

FUNDING YOUR RESEARCH IN GERMANY

Grants, fellowships and
awards for international PhD
students and researchers

2019/2020



AN INITIATIVE OF THE



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

Research in
Germany



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ABOUT this brochure

Germany is a great place for research. Become part of a large international research community and benefit from the funding opportunities for international researchers!

We have compiled this brochure to help you find the right programme to finance your research stay as a PhD student, postdoc or senior researcher. It contains a **selection of the most important funding opportunities** and information about how and where you can apply.

The **tables** at the beginning of our brochure allow you to gain an overview of the funding programmes that best match your needs. At the end of the brochure you will find a convenient **list of all the funding organisations** and their programmes together in one place.

Links take you to additional information about the programmes or to application websites. Please check there on the details of the application procedure.

Bear in mind that there are many more funding opportunities for your research stay, e.g. programmes that are for researchers in specific fields or only support a small number of individuals. Take a look at the **data-bases** at the end of this brochure to learn more.

For additional information, we recommend you contact the respective funding organisation.

We wish you every success!

Details of all programmes are also available online:


www.research-in-germany.org/funding-programmes


Please note: the 2019/2020 edition is the partially updated version of the 2019 edition. Only the application deadlines have been updated for the year 2020. Please check the website of the respective funding organisation for current information. The next fully updated edition will be released in January 2021.


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 **PHD STUDENTS** Students who have a degree or a comparable qualification that entitles them to pursue doctoral study or who are working on a doctorate.

 **POSTDOCS/JUNIOR RESEARCHERS** Young researchers who hold a doctorate or a qualification that is equivalent to a doctorate.

 **SENIOR RESEARCHERS** Researchers who hold a doctorate or a qualification that is equivalent to a doctorate and have (several years of) relevant (research) experience.

Professional requirements can vary from one programme to another; please consult the respective programme for the precise requirements.

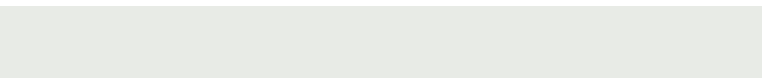
OVERVIEW

Which programme is best for me?
An overview of funding programmes

PHD STUDENTS

FUNDING PROGRAMME	DURATION	
	Research stay (up to 2 years)	Complete doctorate
DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships		■
Green Talents (BMBF)	■	
Helmholtz Res. Schools & Grad. Schools		■
Indiv. Doctoral Projects at Fraunhofer Institutes		■
Indiv. Doctoral Projects at Leibniz Institutes		■
Indiv. Doctoral Projects at Max Planck Institutes		■
International Max Planck Research Schools		■
Internat. Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Inst.	■	
Leibniz Graduate Schools and ScienceCampi		■
Max Planck Schools		■
MSC Innovative Training Networks	■	■
PhD Fellowships (Boehringer)		■
Re-invitation Programme (DAAD)	■	
Res. Grants - Bi-nationally Superv. Doct. Degrees (DAAD)	■	
Res. Grants - Doctoral Programmes (DAAD)		■
Res. Grants - One-Year and Short-Term (DAAD)	■	
Research Training Groups (DFG)		■
Support Early Career Res. in Collab. Res. Centres (DFG)		■





TYPE OF FUNDING		TYPE OF DOCTORATE		PAGE
Grant/ scholarship	Work contract*	Individual doctoral project	Structured doc- toral programme	
■		■		17
■				29
■	■		■	31
	■	■		36
	■	■		37
	■	■		38
	■		■	39
■				40
■	■		■	42
■			■	49
	■		■	68
■		■		50
■				52
■		■		54
■		■	■	55
■		■	■	56
■	■		■	58
■	■	■	■	60

* Provided by a university / non-university research institution



POSTDOCS/JUNIOR RESEARCHERS

FUNDING PROGRAMME	DURATION	
	Short-term (up to 1 year)	Long-term (more than 1 year)
Bilateral Exchange of Academics (DAAD)	■	
DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships	■	■
Emmy Noether Programme (DFG)		■
ERC Consolidator Grants		■
ERC Starting Grants		■
ERC Synergy Grants		■
Fraunhofer Attract		■
Freigeist Fellowships (Volkswagen)		■
Georg Forster Research Fellowship (Humboldt)	■	■
Grants to Support the Initiation of Internat. Collab. (DFG)	■	
Green Talents (BMBF)	■	
Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups		■
Humboldt Research Fellowship	■	■
Internat. Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Inst.	■	■
Leibniz Junior Research Groups		■
Lise Meitner Excellence (Max Planck)		■
Max Planck Grants for Advanced Postdoct. Training		■
Max Planck Research Group Leader		■
MSC European Fellowship		■
PRIME (DAAD)		■
Re-invitation Programme (DAAD)	■	
Research Grants (DFG)		■
Research Grants - One-Year and Short-Term (DAAD)	■	
Research Stays for Univ. Academics & Scientists (DAAD)	■	
Research Training Groups (DFG)		■
Sofja Kovalevskaja Award (Humboldt)		■
Support Early Career Res. in Collab. Res. Centres (DFG)		■





TYPE OF FUNDING			CAREER LEVEL			PAGE
Fellowship/ grant	Work contract*	Funding**	Postdoctoral researcher	Junior research group leader	Junior professor	
■			■			16
■			■			17
	■	■		■		18
		■		■		64
	■	■		■		65
		■	■			66
	■	■		■		19
	■	■		■		21
■			■			27
■			■			28
■						29
	■	■		■		32
■			■			35
■			■			40
		■		■		43
	■	■		■		46
	■		■			47
	■	■		■		48
■			■			67
	■		■			51
■			■			52
	■	■	■			53
■			■			56
■			■			57
■	■		■	■		58
		■		■		59
■	■		■	■	■	60

* Provided by a university / non-university research institution

** Generally includes the researcher's own salary and expenses for staff and consumables



SENIOR RESEARCHERS

FUNDING PROGRAMME	DURATION	
	Short-term (up to 1 year)	Long-term (more than 1 year)
Alexander von Humboldt Professorship		■
Bilateral Exchange of Academics (DAAD)	■	
DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships	■	
ERC Advanced Grants		■
ERC Synergy Grants		■
First Appointment Women Scientists (Helmholtz)		■
Fraunhofer Attract		■
Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award (Humboldt)	■	
Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award (Humboldt)	■	
Georg Forster Research Award (Humboldt)	■	
Georg Forster Research Fellowship (Humboldt)	■	■
Grants to Support the Initiation of Internat. Collab. (DFG)	■	
Heisenberg Programme (DFG)		■
Humboldt Research Award	■	
Humboldt Research Fellowship	■	■
Internat. Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Inst.	■	■
Internat. Visiting Scholars at Leibniz Institutes	■	■
Leibniz Programme for Women Professors		■
Lichtenberg Endowed Professorships (Volkswagen)		■
MSC European Fellowship		■
Re-invitation Programme (DAAD)	■	
Research Grants (DFG)		■
Research Stays for Univ. Academics & Scientists (DAAD)	■	
Top-Level International Women Scientists (Helmholtz)		■





