to 8 years after their PhD) to submit their applications which should outline a bold and innovative research concept that addresses a critical challenge or opportunity in their field. The award is open to researchers from all faculties and disciplines, and we encourage applicants to think outside the box and propose research that is truly transformative.

The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2026**, and we look forward to learning about your innovative ideas and helping you explore new frontiers!

General conditions:

Requirements for submitting an application:

- The proposed project is carried out by a scientist at UBT
- The proposal relates to a specific project that is clearly distinct from previous research (i.e. not an ongoing topic or a process that cannot be clearly defined in terms of time and scope)

- The research project leads to the promotion of scientific independence for postdocs
- The funds are used to develop a top-tier publication, prepare a third-party funding application in a renowned funding line or an event at UBT with international reach and scope

Key selection criteria in terms of content:

- High degree of innovation of the project
- The researcher and the proposed project give reason to expect a successful outcome
- The proposed project contributes to the further development or sharpening of UBT's overall profile

Key formal selection criteria:

- Clear argumentation for the importance of funding for the applicant's own scientific independence
- Clear argumentation for the timely implementation of the event, submission to an international publisher or journal or submission of a project proposal to an established funding body
- Clearly argued justification for the timely use of the funds (2 years after approval)
- Online form with attachments:
  - Description of the project (max. 2 pages)
  - Budget plan for the use of funds including information on any other sources of funding
  - Up-to-date CV (max. 2 pages)

**Applications are submitted by self-application via our online portal.**