



LMUexcellent **Postdoc Support Fund** at the LMU Munich School of Management

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Preamble

The university management has provided funds from the Excellenzinitiative in the form of the “Postdoc Support Fund,” which is intended to supplement and promote the careers of young scientists. The funds are intended to foster research at the postdoc level but also international recruitment, the compatibility of science and family, networking, and the promotion of open-access publications.

Our goal is to support postdocs through a wide range of measures tailored to the diverse cultures within the sub-disciplines of management. These initiatives aim to empower postdocs to become independent and responsible researchers within the academic community and empower their journey to develop into influential research in the academic community.

How to apply

Applications to the PostDoc Support Fund should be submitted sufficiently in advance of the start of the project to be funded. Ideally, the submission should not be less than two weeks in advance. In justified cases, an exception to this rule may be permitted. In any case (i.e. even if the application is submitted two weeks before the project), the risk of the application not being processed on time and the associated refusal of funding lies with the applicant.

Funding opportunities

We aim to support postdocs at the LMU through a wide range of measures:

1. **Job interviews of international candidates.** Either for postdoc positions at the LMU or recruiting trips to international conferences:

Candidate Fly-Outs

- a. Documents: Job posting and candidates' application documents.
- b. Funding amount: Flight (economy) and up to 2 hotel nights. max. 500€ for European candidates, 1500€ for candidates from other continents.

Recruiting at international conferences

- a. Documents: Job posting and list of all candidates to be interviewed
- b. Funding amount: Support for travel, hotel, and conference fees. Should be max. 650€ (European), 2000€ (non-European).
- c. Mandatory: Book a dedicated interview room at the conference (no interviews in hotel rooms).

2. **Travel expenses for conferences**

- a. Documents: Confirmation of conference acceptance (=> postdocs should present a paper).
- b. Funding amount: Support for travel, hotel, and conference fees. Should be max. 1500€ (within Europe), 3000€ (outside Europe).
- c. All travel requests are to be settled centrally via the Reisekostenreferat, Referat II.7. An application for a travel permit must be submitted to the faculty office before the start of the trip.

3. **Travel expenses for longer international research stays**

- a. Documents: letter of support from the host university
- b. Funding amount: €1500/month + flight, Should be no longer than 3 months
- c. All travel requests are to be settled centrally via the Reisekostenreferat, Referat II.7. An application for a travel permit must be submitted to the Geschäftsstelle of the respective department or institute before the start of the trip.

4. **Research seed funds**: databases, experiments (qualitative, experimental, survey, numerical), and seed funds

- a. Documents: Short summary of the research project and what the money is spent for (max. 2 pages).
- b. Funding amount: should be no more 5000€/project.
- c. Evaluation criteria are the availability of funding, the awarded funding amount the applicant, the scientific quality and the expected contribution to own's career path.

To support early-stage research and foster innovation, we propose offering research seed funding specifically for projects in the management sciences. This funding enables

postdocs and early-career researchers to explore novel ideas that are not yet eligible for larger external grants. In management research, initial work often requires resources for data access, survey panels, experiments, or software—costs that are essential but difficult to cover without dedicated support.

The need is particularly acute in management due to its empirical orientation, interdisciplinary nature, and focus on rapidly evolving topics such as AI, sustainability, and digital transformation. Seed funding empowers researchers to generate pilot results, strengthen future grant proposals, and build independent research profiles—making it a key tool for both scientific innovation and career development.

5. Open Access fees

- a. Documents: Accepted publication.
- b. Funding amount: up to max. 5000€
- c. Awardees should write a summary article about the research results for the Munich School of Management Magazine.
- d. Funding of open-access publication as per Gold Open Access
- e. Note that also various publications are covered by the DEAL agreement with Springer (and similar agreements with other publishers), as well as LMU Open Access Fonds

To promote the visibility and accessibility of high-quality research, we propose dedicated funding for Open Access (OA) publication fees. This support is especially important for early-career researchers and postdocs, who often lack access to institutional budgets for OA publishing but need to build visibility and reach within their fields.

While national agreements such as DEAL have advanced OA publishing in select journals, many relevant academic outlets—especially in management and interdisciplinary domains—remain behind paywalls (e.g., INFORMS, AOM journals) or are only partially compliant with open access standards. This creates a structural disadvantage for researchers at our faculty who aim to disseminate their work widely but are constrained by publication costs.

6. Submission fee for publications

- a. Documents: Paper to be submitted.
- b. Funding amount: according to fee, should be no more than 1000€

FAQ

I would like to participate in a conference (e.g., AOM) but with neither a designated presentation nor an accepted paper?

Unfortunately, this is not covered by the postdoc support fund and cannot be funded.

I am chairing a session at a conference (e.g., AOM), can I apply?

Unfortunately, this is not covered by the postdoc support fund and cannot be funded.

How often can I apply?

Post-docs can generally apply more than once per year – and we strongly invite you to do so. As a disclaimer, we do acknowledge that budgets are limited, and we strive for a fair distribution among applicants, so it might become more likely that applications may be rejected the more applications you file.

Is this funding scheme available to PhDs or people outside of LMU Munich School of Management?

No. This is only designed for post-docs at LMU Munich School of Management pursuing an academic career.

Contact Persons

Responsible Professors: Stefan Feuerriegel

Admin Support: ai@som.lmu.de

All funding decisions are made throughout the year on a rolling basis. We process travel expenses and open-access fees in a “fast track” system through the head of the committee to speed up decision-making, as long as there is a sufficient budget. All other decisions are made jointly by the committee, consisting of Prof. Stefan Feuerriegel, Prof. Johannes Jaspersen, the dean of research (currently Prof. Markus Glaser), and the women’s representative of the faculty (currently Dr. Christine Romeo).

Double funding through several programs or funding pools is excluded. Measures by the Postdoc Support Fund are subject to a maximum amount per individual request and a cap on the total budget. All requests recommended for funding are subject to final approval by the administration, with the possibility that the corresponding chair / institute may need to jump in if funding is not covered or if reimbursement is delayed (e.g., to different fiscal years).