TYPE OF FUNDING			CAREER LEVEL			PAGE
Fellowship/ award	Work contract*	Funding**	Experienced researcher	Research group leader	Professor	
		■		■		15
■			■			16
■			■		■	17
	■	■	■			63
		■	■			66
	■	■			■	23
	■	■		■		19
■			■			20
■			■			22
■			■			25
■			■			26
■			■			28
■	■		■		■	30
■			■			33
■			■			34
■			■			40
■	■		■			41
		■			■	44
	■				■	45
■			■			67
■			■			52
	■	■	■			53
■			■			57
	■	■			■	24

* Provided by a university / non-university research institution

** Generally includes the researcher's own salary and expenses for staff and consumables



FUNDING

organisations

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT FOUNDATION

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation supports cooperation between outstanding international and German researchers. For that purpose it awards over 700 research scholarships and prizes every year, including the renowned Alexander von Humboldt Professorship and the prestigious awards for talented international researchers named after the mathematician Sofja Kovalevskaja. One special feature is the world-spanning Humboldt Foundation Network that offers lifelong networking, as well as renewed funding and support. This alumni network is made up of over 29,000 Humboldtians, including 55 Nobel Prize winners.

info@avh.de, www.humboldt-foundation.de

GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the world's largest funding organisation for the international exchange of students and researchers. Since its foundation the DAAD has supported over 2.3 million scholars at home and abroad. The members of this largely publicly funded association are German higher education institutions and student bodies.

postmaster@daad.de, www.daad.de

DEUTSCHE FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is the central research funding organisation in Germany. With an annual budget of 3.2 billion euros, it finances approx. 32,500 research projects. The DFG is an independent, self-governing organisation for science and research. All its decisions therefore come directly from the research sector itself. The bottom-up principle applies. It serves all branches of science and the humanities. Every postdoctoral researcher at a German research institution can apply to the DFG for funding for his or her research.

info-nachwuchs@dfg.de, www.dfg.de



RESEARCH

organisations

FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is one of the world's leading organisations for applied research. The 72 independent institutes of this association cover a wide range of fields, including health and environment, security and protection, communication and knowledge, transport and mobility, energy and resources as well as production and the provision of services. Fraunhofer works mainly on behalf of contractors in industry or the public sector.

info@zv.fraunhofer.de, www.fraunhofer.com

HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION

Helmholtz is Germany's largest scientific organisation. Its 19 Research Centres run some of the most important large-scale research facilities and scientific infrastructures in Europe. Helmholtz focuses on six research fields: energy, earth and environment, health, key technologies, matter, and aeronautics, space and transport. The Helmholtz Centres conduct basic research with a focus on potential applications.

org@helmholtz.de, www.helmholtz.de

LEIBNIZ ASSOCIATION

The Leibniz Association connects 95 independent research institutions that range in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences to economic, spatial and social sciences and the humanities. Leibniz Institutes address issues of social, economic and ecological relevance and provide advice to policy-makers, academia, business and the public. They conduct knowledge-driven and applied basic research, maintain scientific infrastructure and provide research-based services.

international@leibniz-association.eu, www.leibniz-association.eu

MAX PLANCK SOCIETY

The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science is one of Germany's largest independent, non-profit research organisations. More than 12,500 researchers, postdocs, doctoral students, scholarship holders and visiting researchers at 84 Max Planck Institutes conduct basic research in the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities. The focus is on innovative research fields which are especially demanding in terms of funding or time requirements.

career@gv.mpg.de, www.mpg.de

A photograph of two young women in a museum. The woman on the left, wearing a teal sweater, is looking up at a white garment hanging on a rack. She is wearing white gloves and has her hands raised towards the garment. The woman on the right, with long dark hair, is also looking up at the garment. The background is a blue wall with a white garment hanging on a rack.

GERMAN FUNDING PROGRAMMES A-Z



Alexander von Humboldt Professorship

IN BRIEF

Winners of this most highly-endowed research award in Germany are honoured for their outstanding research record and can carry out long-term and ground-breaking research at a university or research institute in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A nomination can only be made in favour of senior researchers who

- live and work outside Germany
- are eligible to be appointed to full professorships in Germany
- are internationally recognised as leaders in their research field
- can also be expected to complete further cutting-edge research in the future

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The Alexander von Humboldt Professorship is expected to contribute to the internationalisation of forward-looking research areas in Germany. In addition, it should achieve synergy effects in the development and structure of the host institution.
- The host institution must guarantee that the necessary infrastructure is available to carry out the award winner's research.

- Nominating institutions must explain how they intend to continue the award winner's long-term affiliation to their institution beyond the funding period.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of 5 million euros for researchers in experimental disciplines, 3.5 million euros for researchers in theoretical disciplines. Award winners may take up to 180,000 euros per year from the award funds as their personal income.

DURATION

5 years.

APPLICATION

Two selection rounds per year; deadlines: 15 April and 15 September. It is not possible for researchers to apply themselves; nominations can only be made by German universities or non-university research institutions jointly with German universities.



Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers



Bilateral Exchange of Academics

IN BRIEF

The programme supports research stays by researchers and scholars within the framework of bilateral exchange agreements between Germany and partner countries.

WHO CAN APPLY?

International researchers who

- should generally hold a doctorate
- work in a higher education institution or a research institute in their home country
- have good academic achievement and, if applicable, publications
- have a convincing and well-planned research project

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The dates and purpose of the stay must be agreed in advance with the academic host institute in Germany. Applicants require a written acknowledgment from the host confirming the availability of a work place.
- Funding is only available when German researchers also apply for a research fellowship at the same time.

- In general, the costs of the outward and return journey are borne by the respective sending country.
- The programme is restricted to certain countries of origin. For country-specific information please check the programme website (see link below).

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 2,000 to 2,150 euros per month, depending on academic status.

DURATION

2 weeks to 3 months.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. The application details vary from country to country. For specific information please check the programme website (see link below).





PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships in the Fields of Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research

IN BRIEF

Outstanding scientists and researchers can conduct research and PhD students can complete a doctorate in the fields of space, aeronautics, energy and transportation research at an institute of the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

WHO CAN APPLY?

