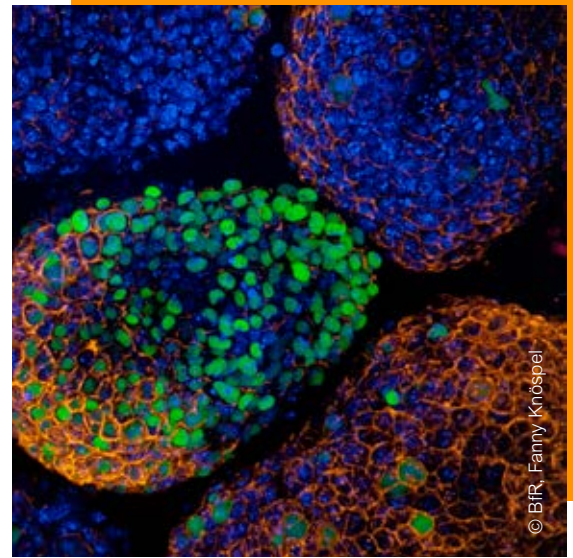


Bf3R Research Funding

Replacement, Reduction, Refinement

Call for Application 2025

Every two years, the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R) at the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) awards funds for scientific research projects in accordance with the 3R principle (Replace, Reduce, Refine). With an annual total budget of approximately 350,000 euro, innovative projects of high scientific quality are funded for a total duration of up to 3 years.



Aim of the Bf3R research funding

In particular, **young scientists** should obtain the opportunity to work on innovative and ambitious research projects that challenge established knowledge and question conventional hypotheses as part of a proof-of-concept study in order to obtain preliminary data for a successful follow-up application for further funding (e. g. DFG, BMBF).

Requirements for the project

Excellent scientific quality and **originality** of the research project on an international level, for the development of alternative methods in Germany according to the 3R principle are prerequisites.

High priority for Bf3R funding:

- The **replacement** and **reduction** of animal testing in biomedical research, the particular area in which the majority of laboratory animals are used or areas in which the individual animal is heavily stressed.
- The identification, classification and reduction of pain, suffering or harm to animals and the improvement of housing conditions of experimental animals (**refinement**).

The development and application of **innovative** virtual reality and in silico **methods**, alongside advanced **technologies** in molecular biology, genetics, and microscopy — such as 3D cell culture, organ-on-a-chip systems, tissue engineering, 3D simulations, and bioimaging — are highly encouraged.

Who can apply for the funding?

Eligible to apply are **in Germany** located:

- public and non-public universities
- non-university research institutions
- companies in the industrial sector with research and development capacity

Applicants from all scientific disciplines with a completed academic education may apply (usually doctorate), but also PhD students are eligible if they have access to the laboratory equipment needed for the successful implementation of the project.

What must be observed?

- The FAQs, as they provide helpful tips and information about the application process.
- The outline for project proposals, as it includes all the necessary elements required for the evaluation of proposals and is therefore a mandatory prerequisite for consideration.
- The application can be submitted in electronic form. It is sufficient if you sign the application by hand, scan it, and send it to us electronically. However, you are also welcome to use an advanced or qualified electronic signature.
- In case of funding: The preregistration of projects involving animal experiments (e. g., in the field of refinement) in the Animal Study Registry of the Bf3R:
www.animalstudyregistry.org

Where to submit applications for research funding?

Applicants can submit applications for research funding (consisting of the project description and Excel application package) in electronic form by **May 31, 2025**, to **Extramurale_Forschung@bfr.bund.de**

Further information on Bf3R research funding, the FAQs, and templates for project proposals are available at: www.bf3r.de