

# Funding Guidelines of the CLAAS Foundation

## Preamble

In its statute dated 11 February 1999, amended on 6 May 2008, the non-profit CLAAS Foundation determines the Foundation's purpose as the promotion of science and research as well as education, especially in the area of agriculture and related engineering and economic sciences.

The CLAAS Foundation is both operative as well as promotional. As an operative Foundation we pursue the Foundation's objectives by introducing own initiatives such as awarding scholarships and science prizes, organizing own events etc. As a promotional Foundation we enable third parties to work on and realize interesting research approaches, ideas and projects.

The CLAAS Foundation's funding activities have to be selected abiding by the CLAAS Foundation's Statute, as well as the applicable laws and regulations in Germany, in particular the Foundation Act of North-Rhine Westphalia and the requirements of the Foundation supervisory authority.

In the project selection process, the CLAAS Foundation places great importance on the fulfillment of the Statute's standards which are further specified in the following content and strategic eligibility criteria.

## I. Funding principles

The CLAAS Foundation acts on a national and also international level.

All funding is taxation wise subject to an immediate distribution and usage and is limited in time. The CLAAS Foundation generally prefers seed funding and highly innovative projects. The research projects seeking funding should not have commenced at the time of application.

## II. Target groups and areas of funding

The CLAAS Foundation focusses on the following **target groups**:

1. School pupils (respectively schools) of all school forms (Primary schools, secondary modern schools, comprehensive and grammar schools)
  - STEM support (Science – Technology – Engineering - Mathematics)
  - Project proposals from schools which demonstrate best practice and make an important contribution to the young people's career guidance and education.
2. Students
  - Promotion and support of the young researchers by awarding scholarships and support of student research projects (e.g. theses, participation in technical and agriculture- oriented competitions and events etc.)
3. Universities in Germany and abroad
  - Part funding of national and international research projects which are put forward to us by either a student or the university itself.
  - Project applications of schools and universities which show a best practice example and are significant to the young generation's education.
4. Other non-profit organisations.

## III. Eligibility criteria

The CLAAS Foundation focusses on the following **topics**:

Research topics of agricultural engineering, agricultural sciences and adjoining scientific disciplines, primarily engineering and also informatics. Also theses (bachelor, master, PhD) are most welcome.

The projects should fall under one of the following categories: Ag Engineering, plant and animal production, agricultural construction, economics or digital farming.

Research projects in Germany and abroad with a relevance to agriculture which deal with questions about farming's future such as renewable energies or renewable raw materials are of great interest.

Evaluation criteria such as innovation capacity, ease of realization, practical relevance, scientific approach, interdisciplinary approach and creativity are applied.

The CLAAS Foundation supports applications fulfilling the following **strategic** criteria:

- Long-term perspective: The CLAAS Foundation attaches great importance to a long-term approach of the applications. It is not singular initiatives which we look for, but rather projects with a sustainable, long-term perspective.
- Eligibility period: Good ideas usually need more time to be realized and to come to fruition. Therefore, the CLAAS Foundation also supports projects over a longer period of time where appropriate.
- Quality: In the selection process, the projects have to meet high standards. The applicants should have a high expert knowledge in their field of research.
- Internationality: Our international activities are mainly in Europe.

The CLAAS Foundation preferably supports research projects in need of support in equipment. Personnel costs are, if at all, only partly covered.

## **VI. Negative list**

The CLAAS Foundation does not support:

- Coverage of students' cost of living e.g. to bridge the transition period between bachelor and master course or between master and PhD course
- Singular scholarships other than our own designated scholarship programmes
- Student excursions
- Travel expenses
- Complete coverage of personnel costs, at best partly
- Financial support of conferences, symposia or the resulting literature required
- Commercially-oriented proposals of profit-oriented institutions
- Simulation games of pupils and students (e.g. Model United Nations)

## **VII. Funding pre-requisites**

Entitled are students (either as individuals or as teams), universities and schools as well as non-profit institutions such as associations or societies.

After confirmation of funding of a project, the CLAAS Foundation appreciates being listed as a supporting party.

## **VIII. Application**

When applying for support of a new project, there is usually no timeline throughout the year and confirmation of project application is generally given within a short period of time. The Board of Trustees decides on long-term projects in its annual Spring Board Meeting.

Applications for funding for new projects have to be submitted to the CLAAS Foundation by filling out the form and including the required documents as stated on our homepage (<http://www.claas-foundation.com>). If an application cannot be submitted online, a printed hard copy will be accepted.

Parts of the application are the description of the proposed project and a cost- and finance planning overview. When necessary the applying institution has to add an official copy of the current statute or a corporate tax assessment. If further documents are required, the CLAAS Foundation will inform applicants accordingly.

## **IX. Payment and proof**

The CLAAS Foundation independently decides upon the success of an application based on the given eligibility criteria and then informs the applicant in writing. The granted support is paid out after the applicant's acknowledgement of these funding guidelines. A legally binding confirmation has to be made to confirm that the funding will be used for a specific purpose (earmarked funds).

The CLAAS Foundation's decision is final. The CLAAS Foundation's support is voluntary. A legal claim is not possible.

## **X. Duties of the funding recipient**

The recipient of the CLAAS Foundation funding is obliged to produce a record of the usage of the CLAAS Foundation's funding as well as a final report on the project's results.

For payment, the grant recipient has to fill out a payment form which is attached to the funding confirmation. The funding recipient may refer to the CLAAS Foundation as a supporter of the respective project.

## **XII. Earmarking of funds**

The granted funds must solely be used for the purpose and project as stated in the CLAAS Foundation's confirmation letter. Financial changes and amendments in content have to be immediately communicated to the CLAAS Foundation and need to be approved by the CLAAS Foundation. Such an approval would then be communicated in writing to the applicant.

The equipment purchased with the Foundation's budget has to be handled properly and should have a note attached stating that it was financed by the CLAAS Foundation.

## **XIII. Retraction and redemption commitment**

The CLAAS Foundation reserves the right to revoke the granted funding and to reclaim the paid funding. This applies when the approval's conditions are not fulfilled, the funding is not used in the agreed manner or if the usage of the funds is not presented.

The cancellation right also applies when the project has not started within the timeline of one year.

## **XIV. Commencement**

These guidelines take effect as of 1st April 2018.

Place and date

Signature Executive Board