International PhD students, postdocs and senior researchers with

- a very good university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree or doctorate in a relevant subject
- excellent English language skills

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The fellowships are defined and awarded on an individual basis. Each fellowship advertisement will indicate the specific qualification requirements and terms of the visit.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

The fellowship for PhD students is roughly 1,860 euros per month with additional flat-rate travel allowance, health insurance and possible family allowances. Junior researchers receive a fellowship of 2,400 euros per month and senior researchers 2,760 euros per month. PhD students and junior researchers can attend a 2-month German language course in Germany (if desired).

DURATION

- 36 months for PhD students
- 6 to 24 months for junior researchers
- 1 to 3 months for senior researchers

APPLICATION

Please visit the DAAD-DLR website for details of fellowships. Available fellowships and application deadlines are listed under "Current offers". Your application must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by email and by post. For information on how and where to apply, please check the programme website (see link below).



www.daad.de/dlr

www.funding-guide.de (please select "DAAD funding programmes only")

Emmy Noether Programme

IN BRIEF

Outstanding junior researchers can rapidly qualify for leading positions in science and research or for a university teaching career by heading an independent junior research group and assuming relevant teaching duties.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs and professors at an early stage of their careers who hold a temporary post with

- an excellent research project
- at least 2 years and up to a maximum of 4 years (medical researchers: up to 6 years) of postdoctoral experience
- substantial international research experience

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

International applicants are eligible if they intend to continue their research career in Germany after the end of the funding period.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding for an independent junior research group covering expenses for staff and consumables necessary to complete the project during the funding period. This also includes funding for the employment of the research group leader. A family allowance of up to 6,000 euros per year may be requested.

DURATION

Generally 6 years.

APPLICATION

Proposals can be submitted to the DFG at any time. Applications are submitted through an online application portal. You will find information about the application procedure on the programme website (see link below).





Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers

Fraunhofer Attract

IN BRIEF

Fraunhofer Attract offers outstanding scientists the opportunity to develop innovative ideas towards an actual application by setting up their own research group in close cooperation with industry. The grant provides scientists with an attractive package of both funding and management responsibility, as well as outstanding working conditions in optimally equipped Fraunhofer labs.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Junior and senior researchers

- with excellent qualifications and an outstanding research track record
- with at least a PhD or equivalent qualification, preferably postdoctoral experience
- with a promising and innovative idea for industrial application matching the business and technology fields of a specific Fraunhofer Institute
- with a firm grasp of traditional leadership and management skills

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The application must be submitted jointly by the researcher and the Fraunhofer Institute into which the research group is to be integrated.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract and funding of up to 2.5 million euros for 5 years (approx. 500,000 euros per year) for research staff, equipment and the group leader's salary.

DURATION

5 years for the establishment of an independent group; long-term prospect of establishing a new R&D segment within the Fraunhofer Institute and assuming executive functions.

APPLICATION

Two calls for proposals per year. Applications must be submitted to Fraunhofer by email. Only joint applications by the scientist and the institute director are considered. For addresses and application deadlines please check the programme website (see link below).





Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award

IN BRIEF

Award winners are honoured for their achievements in the field of applied research and are invited to conduct a research project of their own choice with fellow experts at one of the Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A nomination can only be made in favour of senior researchers who

- have predominantly lived and worked outside Europe for at least 5 years
- completed their doctorate less than 18 years ago
- are recognised internationally as outstanding researchers in their field of applied research
- are expected to continue producing cutting-edge research and have a lasting impact beyond their area of specialisation

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Award of 45,000 euros.

DURATION

6 to 12 months. The research stay can be divided into blocks.

APPLICATION

Nominations can be submitted at any time. It is not possible for researchers to apply themselves; nominations can only be made by the heads of institutes or senior researchers at Fraunhofer Institutes.



Freigeist Fellowships

IN BRIEF

Freigeist Fellowships support outstanding (junior) researchers who would like to conduct exceptional, high-risk research between established fields of research. They will assume the leadership of their own junior research group and receive the very broadest academic freedom for a clear time frame. The programme consists of two funding phases: the first funding phase focuses on development of independence and a specific research profile, while the second phase is intended to establish the position of the Freigeist Fellow at a research institution in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Outstanding postdocs of all disciplines and nationalities can apply. Applicants should have completed their doctorate at least one year, but no more than four years previously. A change of academic environment and a stay abroad are required.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Integration in a university or a non-university research institution in Germany is required at the commencement of the Fellowship.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

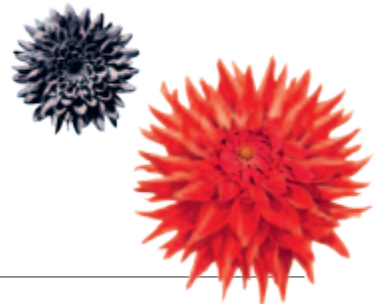
Project-related funding of up to 2.2 million euros is provided for both funding phases, including the Fellow's own salary as junior research group leader. The funding is flexible and can be adjusted according to the progress of the project and personal development.

DURATION

5 (+3) years or 6 (+2) years.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted at any time through the application portal at portal.volkswagenstiftung.de. You will find the application deadline on the foundation's website. It is recommended that you contact the foundation before submitting your application.





Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award

IN BRIEF

Award winners are honoured for their outstanding research record and invited to conduct a research project of their own choice in Germany in close collaboration with fellow experts at a research institution in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A nomination can only be made in favour of senior researchers who

- have predominantly lived and worked outside Germany for at least 5 years
- are recognised internationally as outstanding researchers in their field
- are expected to continue producing cutting-edge research and have a lasting impact beyond their area of specialisation
- completed their doctorate less than 18 years ago

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Award of 45,000 euros.

DURATION

6 to 12 months. The stay can be divided into blocks.

APPLICATION

Nominations can be submitted at any time. It is not possible for researchers to apply themselves; nominations can only be made by established researchers employed at a university or another research institution in Germany.



Funding of First-Time Appointments of Excellent Women Scientists

IN BRIEF

The aim of the programme is to support promising female researchers to become full professors. It supports the first-time permanent appointment of excellent women scientists to a full professorship (W2 or W3 level) at a university in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Female scientists who

- will be appointed for the first time to a full professorship (W2 or W3 level) from a junior professorship, young investigators group leadership position or another post-doctoral position, as long as the desired professorship is permanent
- are currently in a fixed-term professorship at an external institution and are to be recruited to a permanent position at Helmholtz, such as from a fixed-term W2 professorship position at an external institution to a W3 professorship position at Helmholtz
- currently hold professorial positions at foreign institutions and are to be recruited to a Helmholtz Centre that is focusing on women scientists in the early phases of their careers

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding for both (W2 and W3) professorships amounts up to 1 million euros for a period of five years (200,000 euros per year). The funding can be used to finance the position and relevant equipment.

