

Guidelines for iFIT Grant Challenge Programme

We are pleased to announce the opening of the **iFIT Grant Challenge Programme** for 2026, aimed at supporting innovative research projects by **postdoctoral researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career iFIT members**.

The objective of this programme is to provide maximum scientific flexibility and to foster high-impact, collaborative research within iFIT.

➤ **Eligibility and Application Structure**

- The programme is open to iFIT postdocs, iFIT postdoc fellows, and early-career iFIT members.
- All participants must sign the submitted proposal.
- The application should be submitted online to the iFIT Office at ifitoffice@med.uni-tuebingen.de

➤ **Funding Framework**

- There is no fixed funding cap per call; however, individual projects may not exceed €100,000.
- The funding period is limited to a maximum of 2 years.
- Funding may be requested for:
 - Personnel (staff)
 - Direct project costs
 - Instrumentation
- Applicants must provide clear, reasonable, and convincing justification for each budget category requested.

➤ **Proposal Requirements**

- Proposals must follow the attached template.
- Maximum length: 10 pages (Excluding list of publications and references).
- Font: Arial, size 10.

- The proposal may address the following questions:
 - What gap in knowledge does this project fill, and why is it important?
 - How will the project be carried out, and what makes it achievable?
 - Who might benefit from this research, and in what ways?
 - What partnerships or research environment will ensure the project's success?

➤ **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Applicant Potential & Development
- Research Excellence
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- Collaboration across at least **two different iFIT areas**
- Impact & Strategic Alignment
- Feasibility & Planning

The **Executive Board** will first review all submissions. Selected proposals will then be forwarded to the **Steering Committee** for final approval. The review process will follow the **DFG Guidelines**.

➤ **Reporting and Participation Obligations**

All funded projects are required to:

- Report regularly on progress and results within iFIT seminars, meetings, or internal formats.
- Actively contribute to iFIT scientific, strategic, and structural activities, in particular those supporting collaboration and integration within the cluster
- A final report is to be submitted within 2 months of the end of the project

We strongly encourage eligible members to take advantage of this opportunity to develop ambitious, collaborative projects aligned with iFIT's strategic goals.

Please refer to the attached proposal template for detailed instructions.

iFIT Cluster of Excellence, Universitätsklinikum Tübingen

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