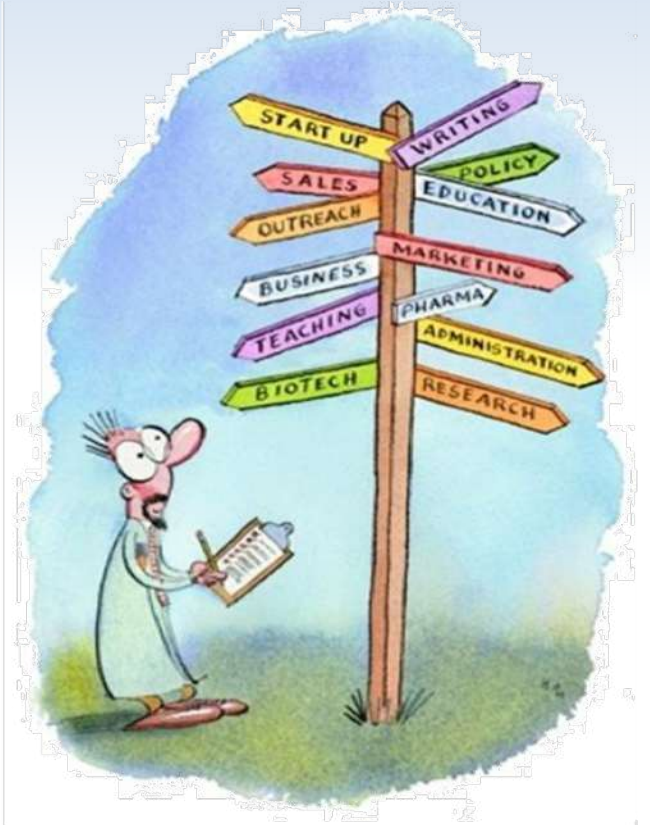


# TIPS AND HINTS

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Dr. Ursula Justus & Dr. Christiane Wüllner



Brazil, November 10, 2020

# GENERAL INFORMATION....

Brazil-Germany 2020

- International experience is important for your academic profile
- It has to fit in your strategic career planning
- For timely limited research stays in Germany
- For a postdoc period up to two years
- Completion of your Ph.D is no more than two years ago
- High competition



Early arrangement with your host



## PERSON-RELATED FUNDING BY THIRD-PARTY MONEY FOR YOUR **OWN RESEARCH TOPIC**

### **Fellowships**

- Integrated in a working group
- Great autonomy
- Less equipment and resources
- Covers your living expenses
- Excl. health insurance

### **Junior research group leader**

- Position with or without tenure track
- Money for position, equipment and resources
- Responsibility for MA and Ph.D students
- Faculty member