DURATION

5 years. Only permanent appointments are funded.

APPLICATION

Candidates must contact the Helmholtz Centres directly and get in touch with the relevant board of directors. The applications for funding are submitted to the Helmholtz head office via the Helmholtz Centres' boards of directors. Applications sent by candidates directly to the Helmholtz head office will not be accepted. The deadline for applications will be published with the upcoming call for applications in January 2020.



Funding to Recruit Top-Level International Women Scientists

IN BRIEF

The funding programme aims to support the recruitment of outstanding female scientists who currently work at a research institution outside Germany. Helmholtz Centres and their partner universities are seeking to make appointments at the full professorship (W3) level.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Female scientists who

- are at the full professorship (W3 level) with very high standards in terms of their experience and performance
- are currently conducting research at foreign institutions. This may also include women researchers of German nationality who have worked abroad for at least the last three years

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

The funding volume amounts to 600,000 euros per scientist per year and increases the basic funding of the recruiting Helmholtz Centre. The funding can be used to finance the position and relevant equipment.

DURATION

Only permanent appointments are funded.

APPLICATION

Candidates must contact the Helmholtz Centres directly and get in touch with the relevant board of directors. The applications for funding are submitted to the Helmholtz head office via the Helmholtz Centres' boards of directors. Applications sent by candidates directly to the Helmholtz head office will not be accepted. The deadline for applications will be published with the upcoming call for applications in January 2020.





Georg Forster Research Award

IN BRIEF

Award winners are honoured for their outstanding research record and are invited to conduct a research project of their own choice in Germany in close cooperation with fellow experts at a research institution in Germany. The award is granted to researchers from developing countries, emerging economies and transition states.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A nomination can only be made in favour of senior scientists who

- are nationals of and have been living and working in developing countries, emerging economies or transition states for at least the last 5 years (excluding the People's Republic of China and India)
- are recognised internationally as outstanding researchers in their field and who have had a significant impact on their own discipline and beyond
- are expected to continue developing research-based solutions to the specific challenges facing transition and developing countries

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Award of 60,000 euros. In addition, award winners are invited to carry out research projects of their own choice in Germany in collaboration with fellow experts. To support the collaboration, additional funding of up to 25,000 euros can be granted for conference participation, materials and equipment.

DURATION

6 to 12 months. The stay can be divided into blocks.

APPLICATION

There is one selection round per year. For deadlines, please check the programme website. It is not possible for researchers to apply themselves; nominations can only be made by established researchers employed at a university or another research institution in Germany.





Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers

IN BRIEF

Senior researchers in all disciplines can carry out a research project in Germany in cooperation with an academic host of their choice in Germany. The research project must deal with issues of major relevance to the future development of the candidate's country or region of origin.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Senior researchers with

- citizenship of as well as principal place of residence and work in a developing country, emerging economy or transition state (excluding the People's Republic of China and India)
- excellent qualifications and a doctorate or a comparable academic degree completed less than 12 years ago
- their own, clearly defined research profile documented by a comprehensive list of academic publications that have been peer-reviewed according to international standards
- several years of independent research experience
- a good knowledge of German or English

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must present a confirmation that research facilities are available, as well as a mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 3,150 euros per month plus language course, travel expenses, family allowance, extensive alumni sponsorship and allowance for research costs (for the host institution).

DURATION

6 to 18 months; the fellowship can be divided up into a maximum of 3 stays.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted online at any time. You can access the online application form on the programme website (see link below).



Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers

IN BRIEF

Junior researchers in all disciplines can carry out a research project in Germany in cooperation with an academic host of their choice in Germany. The research project must deal with issues of major relevance to the future development of the candidate's country or region of origin.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs with

- citizenship of as well as principal place of residence and work in a developing country, emerging economy or transition state (excluding the People's Republic of China and India)
- an outstanding doctorate or a comparable academic degree completed less than 4 years ago
- academic publications that have been peer-reviewed according to international standards
- a good knowledge of German or English

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must present a confirmation that research facilities are available, as well as a mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 2,650 euros per month plus language course, travel expenses, family allowances, extensive alumni sponsorship and allowance for research costs (for the host institution).

DURATION

6 to 24 months.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted online at any time. You can access the online application form on the programme website (see link below).





Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers

Grants to Support the Initiation of International Collaboration

IN BRIEF

This programme serves to establish collaborative relationships between international partners. Researchers can explore opportunities for international collaboration or prepare a concrete joint research project. The programme funds bilateral workshops, trips abroad and guest visits.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Junior and senior researchers who

- hold a doctorate
- are working at a German research institution (in Germany or abroad)
- can outline the basis for the research benefit of the project as well as the concrete objective and the added value created by the international collaboration

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant including allowances for participation in bilateral workshops and events in the partner country. Support is provided for visits with daily allowances of 105 to 160 euros or monthly allowances depending on academic status; in addition, allowances are also paid for travel abroad.

DURATION

Maximum of 3 months for trips abroad and guest visits; all activities must take place within 12 months.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted to the DFG at any time. There is a special online application portal for this purpose. You will find information about the application procedure on the programme website (see link below).





PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers



Green Talents

IN BRIEF

The winners of this competition are invited to a Science Forum that takes them on a journey to leading German institutions of environmental and sustainability research. Furthermore, Green Talents awardees receive the unique opportunity to complete a BMBF-funded research stay at an institution of their choice during the year following the Science Forum.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Non-German citizens or anyone not residing in Germany who

- is currently enrolled in a Master's or PhD programme or must have completed their degree (Master's/PhD) with significantly above-average grades no more than 3 years before the end of the application period
- has a strong focus on and an interdisciplinary approach to sustainable development
- has an excellent command of the English language

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant for a research journey and a research stay.

DURATION

Two-week Science Forum; research stay of up to 3 months.

APPLICATION

Detailed information about the programme, including links for a competition alert and the online application tool, are available on the Green Talents website (see link below).



Heisenberg Programme

IN BRIEF

Excellent researchers can prepare for a leading position in science and research and spend time working on an advanced research topic. The Heisenberg Programme allows applicants to choose between a Heisenberg fellowship, a Heisenberg position, a Heisenberg temporary substitute position and a Heisenberg professorship.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Senior researchers and professors at an early stage of their careers holding a temporary post who

- qualify for a professorship by holding a postdoctoral habilitation degree or equivalent qualification
- have proven themselves by carrying out particularly outstanding research
- are expected to have the potential to gain further qualifications as university teachers

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The research project must be of high academic quality and originality and meet international standards.
- Those who choose the Heisenberg professorship must find a German university that agrees to continue funding of the position when DFG funding will expire.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 4,450 euros per month, or work contract for professorship with a salary based on the pay scale for professors (depending on the German state, university and the fellow's status). A family allowance of up to 6,000 euros per year may be requested.

