

Call for applications 2026

“Würzburger Förderpreis Forschung und Transfer” (Würzburg Research and Transfer Award)

Purpose

The prize of € 150,000 supports outstanding interdisciplinary research projects at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU) that **not only demonstrate scientific innovation but also have significant societal application potential**. It is awarded by the university association Universitätsbund Würzburg e. V. and funded jointly by the foundations Wittenstein Stiftung and Vogel Stiftung Dr. Eckernkamp.

The prize is awarded annually for **transfer or transformation experiments, concepts, models, programmes, or inventions** that stem from excellent research at JMU and develop innovative solutions for the benefit and well-being of society and future generations (incl. technological, social, medical, cultural, economic, and political advancements).

It aims to provide a **substantial boost or leverage effect** for outstanding transfer projects at an early stage and/or enhance their visibility in the competition for long-term and large-scale funding. The prize is primarily intended for **interdisciplinary teams** consisting of several researchers, although individual applicants are also welcome.

Application

Applicants are required to submit a **written statement** (maximum five A4 pages, including figures and references; font size 12 pt, at least single line spacing, Arial font), addressing the following evaluation criteria:

- › Objectives, distinguishing features, and **innovative aspirations** of the project
- › Link of the project idea to previous successful research work at JMU
- › Intended **societal impact** upon continuation/implementation of the project in practice
- › Status of already completed preliminary work
- › **Leverage effect** or expected contribution of the funding amount to advancing the project to its next development phase (including an outline of the next project steps and the planned use of the prize funds)

Any third-party funding already secured for the proposed project must be listed in a separate document (tabular format), including the project title, its distinction from the nominated project, the funding body, the programme, the funding amount, and period.

Applications can be submitted by 14th August 2026 to the Research Advancement Centre (rac-office@uni-wuerzburg.de). The funding decision is made by Universitätsbund in coordination with Wittenstein Stiftung and Vogel Stiftung Dr. Eckernkamp.

Award Ceremony

The award ceremony will take place on 5th November 2026 as part of the annual gala concert of Universitätsbund in the Neubaukirche.