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## 2025 Specific Call for Applications for the Funding of Scientific Events “Artificial Intelligence and its challenges for our society”

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### Basis for funding:

The developments in the area of artificial intelligence (‘AI’) have increased at an incredible speed over the last few years and at the latest with the release of ChatGPT become visible to the general public. AI has permeated our everyday lives for a while now, often without us being aware of it (route planners, automatic picture optimisation, language assistants, translation tools, spam filters, anti-fraud mechanisms in banks). In the past, the main focus of research was on the technological challenges. Nowadays the debate around ethical, social, and legal perspectives is gaining pace (use for writing assignments or legal opinions all the way to automated court judgments; discrimination arising from biased training data) and our society is faced with completely new use cases, opportunities, and challenges by the use of AI.

The Franco-German University (FGU) supports events for junior researchers (PhD students and post-docs) aimed at building networks among researchers and intensifying the Franco-German and international scientific dialogue. In justified cases, master’s students or students at a similar level can take part in the supported events.

The aim of this call for applications is to promote the exchange of ideas, theory, and method competencies and the scientific dialogue on an interdisciplinary, Franco-German and European level. The supported events should allow advanced junior researchers to present their research work, prepare for publications, and expand their scientific network. Following these exchanges, it is desirable that other forms of Franco-German cooperation arise.

The calls for applications are open to French and German universities as well as non-university research institutes. The integration of a third country is welcomed. Scientific outputs arising from these events must carry the FGU Seal of Quality.

The call for applications is open to all fields of study. Events should be designed for a minimum of two days up to a maximum of four weeks. The projects can be individual events or part of a structured series of events. Generally, the format and supervision for each event should be specific and only be repeated once.

The events should generally take place within two years of the application date. This also applies to a series of events.

Projects which meet the following conditions can be eligible for funding:

- The event demonstrates a clear Franco-German focus, which needs to be stated in the application.
- The main target group is junior researchers.

Applicants can request funding support from FGU for a “preparatory meeting” while working on the concept of their event. The relevant application form can be found here in German. A French version is also available. <https://www.dfh-ufa.org/informationen-fuer/hochschulen/ausschreibungen/>

The evaluation of the projects is based on the following criteria:

- intensification of the exchange of ideas on the topic of Artificial Intelligence and its challenges in our society,
- scientific quality, relevance, and innovative nature of the scientific topic,
- intercultural methodology approach,
- scientific and educational profile of the applicants,
- scientific and educational quality of the speakers,
- bi-nationality or internationality of the group of speakers,
- best possible balance of participants from the partner countries,
- inclusion of external partners (businesses, charities, etc.), if relevant to the topic of the event,
- quality of the financial budget (balanced budget, co-financing, etc.) including potential registration fees and indication of the extent of self-funding,

- ability of applicants to implement a Franco-German project, possibly with the involvement of additional partners.

The following matters must be specified in the application:

- educational approach,
- participant selection procedures,
- potential of the event, in particular in relation to the aim of networking,
- publication of the results of the event in any format (e.g. online publication),
- international orientation,
- opportunities to include external partners.

Depending on the duration and format of the event, it will be referred to as a research workshop (if less than 6 days) or as summer/winter school (if 6 days or more).

The events should generally take place in Germany or France. In justified situations, they could take place in a third country.

### **Size and scope of funding:**

The size of the grant depends on the duration of the event and the number of participants. As a rule, the amount of funding is between €2,000 and €15,000. The support is intended to fund the organisation of the event. The grant can be used to cover part or all of travel and subsistence expenses. It can also cover the costs of short-term contracts for undergraduate assistants charged with organising the event, as well as communication costs associated with the event (publications, creation of a website). Participants' travel expenses can be reimbursed. Grants awarded by the Franco-German University may not be used to finance the possible participation of bachelor's degree students. Speakers' fees can only be covered if they are not members of the institution making the application. Administration costs are not eligible for grant support. The use of financial support for administration costs will therefore not be accepted by the Franco-German University.

### **Application deadlines:**

Applications can be submitted for three funding periods per year by the following deadlines: 15th March 2025, 15th June 2025, and 15th October 2025. The assessment process generally takes around four months from these deadlines. The FGU cannot support an event due to take place within these four months.

Projects can be submitted online using the web form available on the Franco-German University website.

The following criteria must be met:

- The application is submitted by two university lecturers who each belong to a university or non-university research institute in Germany or France. In exceptional circumstances, the application can be made by two junior researchers.
- The application is signed by the administration or leadership of each of the universities or non-university research institutes
- All information is provided in German and in French. In exceptional circumstances, applications are also accepted in English, which must be accompanied by translations into German and French on submission to FGU.
- The project application form must be properly completed online.

For further information please contact:

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