DURATION

Maximum of 5 years.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted to the DFG at any time. There is a special online application portal for this purpose. You will find information about the application procedure on the programme website (see link below).



Helmholtz Research Schools and Graduate Schools

IN BRIEF

Helmholtz Research and Graduate Schools offer structured doctoral training for highly qualified doctoral researchers in partnership with universities. Young researchers gain considerable experience of close research cooperation between work groups.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Graduates with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- an academic qualification in the field of the respective research institute
- a relevant doctoral research proposal for the respective research group
- a good knowledge of the English language

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract (usually part-time); the salary is based on the collective agreement for public sector employees (currently approx. 3,700 euros per month gross for a full-time position).

DURATION

Generally 3 years with possible extension of 1 year.

APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the respective Helmholtz Centre. The individual Centres advertise their vacancies or set application deadlines. You will find links to the different schools and vacancies on the website (see link below).



Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups

IN BRIEF

Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups offer outstanding junior researchers early independence and the opportunity to set up and lead their own research group under excellent conditions at a Helmholtz Centre. Leaders of Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups are offered a long-term career perspective and tailored leadership training. They work closely with a university partner and have the opportunity to gain teaching experience and the qualifications for a professorship. Young Investigator Groups are funded in all research fields of the Helmholtz Association: Energy; Earth and Environment; Health; Aeronautics, Space and Transport; Key Technologies; Matter.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs who

- have substantial international research experience
- have outstanding academic achievements
- completed their doctorate between 2 and 6 years ago

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

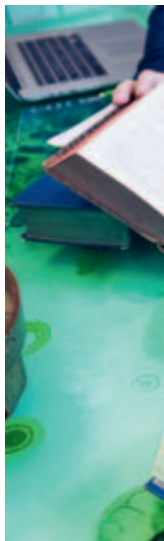
Funding amounting to a minimum of 300,000 euros per year, including expenses for materials, supplies and investments as well as work contracts for the group leader and for scientific or technical staff (3 on average). Half of the funding comes from the hosting Helmholtz Centre, the other half is provided by the Helmholtz Association. The salary of the group leader (generally based on the collective agreement for public sector employees) is currently approx. 4,500 to 5,500 euros per month gross.

DURATION

6 years.

APPLICATION

Candidates must apply directly to the respective Helmholtz Centre. You will find details of the application procedure and the application forms on the programme website (see link below). The deadline for applications will be published with the upcoming call for applications in December 2019.





Humboldt Research Award

IN BRIEF

Researchers from abroad, regardless of their discipline or nationality, are honoured for their outstanding research record, and are invited to conduct a research project of their own choice in Germany in close collaboration with fellow experts at a German research institution.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A nomination can only be made in favour of senior researchers who

- have predominantly lived and worked outside Germany for at least 5 years
- are recognised internationally as outstanding researchers in their field and who have had a significant impact on their own discipline and beyond
- are expected to continue producing cutting-edge research

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Award of 60,000 euros; extensive alumni sponsorship.

DURATION

6 to 12 months. The stay can be divided into blocks.

APPLICATION

Nominations can be submitted at any time. It is not possible for researchers to apply themselves; nominations can only be made by established researchers employed at a university or another research institution in Germany.





Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers

IN BRIEF

Senior researchers in all disciplines can carry out their own long-term research project in collaboration with an academic host of their choice at a research institution in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Senior researchers who

- do not live and work in Germany
- have excellent qualifications and a doctorate or a comparable academic degree completed less than 12 years ago
- already have their own research profile documented by a comprehensive list of academic publications that have been peer-reviewed according to international standards
- have several years of independent research experience
- have a good knowledge of German or English

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must present a confirmation that research facilities are available, as well as a mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 3,150 euros per month plus language course, travel expenses, family allowances, extensive alumni sponsorship and allowance for research costs (for the host institution).

DURATION

6 to 18 months, can be divided up into a maximum of 3 blocks within 3 years.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted online at any time. You can access the online application form on the programme website (see link below).





Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers

IN BRIEF

Junior researchers of all nationalities and disciplines can carry out their own long-term research project in cooperation with an academic host of their choice at a research institution in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs with

- an outstanding doctorate or a comparable academic degree completed less than 4 years ago
- academic publications that were peer-reviewed according to international standards
- a good knowledge of German or English

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must present a confirmation that research facilities are available, as well as a mentoring agreement and a detailed expert's statement by an academic host at a research institution in Germany.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 2,650 euros per month, plus language course, travel expenses, family allowances, extensive alumni sponsorship and allowance for research costs (for the host institution).

DURATION

6 to 24 months.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted online at any time. You can access the online application form on the programme website (see link below).



Individual Doctoral Projects at Fraunhofer Institutes

IN BRIEF

PhD students can complete a doctorate while working on exciting projects in the newest areas of technology with state-of-the-art equipment at a Fraunhofer Institute.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- the ability to conduct independent research
- teamworking and communication skills
- a good knowledge of the English language

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract with a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees. Bonuses possible depending on performance and success.

DURATION

Generally 3 years with possible extension of up to 6 years.

APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the respective Fraunhofer Institute. Vacancies and closing dates are advertised on the websites of individual institutes or on the job exchange (see link below).



Individual Doctoral Projects at Leibniz Institutes

IN BRIEF

PhD students can complete a doctorate while working in an excellent interdisciplinary research environment at a Leibniz Institute.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- the ability to conduct independent research
- teamworking and communication skills
- a good knowledge of the English language

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract (usually part-time) with a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees of the German states (currently approx. 3,800 euros per month gross for a full-time job).

DURATION

Generally 2 to 3 years with possible extension of up to 1 to 2 years.

APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted to the respective Leibniz Institute. Vacancies and closing dates are advertised on the websites of the individual institutes or on the job exchange (see link below).





Individual Doctoral Projects at Max Planck Institutes

IN BRIEF

PhD students can complete a doctorate within the scope of research work conducted at a Max Planck Institute.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- an academic qualification in an appropriate subject for the advertised PhD research or for a relevant PhD research proposal for the respective research project
- previous research experience
- a good knowledge of the English language

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract with a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees (50 per cent), currently just under 2,000 euros per month gross. Depending on personal profile and research area, higher remuneration is possible within the framework of a recruitment allowance. In addition, there is a special annual bonus. An (international) research stay may be subsidised.