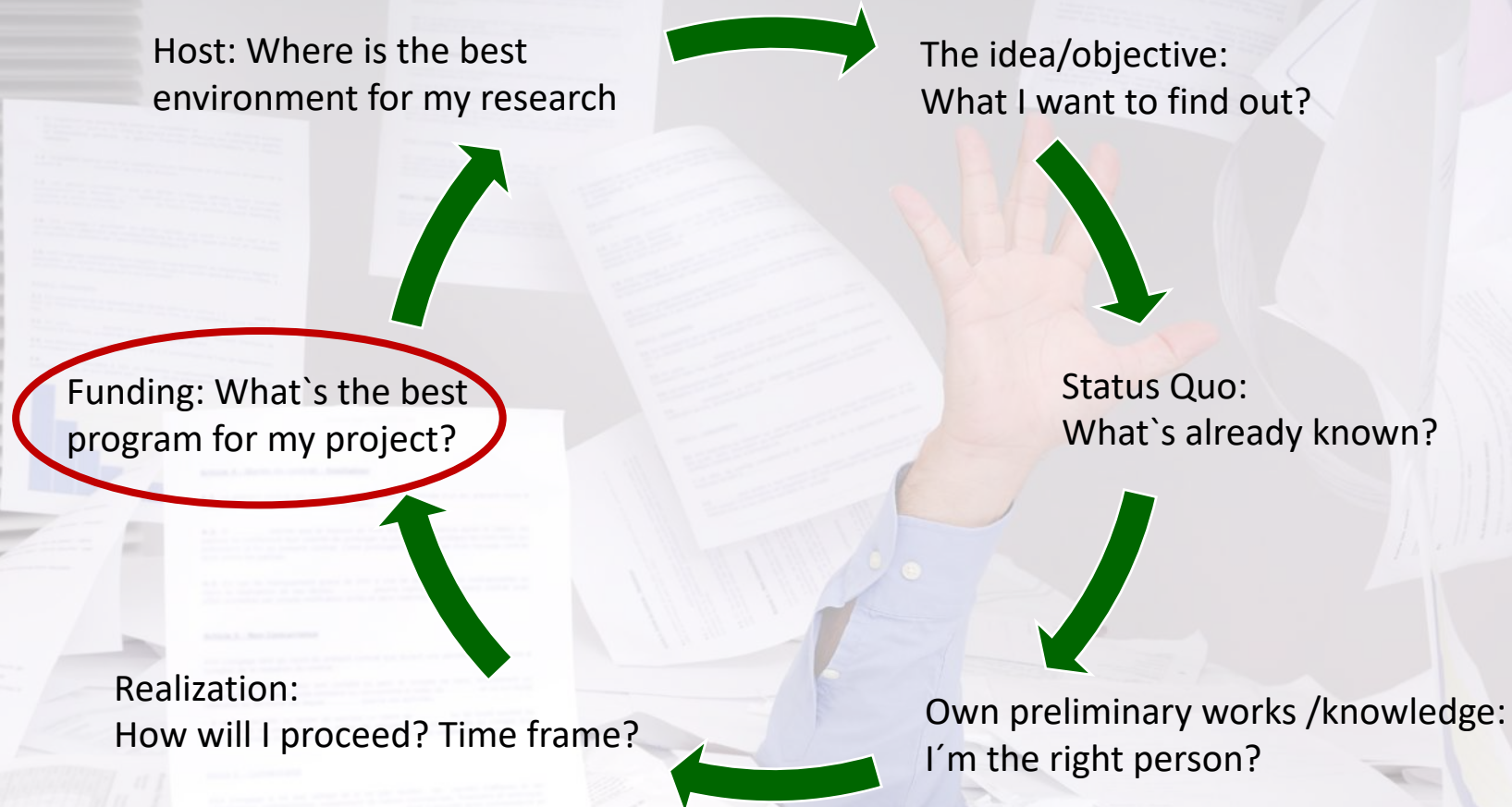


- needs preparation time
- great scientific freedom
- „mobile money“
- benefit for the CV



# CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE WRITING THE APPLICATION

Brazil-Germany 2020



- Funding organizations give money for **clear and profiled research projects** (awards for past achievements are exceptions)
  - Funding organizations offer a **portfolio of funding schemes and formats**  
=> **the** evaluation is specific to the funding format
  - Some funding organizations have specific **funding objectives** (purpose of the foundation)
- 
- Your research **project** has to **fit** to the funding **format**
  - reviewers will be convinced that you are:  
“the **right** person with the **right** project for the **right** time at the **right** place” (DFG)

# CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE WRITING THE APPLICATION

Brazil-Germany 2020

Host: Where is the best environment for my research

The idea/objective:  
What I want to find out?

Funding: What's the best program for my project?

Status Quo:  
What's already known?

Realization:  
How will I proceed? Time frame?

Own preliminary works /knowledge:  
I'm the right person?

- Check the research landscape in your research area
  - Identification of potential hosts
    - Research expertise
    - Research environment
    - Equipment and methods
    - Long-term perspective at the host university
  - Get in contact with your favored host
  - Clarify formalities with your host needed for the application
- Keep in mind that this will take time!





## Program guidelines

- Check the guidelines thoroughly, consider the submission process!!
- How do I show that my prepared research project fits the funding objective?
- Should I adapt my project e.g. workplan and time plan?

## Scheduling

- Are there deadlines, how long do you need to write the proposal?
- Which formalities have to be considered (e.g. recommendation letter)?
- Are correction and feedback loops considered?

## Evaluation

- How will my application be evaluated (check the review criteria)
- Who are my reviewers? You have to convince your own community.
- How coherent is my project and how convincing is my text?



