

Factsheet: Walter Benjamin Programme – German Research Foundation (DFG)

1. Objective of the Programme

The **Walter Benjamin Programme** enables **early-career researchers** to conduct an independent research project at a **location of their choice**. It supports early scientific career development, **mobility**, and thematic advancement.

2. Application Process

2.1 Eligibility Requirements

- Researchers who have **completed their PhD** (or can provide proof of submission).
- Applicants must be in the **early qualification phase following their PhD**.
- For funding **abroad**: Integration into the German research system is required.
- applicants must not have been engaged in research at the host institution selected for the Walter Benjamin Fellowship for more than one year at the time of application.

2.2 Application Format and Deadline

- Applications accepted at **any time** (no fixed deadlines).
 - Follow the **DFG's Application Guidelines** ([Form 50.10](#)).
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3. Funding Duration

- **Maximum of 2 years** (initial application).
 - Extension possible for up to 1 additional year (in exceptional cases).
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4. Requestable Funding

The programme offers different funding options **depending on the research location**:

Funding Option	Purpose	Notes
1. Walter Benjamin Fellowship	Funding for research stays abroad	Provided as a stipend. DFG-Formular 52_19
2. Walter Benjamin Position	Funding for a postdoctoral position in Germany	Covers the applicant's own position. DFG-Formular 52_18
3. Allowance for direct project costs	Funding for travel, materials, and publications	€313 per month
4. Increased Publication Costs	Funding for book publications with high production costs	Up to €5,000 per year (with justification)

5. Mobility & Framework Conditions

- **Change of institution after PhD**: A change to a new scientific environment is generally required (mobility criterion).
 - **Support on-site**: Scientific supervision and infrastructure must be provided by the host institution.
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