

STERN Grant FAQ

What is the purpose of the STERN Grant?

The STERN Grant will be awarded to the best proposal for a new and yet to be produced story. The STERN Grant is no prize money for already existing photo projects but a production budget to realize ideas and suggestions for an unique future photo reportage. The purpose of the grant is to connect a photographer to a STERN reporter to enable them to jointly produce a story together, which will be published in STERN magazine or its partner publications. **A minimum of 70% of the photo content has to be exclusively produced after the grant is awarded.** Thus completed works will be excluded from the competition.

I'm very interested in the STERN Grant but do not speak German. Does the STERN Grant only address photographers who speak German? Can I submit my proposal and application files in English?

STERN Grant is eligible not only for participants from Germany but also for International candidates. You can submit your application either in German or in English. For further information please refer to the English site www.stern.de/6751396.

How detailed should the proposal be?

The exposé should sufficiently outline the character and purpose of your project. **The proposal must not be longer than one Din-A4 standard page and must include the title of the project and the applicant's name.** Furthermore an estimation of the costs is required. Please indicate how long it will take you to complete the project.

Technical data for online application: What is the maximum size for the application files?

As for the CV (not more than 2 pages) and the exposé (1 page) the data size is 1 MB. The PDF-Portfolio (max. 25 photos) must not exceed 30 MB.

Is it possible to apply for the grant as a team of photographers?

No, it is not possible to team up with other photographers. We only accept submissions by single individuals.

Is it possible for one applicant to submit two different projects in two separate online applications?

No, we only accept one application per person.

I am currently 34, and will turn 35 at the time the grant is announced--am I still eligible?

You are eligible to apply if you are older than 18 years and 35 years or younger during the application period.

Is it possible to submit videos/moving images?

No, videos/moving images are not eligible. We only accept digital images as jpeg-files.

I want to ensure that my project complies to the rules as my proposal might include unconfirmed reports and assumptions. I'm still doing research in this field and want to submit some photos and descriptions about the first steps of my project to get your approval.

We do not have the capacity to scan and evaluate potential proposals before submission. If you feel comfortable with a project you are welcome to submit your application--without any kind of previous assessment from our side.

Can I apply for the STERN Grant with a project that I have submitted to another competition a while ago and where I haven't heard back yet?

As we have to ensure that no other institution has the prerogative to publish the project that is supported by the STERN Grant we will not accept any proposals/projects which have previously been submitted to other awards and where the application process is still pending.

Can I apply with a project that has previously been submitted to another competition but did not receive any awards?

If the previous application process has already ended and your project did not receive an award from another institution you are eligible to submit the same project.

If the project/reportage itself has never been published or awarded, but single images of the same project have been, would that be a problem?

You are entitled to submit the same project proposal but as we do not accept published, exhibited or awarded photographs, these previously released images must be excluded. Please note it is mandatory to indicate date and place of the previous release/publication/exhibition. If you fail to provide or intentionally omit required information on previous releases we reserve the right to retrospectively expel the application.

If the STERN Grant only awards a proposal and not a photo reportage why do I need to include a portfolio in my application?

Portfolios and already existing photos submitted with the application are only considered as work samples, so we can better understand the candidate's photographic style and thematic orientation.

I like working on long-term projects and comprehensive topics. Can I submit a slightly modified version of a project that I started working on a while ago by adding some brand new images?

Generally speaking it is possible to apply with a long-term project you have already been working on but which has not yet been published--under the condition that this work has never received any grant/bursary/scholarship from other institutions.

For this kind of entries the admission to the STERN Grant depends on following criteria:

1. Are the new photos a mere continuation of an existing series? Then the project will be rejected.
2. Do the new photos prove an development of the original project by revealing new aspects and new insights? We will take into account how the continuation of the project evolves to an independent and distinctive work--and we reserve the right to decide each case individually.

As we do not accept completed projects please keep in mind that **the proportion of the yet to be produced photos must be more than 70% in relation to the material already available.**

What are the rules and regulations regarding the post-processing of submitted photos?

Generally speaking post-processing of the images is permitted only on a very limited scale. It is important to acknowledge that processing by itself is not manipulation. As we do not accept proposals which are based on manipulated photos, STERN Magazine's code of ethics and entry rules focus on following issues:

1. Photographers must not intentionally contribute to, or alter, the scene they picture by re-enacting or staging events. If the concept of the photo project includes staging or re-enacting events it must be clearly disclosed in the captions. Staging and re-enacting are different from posing for portraits.
2. Altering the content of a picture by „adding, rearranging, reversing, distorting or removing people and/or objects from within the frame“ is manipulation and makes an entry ineligible. Here the rule applies: „Dont't move any pixel“.
3. Adjustments of color or conversion to grayscale/bw that do not alter content are permitted – thus converting black and white into color and vice versa is allowed. There are two types of color adjustment that count as manipulation:
 - (i) Changes in color may not result in significant changes in hue, to such an extent that the processed colors diverge from the original colors.
 - (ii) Changes in density, contrast, color and/or saturation levels that alter content by obscuring or eliminating backgrounds, and/or objects or people in the background of the picture, are not permitted.

When and how will the recipient of the STERN Grant be informed?

The winner of the STERN Grant 2019 will be announced on Thursday April 25, 2019 in a range of events at the opening of the World Press Photo exhibition in Hamburg, Germany. If the recipient of the STERN Grant won't be able to attend in person he or she will be informed via e-mail on the same day.