Cluster of Excellence “The Politics of Inequality”
Proposal Instructions and further information about the
Call for Applications

Research Group Leader (open topic)

Position Overview
The Research Group Leader shall make an important contribution to the research carried out at the Cluster and become an active member of the Cluster community. The project must be connected to at least one of the Cluster’s research areas (perceptions, participation and policies) as well as the empirical domains of inequality (education, employment, political rights as well as newly emerging topics such as environmental and health inequalities).

For further information please visit: inequality.uni.kn

Funding Period
The maximum funding period is five years.
Earliest starting date: January 1st, 2021.
The duration of the position is linked to the funding period of the Cluster, until December 31st, 2025.

Application documents
Applicants should submit the following documents in English.
(1) a research proposal describing the planned project (max. 10 pages) and a cost estimate for personnel and other costs. For detailed proposal instructions please see below.
(2) a current CV and a list of publications
(3) two reference letters (commenting on the candidate and the proposed project). Reference letters should be sent directly by the reviewer to the cluster (application.inequality@uni-konstanz.de) until October 16th 2020.

Proposal Instructions
Please structure the proposal as follows:

1. Cover page including name of the applicant, title of the proposed project and a proposal summary (max. 2000 characters including spaces and line breaks). The summary should be short and precise and provide a clear understanding of the objectives of the proposed research and on how those objectives will be achieved.

2. Research proposal (max. 10 pages) including:
   a) Information on the state of the art in the field of research and preliminary work of the applicant
   b) Research question(s) and objectives of the proposed research
   c) Methodology and work programme

3. Budget plan for personnel and other costs. For further information see under “Budget plan”

4. References

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margins (2.5 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), 1.2 line spacing.
**Budget plan**

Please use the template provided with this call (on the website).

Project funding does not cover general spending on IT or other infrastructure (the Cluster provides office space for researchers working on project as well as IT equipment), except in the case this is required for specific project-related needs.

Furthermore, project budget cannot include funding for:

- long-term visiting fellowships for external researchers (who are encouraged to apply for the Cluster’s funding scheme for external senior fellows instead); however, project budgets may include funding for short-term visitors and external cooperation partners (max. of 2,500 Euro per month for accommodation and travel)
- overhead funds

**Eligibility**

- Excellent PhD in the social sciences (political science, sociology, economics,) or linguistics, psychology, law and education studies
- Significant work experience at the postdoctoral level (typically 2-4 years)
- Early track record of high-quality research publications that go beyond the PhD dissertation
- International orientation in research networks and output
- Ability and willingness to engage in interdisciplinary collaborations
- Keen interest in science communication/open science

**Selection Procedure and Criteria**

The selection process consists of two stages.

In the first stage, the Board of the Cluster will screen the submitted applications and research proposals regarding their fit with the selection criteria. It chooses the applicants to be invited for the second stage.

According to Cluster Bylaws, research proposals need to meet the following criteria:

- Clear connection between project and the Cluster’s research focus
- Fit with research areas and empirical domains of the cluster
- Proven interdisciplinarity, demonstrated either through person involved and/or through the content of the proposal
- General quality and novelty of the project idea (novelty of Research Question, Theory, Research Design, Adequacy of Methods)
- Feasibility of the project

The second stage is a workshop, where shortlisted applicants present their project for review.

The workshop will take place at the end of October 2020.

**Submission**

The deadline for submission is October 4th 2020 and all documents have to be submitted via our [online application portal](#).
**FAQ**

In the case any additional questions arise, interested candidates may contact the Cluster Speaker **Prof. Dr. Marius R. Busemeyer** as well as the Managing Director of the Cluster **Jessica Haase**

For further information please also read the FAQ.

Last updated: August 4, 2020