DURATION

3 years with possible extension of up to 1 year.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted to the respective institute at any time. Vacancies are advertised on the websites of the individual institutes or the Max Planck job exchange (see link below). Job offers and advertisements are also published on Facebook and Twitter.





International Max Planck Research Schools

IN BRIEF

PhD students can complete a doctorate in a structured programme that provides excellent research conditions.

International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS) are jointly managed by Max Planck Institutes and universities. Students have the choice of receiving their doctorates either from the German university or their home university.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's or Bachelor's degree
- an academic qualification in an appropriate subject for the respective research institute
- relevant research experience
- excellent English language skills

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract with a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees (50 per cent); doctoral students currently receive just under 2,000 euros per month gross. Depending on personal profile and research area, higher remuneration is possible within the framework of a recruitment allowance. In addition, there is a special annual bonus. An (international) research stay may be subsidised.

DURATION

3 years with possible extension of 1 year.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted to the respective IMPRS. Vacancies and application deadlines are advertised on the websites of the respective institutes or research schools (see link below).





PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers



MAX-PLANCK-GESSELLSCHAFT

International Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Institutes

IN BRIEF

International researchers can conduct independent research at a Max Planck Institute. The programme aims to strengthen cooperation and promote networking between Max Planck Institutes and their international partners.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Scientists with

- outstanding qualifications
- acknowledged research experience

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant and travel allowances are dependent on personal profile and research project.

DURATION

Dependent on the host institute. The duration varies and visits can start at any time. PhD students: up to 6 months; postdocs: up to 2 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted directly to the respective Max Planck Institute. Vacancies are advertised on the websites of the individual institutes or the Max Planck job exchange (see link below). As a rule, fellowships for senior researchers are awarded on the initiative of the guests.



International Visiting Scholars at Leibniz Institutes

IN BRIEF

Senior researchers can conduct research at a Leibniz Institute in Germany that relates to their specific field of interest. The respective Leibniz Institute will host the senior scientist and support his or her research in order to strengthen cooperation and promote networking between Leibniz Institutes and their international partners.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Senior scientists with

- outstanding qualifications
- acknowledged research experience

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract or fellowship (depending on the financial resources of the host institute).

DURATION

Dependent on the host institute. The duration varies and visits can start at any time.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted directly to the respective Leibniz Institute. Please feel free to contact the Leibniz Institutes of your interest to enquire whether they host international visiting scholars. In addition, you will find information about positions and application deadlines on the Leibniz job portal linked below.



Leibniz Graduate Schools and Leibniz ScienceCampi

IN BRIEF

PhD students can train in a broad research area within an excellent research environment at an institution with an international reputation. They find ideal conditions for completing a PhD in a structured doctoral programme that can take place either at a Leibniz Institute or a partner university.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an excellent university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- an academic qualification in an appropriate subject for the respective graduate school
- or who will meet these requirements within the next 6 months.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract (usually part-time) or scholarship; grants for consumables and travel allowances.

The salary is based on the collective agreement for public sector employees of the German states (currently approx. 3,800 euros per month gross for a full-time job).

The size of the scholarship is based on qualifications and amounts to between 1,150 and 1,450 euros per month.

DURATION

Scholarship for a maximum of 3 years. As a rule, work contracts are limited to 2 to 3 years with the possibility of extension.

APPLICATION

Applications should be submitted directly to the relevant Leibniz Institute. Vacancies and application deadlines are advertised on the websites of the respective institutes or graduate schools (see link below).



Leibniz Junior Research Groups

IN BRIEF

Leibniz Junior Research Groups offer talented and promising junior researchers an opportunity to conduct independent research, employ their own staff and work with excellent equipment and infrastructures. Successful candidates are enabled to set up their own research group in the inspiring research environment of a Leibniz Institute.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdoctoral researchers who

- have completed their doctorate no longer than 5 years ago (exceptions apply)
- have proven outstanding academic achievements in their field and
- are planning to conduct an independent research project

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding: successful candidates will receive funding of up to 1.7 million euros. The funding goes towards the establishment of a junior research group with personnel costs (group leader, 2 to 3 doctoral candidates or postdoc group members) and adequate equipment and facilities.

DURATION

5 years.

APPLICATION

Calls are published every year in November and can be found on the Leibniz Association's website. Candidates are asked to contact the Leibniz Institute of their choice with a draft of their application to discuss their project and its fit within the institute's research strategy. Applications have to be submitted by the institute by March.



Leibniz Programme for Women Professors

IN BRIEF

The Leibniz Programme for Women Professors targets women in all disciplines who have an outstanding international track record. It seeks to significantly increase the number of excellent female researchers in leading positions at Leibniz Association institutions by offering them reliable career prospects.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Women in all disciplines who

- have an outstanding international track record
- meet the requirements to hold a professorship or already hold one, and
- whose research contributes to the institute's and the collaborating university's research strategy

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding: successful candidates will receive funding of up to 1.7 million euros to fund their professorship, personnel and equipment.

DURATION

5 years, with tenure or permanent position afterwards.

APPLICATION

Calls are published every year in November and can be found on the Leibniz Association's website. Candidates are asked to contact the Leibniz Institute of their choice with a draft of their application to discuss their project and its fit within the institute's research strategy. Applications have to be submitted by the institute by March.



Lichtenberg Endowed Professorships

IN BRIEF

The Lichtenberg Endowed Professorship gives outstandingly qualified researchers the opportunity to pursue highly innovative developments in contemporary areas of research at a university in Germany. They can define forward-looking and even high-risk subjects, which should also be followed up in an interdisciplinary way if possible, and implement new teaching strategies.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications can be submitted by outstanding researchers

- at the level of an associate (W2) or full (W3) professor
- in innovative fields of research
- in all disciplines and
- of all nationalities

The programme is especially aimed at returning German researchers or applicants from outside Germany.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

A major criterion for the award of the Endowed Professorship is the conceptual and structural strategy of the university at which the professorship is to be based. The Endowed Professorship must be established at a German university.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding: each professorship will be endowed with capital of at least 5 million euros. The Volkswagen Foundation and, if applicable, one of the foundations affiliated to the Stifterverband will each provide starting capital of 1 million euros per professorship. An additional 3 million euros must be raised by the German university. The professorship at least must be financed by income earned from the capital.

DURATION

The amount is paid at one time. Support stretches over 5 years. The professorship is permanent.

APPLICATION

You can apply at any time. An application must be submitted jointly with the university.

