

The **DFG Cluster of Excellence Transform** is inviting applications for

# Director of Scientific Opportunity Management and Collaborations (f/m/d)

**TV-L E13/E14 (depending on qualification) | Full-time or Part-Time | start date as soon as possible**

Fixed-term appointment until 31 December 2028, with the possibility of extension

Employment at Technical University of Munich (TUM)

## About the position

To strengthen the newly established DFG Cluster of Excellence Transform through the systematic development of external collaborations, strategic fundraising, and the identification of additional scientific and broader impact opportunities, we are seeking to appoint a Director of Scientific Opportunity Management and Collaborations. The successful candidate will be a senior researcher or research management professional with substantial experience in project and partnership development, acquisition of competitive third-party funding, and the coordination of complex, multi-stakeholder collaborations. The successful candidate will work closely with the Cluster's scientific leadership and management team, and will play a central role in shaping Transform's external funding portfolio, collaborative strategy, and long-term sustainability.

## About Transform

Transform – the Munich Center for Transformative Technologies and Societal Change – is a new social science research cluster funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) as part of the Excellence Strategy. Transform tackles the dual challenge of advancing fundamental social science for highly technologized societies and rethinking technology development through a social science lens. As an interdisciplinary social science cluster with a principal focus on technology, our goal is to augment current theories and methods to comprehensively understand and help shape transformative technology to better serve diverse societal needs. Better knowledge about why, when, and how technologies become socially transformative will enhance our ability to assess and inform transformation pathways 'all the way through' – from the early stages of their emergence to their wider socio-economic impact.

Transform is deeply embedded in Munich's vibrant innovation ecosystem. Anchored by two of Germany's leading research universities – Technical University of Munich (TUM) and Ludwig Maximilians University (LMU) – as well as an exceptional concentration of non-university research institutions concerned with technology and innovation (including the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, the Deutsches Museum, the ifo Institute for Economic Research, the ZEW Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research, and UnternehmerTUM, among others), the cluster brings together an unrivaled depth and diversity of social science expertise focused specifically on technology.

[www.transform-cluster.de](http://www.transform-cluster.de)

## Your Responsibilities

- Systematic monitoring of national and international funding calls and strategic assessment of their relevance to Transform's research agenda, including opportunities from the DFG, BMFTR, other federal or state ministries, the EU (Horizon Europe), foundations, and related funding bodies;
- Conceptualization, coordination, and substantive preparation of funding proposals relevant to Transform, both in close collaboration with the Cluster leadership and principal investigators (PIs) as well

as independently. This includes responsiveness to ad-hoc and time-sensitive calls and collaboration opportunities, as well as potentially the coordination of national and international proposal consortia;

- Active identification, outreach, and networking with relevant internal and external stakeholders, including academic partners, funding bodies, policy actors, and societal and private-sector partners;
- Representation of the TransforM Cluster in relevant proposal consortia, strategic networks, and at national and international events;
- Support for individual TransforM PIs and junior (postdoctoral) researchers in the development of synergistic and competitive project proposals, including comprehensive guidance of proposal processes from initial concept through submission;
- Proactive maintenance, development, expansion, and long-term maintenance of strategic scientific networks;
- Support for the TransforM Speakers in identifying, prioritizing, and pursuing key long-term scientific, funding, and collaboration opportunities.

## Your Profile

- Completed advanced degree (PhD (preferred) or Master's degree) in the social sciences, humanities, or a related field;
- Substantial experience in the conception, drafting, coordination, and budgeting of competitive third-party funding proposals, including for complex multi-PI and multi-disciplinary proposals;
- Demonstrated track record of writing and/or supporting successful research proposals for competitive third-party funding;
- Several years of relevant professional experience in a comparable senior role, preferably at the interface of research, research management, and cooperation development;
- In-depth familiarity with the national and international research funding landscape and instruments;
- Subject-matter familiarity with the TransforM-related research areas, particularly social science research on technology and innovation, is a strong advantage;
- Experiences in the organization of meetings and workshops (e.g., for proposal development) are an advantage;
- Highly proactive, independent, structured, and solution-oriented working style, with a strong capacity for strategic and networked thinking;
- Excellent organizational, communication, and coordination skills, including the ability to work effectively within and across diverse scientific disciplines and stakeholder groups;
- Confident command of standard MS Office applications (Outlook, Word, PowerPoint, Teams, Excel);
- Fluency in professional academic English; working-level German.

## What We Offer

- A senior position with a high degree of autonomy and creative freedom, with the opportunity to shape the research profile of Germany's leading social science research cluster on technology and innovation;
- A diverse range of high-stake tasks at the interface of academic research, practice, and broader societal impact in close collaboration with our TransforM partner network;

- A dynamic and inspiring work environment with international visibility, working in a committed team with flat hierarchies and an appreciative work culture;
- Support for individual professional development and training needs, employee benefits, language courses, and team events;
- A workplace in Munich; hybrid working arrangements are possible by individual agreement;
- Remuneration depends on qualifications and personal suitability, in accordance with the collective agreement for the public service TV-L.

## Application Process

Please send your complete application as a **single PDF document** to [karolina.knittel@tum.de](mailto:karolina.knittel@tum.de) with the subject line “Application Director of Scientific Opportunity Management and Collaborations”, including the following components:

- Cover letter (max. 1 page)
- Curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages)
- Names of 2-3 professional references with a brief description of your relationship to them
- Copies of relevant certificates and degrees

### Application Deadline: Jan 23, 2026

Interviews will be conducted within two weeks after the deadline.

TransforM is committed to building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace. We strongly encourage applications from individuals from underrepresented or marginalized backgrounds, including—but not limited to—people of different ethnicities, nationalities, gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The position is suitable for people with severe disabilities, and we are committed to providing reasonable accommodations throughout the recruitment process and employment. Applicants with severe disabilities will be given preference in hiring when their suitability, qualifications, and professional performance are essentially equal. The Technical University of Munich aims to increase the proportion of women; applications from women are therefore expressly encouraged.

## Contact

**Prof. Dr. Sebastian Pfothenhauer (TransforM Speaker) and Dr. Caitlin Corrigan (Managing Director)**

Technical University of Munich  
TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology  
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80333 Munich, Germany

**Note on data protection:** As part of your application, you provide personal data to be processed at Technical University of Munich (TUM). Please note our data protection information in accordance with Art. 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on the collection and processing of personal data in the context of your application. By submitting your application, you confirm that you have taken note of TUM's data protection information.