# The „perfect“ application.....

Brazil-Germany 2020

- ✓ opens up an original and innovative research project and/or pursues a novel approach
- ✓ builds on first existing publications/preliminary work
- ✓ also points to the long-term relevance of the project if it is successful
- ✓ contains a clearly structured work plan with achievable objectives
- ✓ together with a reasonably calculated budget, clarifies the feasibility of the project
- ✓ presents the project well researched, concisely and precisely
- ✓ opens up quickly and "as if by itself" through clear structure, accessible language and an attractive layout
- ✓ is therefore understandable for both specialists and generalists

## PROJECT-RELATED FUNDING BY MONEY ACQUIRED BY GERMAN UNIVERSITY

### UNIVERSITY

#### **Position at Chair**

- Research project integrated into working group with equipment, methods, facilities
- Realization of own research ideas

#### **Position in third-party funded research programs**

- E.g. Research Training Group, Collaborative Research Centers, Research Clusters,.....
- Given research topic
- Broader research community
- Good financial resources

- (Inter)nationally advertised
- Working contract (Timely limited app. 2 years)
- Teaching obligations

# A GERMAN JOB ADVERTISEMENT AND ITS MEANING

Brazil-Germany 2020

cluster pursues the goal of enabling sustainable security against large-scale adversaries, in particular nation-state attackers. The research is characterized by a strongly interdisciplinary approach which, in addition to technical questions, also investigates the interaction of human behavior and IT security. In CASA, researchers from the fields of computer science, cryptography, electrical engineering, mathematics and psychology work together in a constellation that is unique in Europe. This holistic approach of CASA is unparalleled and holds the potential for scientific breakthroughs.

CASA is based at the Horst Görtz Institute for IT Security. It is regarded as one of the top research institutions, is home to Europe's largest IT security training programs, maintains extensive networks with the scientific communication and industry, and has produced numerous successful cyber security start-ups. In addition, the Max Planck Society will establish the "Max Planck Institute for Cyber Security and Privacy" in the immediate vicinity of the cluster, which will have a particularly stimulating effect on research in CASA. This outstanding environment offers excellent working conditions in an extremely topical and exciting field. In addition, CASA offers a friendly working atmosphere in a young and internationally highly respected research institution.

We are permanently looking for excellent M.Sc. graduates with outstanding grades and degrees in computer science, electrical engineering, mathematics and psychology (preferably with a relationship to technology) or related disciplines. In addition, we are looking for outstanding postdoctoral candidates from these fields.

We offer three-year positions for M.Sc. graduates. The expectation is to work towards a doctorate. Postdoctoral positions are limited to two years. The salary will be according to the remuneration group E 13 TV-L (full time). The load of teaching will be calculated according to §3 of Lehrverpflichtungsverordnung (State of North Rhine-Westphalia).

## Are you interested?

Please send your complete application documents in one single pdf file (max. 10 MB) by December 31, 2020 to:

[career@casa.rub.de](mailto:career@casa.rub.de)

Required documents are:

- Letter of motivation
- Mention at least 2 persons (supervisors, other researchers) as references (names and email addresses),
- Curriculum vitae,
- Master's certificate,
- Doctoral certificate, if applicable

Travel expenses for interviews will not be reimbursed.

At Ruhr-Universität Bochum, we seek to promote the careers of women particularly in those areas in which they are underrepresented, and we are therefore particularly pleased to receive applications from female candidates. Applications by suitable candidates with severe disabilities and other applicants with equal legal status are likewise most welcome.

## Job Specification

An above-average degree (Master's degree or doctorate, if applicable) in computer science, electrical engineering, mathematics, psychology (preferably with a relationship to technology) or related disciplines is mandatory for the application. Fluent spoken and written English is also required. In addition, applicants should have at least a basic knowledge of one or more of the research areas relevant to CASA: Cryptography, system security, embedded and hardware security, and usability. Moreover, postdoctoral students should already have published relevant papers at the leading conferences on cryptography and IT security.

https://www.casa.rub.de/wordpress/brazil-germany, november 10, 2020

- Why did you chose the professor and his/her group?
- Explain your research interest/expertise and how it matches to the research field of the professor
- Consider the requirements in the job description
- Your motivation letter should be written coherently and for that purpose
- Contact information of colleagues who may give recommendations
- For a postdoc position your academic profile matters:
  - CV: well drafted and logically organised, not overloaded, all the relevant information, incl. your strong points (e.g. scientific methodological skills, experiences), publication list
  - highlight your 2-3 most significant, original achievements (e.g. publications)

- Cyber attack to our university in May 2020

➤ People read E-mails very carefully before they open an attachment



- Personalization, be specific and address the right person:
  - Dr. "House" or Prof. Dr. "House"
- Do not hesitate, don't be shy, communicate as honest as possible and take into account that time is precious.
- Catch the attention of the Prof with a short e-mail and highlight few a most specific information about your academic track record/profile and why you are interested in the advertised position
- Make clear why the Prof's group will benefit from you as a new temporary group member.
- Avoid any "paste & copy" style of writing: show that you exactly know to whom you are talking and why.

QUESTIONS?