Lise Meitner Excellence Programme

IN BRIEF

This programme enables female junior scientists with outstanding qualifications to establish their own research group at one of the renowned Max Planck Institutes. A tenure-track option offers long-term employment security and clear career prospects.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Highly qualified female scientists who

- have viable and innovative ideas
- have ideally already had first group leader experience
- have already acted as independent researchers at an early stage of their scientific careers

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding and work contract: the work contract is based on the remuneration system for university teachers (W2 position). Each Lise Meitner Group receives its own personnel and materials funding and has access to the infrastructure of the respective Max Planck Institute.

DURATION

5 years. Subsequently, there is the opportunity to take part in a tenure-track procedure for a permanent (W2) professorship.

APPLICATION

Application is only possible in response to an advertisement. Central advertisements are normally published once a year in early spring. All positions are advertised in scientific journals and on their websites.



Max Planck Grants for Advanced Postdoctoral Training

IN BRIEF

Junior researchers can gain additional knowledge and skills at a Max Planck Institute on the basis of their prior professional qualifications.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs with

- an outstanding doctorate in a relevant field completed up to 10 years ago
- at least 2 years of research experience

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract with a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees. The salary is agreed depending on personal profile and research project.

DURATION

As a rule, work contracts are limited to 2 to 3 years.

APPLICATION

Positions are advertised in scientific journals (also in international publications), on the Max Planck job exchange or on the website of the respective institute. It is also possible to take the initiative and contact the respective MPI directly.





Max Planck Research Group Leader at a Max Planck Institute

IN BRIEF

Junior researchers can conduct independent research work at a Max Planck Institute by establishing their own Max Planck Research Group. Candidates receive their own fixed budget to run their research group, in which PhD students and one postdoc work together on a specific research topic.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Highly qualified postdocs who

- have viable and innovative ideas
- have ideally already had one to two postdoctoral positions
- are in a position to realise an independent research project

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding and work contract. The level of funding depends on the respective research area and research focus. It covers funding for staff, materials and operating costs, including the researcher's own salary (W2 position).

DURATION

5 years with two possible extensions of up to 2 years each.

APPLICATION

Application on advertisement only. Positions at specific institutes are advertised throughout the year. Central advertisements are normally published once a year in autumn. All positions are advertised in scientific journals and on their websites as well as on the websites of the respective institutes.



PhD students



Max Planck Schools

IN BRIEF

The new Max Planck Schools in the forward-looking fields of cognition, photonics and matter to life enable promising PhD students to work in close cooperation with outstanding researchers on the latest and most groundbreaking questions in basic and applied research. A total of 21 universities and 31 institutes at large non-university research organisations have come together for these special PhD programmes. As a result, access to excellent infrastructures has become available at various research facilities and universities in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Especially ambitious and promising Bachelor or Master graduates from all over the world.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Scholarship: acceptance at a Max Planck School is linked with financial support for up to five years.

DURATION

5 years.

APPLICATION

Application is possible on the basis of the requirements of the respective Max Planck School; the selection procedure involves several stages. The respective school outlines the exact requirements and further details on its website.



PhD Fellowships

IN BRIEF

The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) awards PhD fellowships to outstanding junior researchers who wish to carry out an ambitious scientific PhD project in basic biomedical research at an internationally leading laboratory.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications for BIF PhD fellowships can be submitted by European citizens working in Europe or overseas as well as by non-European citizens pursuing their PhD projects in Europe.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Fellows are selected by the researchers on the Foundation's Board of Trustees. They make their decision on the basis of external expert reports and the reports of personal interviews with the Foundation staff. The candidate's own achievement to-date, as well as the scientific quality of the project and the laboratory should be outstanding.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 1,500 euros per month plus a lump sum of roughly 150 euros as well as country and family supplements (e.g. without family supplements 1,900 euros for Germany or 2,500 euros for the USA). In addition to this:

- personal support
- international scientific conferences
- seminars to discuss the own scientific project
- communication training
- networking with other fellows and alumni

DURATION

2 years. Under certain conditions this can be extended for an additional year.

APPLICATION

The deadlines for applications are 1 February, 1 June and 1 October each year.

Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience (PRIME)

IN BRIEF

The PRIME programme enables postdocs of all nationalities who see their long-term career in Germany to combine employment at a German university with a research stay outside Germany. At the same time, they can prepare their subsequent integration in a German institution through regular exchange.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs with

- outstanding qualifications
- a convincing research project that is consistent with the researcher's long-term career planning
- a research plan approved by the two host institutions

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are themselves responsible for establishing contact with their envisaged hosts both outside and inside Germany. Please refer to the programme description for the further application requirements (see link below).

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract; funded researchers receive a work contract at a German university covering the entire funding period. Remuneration is based on the collective agreement for public sector employees. Salaries may range from 3,600 to 4,700 euros per month gross, plus approx. 1,000 to 2,000 euros per month expatriate allowance during the 12 months of the research stay outside Germany. Travel allowances are also paid.

DURATION

18 months, of which the first 12 months are spent outside Germany and the following 6 months (integration phase) are spent at a German university.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. Information on the next call(s) for applications will be available from Mai 2020.



PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Re-invitation Programme for Former Scholarship Holders

IN BRIEF

This programme enables former DAAD scholarship holders to carry out research and work projects at a state-run or state-recognised university or non-university research institute in Germany. Working stays can also be based outside the academic sector.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Former recipients of DAAD research or study scholarships or former GDR scholarship holders

- with a convincing and well-planned research or work project for the stay in Germany
- with outstanding research achievements and, where appropriate, publications
- who returned to their home countries at least 3 years ago

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

DAAD research or study scholarship holders must have been funded for at least 6 months, former GDR scholarship holders must have studied in Germany for at least 1 year.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 2,000 to 2,150 euros per month (depending on academic status) plus travel allowance, unless these costs are borne by another source.

