

Criteria for assessing MERCUR proposals

Positive criteria

- The project creates new long-term collaborations within the University Alliance Ruhr or provides tangible added value for existing collaborations.
- The proposed project includes preliminary research for planned third-party-funded collaborative projects or, in the ECR line, preliminary research for joint material grants or similar resources (e.g. publications).
- The research idea is an original combination of research topics or questions that have not yet been considered jointly, facilitating the development of new innovative fields of research.
- The applicants' scientific qualifications as described in the CV and the scientific quality and objectives of the proposed project are in line with each other.
- The project and its proposed funding are proportionate to the outlined follow-up perspectives and the expected third-party funding.
- „New in the UA Ruhr“: Proposals submitted by newly appointed researchers serve the purpose of establishing initial networks in a joint project to establish longer-term cooperation.

Negative criteria

- The proposed project serves economic interests or aims to provide consulting services for public or private actors.
- The scientific quality of the project is questionable: The outline does not contain any concrete research questions, is vague or unfocused or does not meet scientific standards.
- The project has already been subsidized by MERCUR or other funding programs or can be implemented as part of other projects that have already received funding. Double and chain funding is excluded.
- As a rule, only one outline can be submitted per researcher per application round.
- Due to the imminent retirement of an applicant, a long-term follow-up perspective is doubtful.
- The applicants' employment contract ends during the project period and it is not possible to name a reliable follow-up perspective for the applicants in the UA Ruhr.
- The requested funding amount is unrealistic or cannot be justified in view of the actual requirements of the project.