



29 – 30 JUNE 2026

Training Workshop for Early Career Researchers

HOW TO ADVANCE YOUR RESEARCH CAREER AND GET FUNDING

Becoming a postdoc is a pivotal, yet highly selective career step towards research independence and tenure. Preparing for future research leadership, the workshop helps early career researchers to assess their current position, align career aspirations with longer-term research goals and develop a road map for achieving them in the individual setting. Practice scenarios provide guidance on how to exploit funding opportunities effectively to build resources and capabilities for further career advancement.

Target group:

Early-stage postdocs and late-stage doctoral candidates

Learning outcomes

By participating in the workshop, you will be better equipped to:

- understand the critical success factors for a sustainable research career
- apply strategic approaches to advance both your career and your research
- design fundable projects for different research settings
- identify and exploit funding opportunities effectively
- develop yourself as a principal investigator

Methods

Highly **interactive** workshop that employs theoretical input, plenary discussions, individual and small group work, practice scenarios, experience sharing and expert advice. Pre-workshop activities account for varying levels of research experience. The programme will be presented in English and is limited to 14 participants.

Trainer

Thomas Koch is a Research Management Consultant as well as Trainer who supports researchers and research institutions in developing careers, implementing strategic initiatives, and preparing grant proposals. He holds a Ph.D. in physical chemistry and has over 20 years of professional experience in research management and consulting in Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (LMU) and University of Bochum (RUB).

29.06.2026 Monday

09:00

Welcome and introduction

Taking ownership of your career development

Career perspectives of doctorate holders
Building blocks of a sustainable career

Preparing for research leadership

Particularities of academia and public sector research
Career system and career paths
Academic portfolio and CV

12:30

Lunch

13:30

Exploiting funding opportunities

Understanding your wider research context
Types of funding and funding agencies
Managing the grant life cycle

Practice scenario

Finding and selecting funding

Understanding the evaluation process

How evaluators work – and what it means for your proposals

17:00

Close

30.06.2026 Tuesday

09:00

Planning and writing your grant proposal

From research idea to fundable project
The basic structure of a grant proposal
Scheduling the writing process

Developing yourself as a principal investigator

Goal setting and action planning

Transfer and Feedback

13:00

Close

13:30 -

Additional individual proposal coaching (1h per person) can be reserved