DURATION

1 to 3 months.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. The application details vary from country to country. For country-specific details of addresses and deadlines, please check the programme website.



www.funding-guide.de (please select "DAAD funding programmes only")



Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers

Research Grants

IN BRIEF

Junior and senior researchers can realise a research project on a defined subject within a limited period of time. The programme provides support in modular form for direct project costs, project-specific staff, and equipment required to carry out the project. Depending on the project, it is possible to apply for funding for your own position, for assistants' positions or for a visiting researcher.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs and senior researchers who

- hold a doctorate
- are working at a German research institution (in Germany or abroad)
- have a research project of high academic quality and originality that meets international standards

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The applicants must be supported by a statement from a German host institution indicating that it will assume employer responsibilities during the funding period and, in cooperation with the applicant, provide the necessary conditions to carry out the research project.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

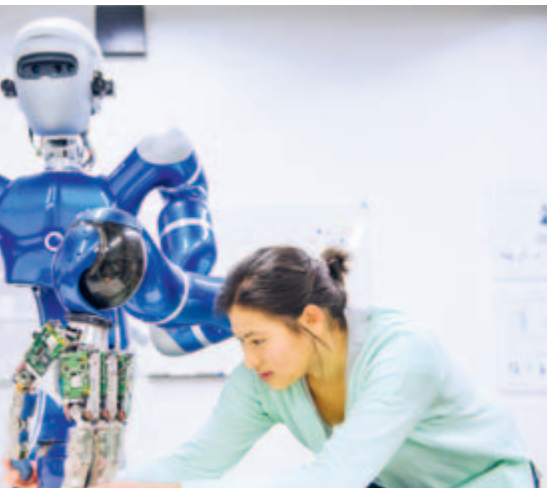
Funding depends on the specific proposal modules. The work contract for the project leader's own position is generally based on the collective agreement for public sector employees.

DURATION

Up to 3 years, with the possibility of an extension.

APPLICATION

Applications can be submitted to the DFG at any time. There is a special online application portal for this purpose. You will find information about the application procedure on the programme website (see link below).



Research Grants – Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees

IN BRIEF

The aim of this programme is to promote doctoral degrees at the home university with integrated research phases in Germany. International PhD students start their doctoral degree in their home country but subsequently spend research periods in Germany. The doctorate is completed in the home country with the participation of the German academic adviser. In addition, there is also the Cotutelle Doctoral Programme, which supports binational doctoral degrees on the basis of the so-called cotutelle procedure.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an excellent university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- a convincing and well-planned research project or course of continuing education

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The doctorate must have been begun within the last 3 years.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant of 1,200 euros per month plus additional allowances during stay(s) in Germany, such as health, accident and personal liability insurance contributions, as well as a research allowance.

DURATION

Up to 2 years. Cotutelle Doctoral Programme: up to 18 months. The grant is suspended during stays at the home university.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. Application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on addresses and deadlines please check the programme website.



Research Grants – Doctoral Programmes in Germany

IN BRIEF

International PhD students can realise a doctoral project (individually or in a structured programme) at a state or state-recognised German university or non-university research institution.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students with

- an excellent university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree
- a convincing and well-planned research project or course of continuing education

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The doctorate must have been begun within the last 3 years.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant of 850 to 1,000 euros per month (depending on qualifications) plus additional allowances, such as health, accident and personal liability insurance contributions, a possible travel subsidy, a research allowance and language course.

DURATION

Up to 4 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. Application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on addresses and deadlines please check the programme website.





PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers

Research Grants – One-Year and Short-Term Grants

IN BRIEF

International doctoral candidates and young scholars or researchers can realise a research project at a state or state-recognised German university or non-university research institution.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students and junior researchers with

- an excellent university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree or doctorate
- a convincing and well-planned research and training proposal for the stay in Germany that has been agreed with an academic supervisor at the prospective German host institution

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The doctorate must have been begun within the last 3 years. If you already hold a PhD, you should not have completed it more than 2 years ago.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Grant of 850 to 1,200 euros per month (depending on qualifications) plus additional allowances, such as health, accident and personal liability insurance contributions, a possible travel allowance, a research allowance and language course.

DURATION

One-Year Grants: 7 months up to 12 months (only for PhD students).

Short-Term Grants: 1 month to a maximum of 6 months.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. Application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on addresses and deadlines please check the programme website.





Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers

Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists

IN BRIEF

International university teachers and researchers can conduct a short-term research stay at a state-run or state-recognised university or non-university research institute in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

International junior and senior researchers who

- should generally hold a doctorate
- work in a higher education institution or a research institute in their home country
- have good academic achievement and recent publications
- have a convincing and well-planned research project that must be coordinated with an academic host institute in Germany

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants require a written acknowledgement from the host confirming the availability of a work position.
- For country-specific information please check the programme website (see link below).

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 2,000 to 2,150 euros per month, depending on academic status, generally including a travel allowance.

DURATION

1 to 3 months.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online through the DAAD portal. You can access the application portal through the scholarship database. Some documents need to be sent separately by post. The application details vary from country to country. For country-specific information on addresses and deadlines please check the programme website.



PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers



Research Training Groups

IN BRIEF

Research Training Groups (Graduierertenkollegs) are set up by universities and pursue a focused research programme. PhD students and postdocs can complete a doctorate or engage in independent research activities. Additional skills programmes strengthen their expertise for the research and higher education job market. Highly qualified and renowned postdoctoral researchers can also take on the leadership of a project.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students and junior researchers with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree or doctorate in a relevant subject
- excellent English language skills

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Specific requirements are laid down by the individual Research Training Groups and projects and the respective doctoral regulations. Research specialty and qualifications should match the focus of the respective Research Training Group or project.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract or scholarship. As a rule, a work contract offers a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees of the German states. The size of the scholarship amounts up to 1,365 euros per month plus an allowance for direct project costs of 103 euros per month.

DURATION

Work contracts and scholarships are usually limited to 2 to 3 years.

APPLICATION

Research Training Groups usually advertise vacancies and scholarships publicly, and the details can be found on their websites. Applications should be submitted to the coordinator of the respective Research Training Group. You will find an up-to-date list of all Research Training Groups on the programme website. Vacancies and scholarships are also advertised on the DFG's website (see link below).



Sofja Kovalevskaja Award

IN BRIEF

Junior researchers can establish their own working groups and spend 5 years working on a high-profile, innovative research project of their choice at a research institution in Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Postdocs from abroad with

- a doctorate or a comparable academic degree completed with distinction less than 6 years ago
- cutting-edge academic achievements documented by a comprehensive list of academic publications that were peer-reviewed according to international standards
- a good knowledge of German or English

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must present a detailed expert report from the academic host as well as a confirmation from the host institution.

Applicants should not have previously held a leadership position in Germany.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of up to 1.65 million euros to realise the approved research project; extensive alumni sponsorship.

DURATION

5 years.

APPLICATION

Applications are expected to become possible from spring 2019. Applications can be submitted online. You can access the online application form on the programme website (see link below).





PhD students
Postdocs/Junior researchers

DFG

Support for Early Career Researchers within Collaborative Research Centres

IN BRIEF

Collaborative Research Centres (CRCs, Sonderforschungsbereiche) can offer PhD students and junior researchers opportunities to pursue an outstanding research programme that crosses the boundaries of disciplines, institutes, departments and faculties. The relevant university may also offer further opportunities for training its doctoral researchers, for example within a structured doctoral programme. Highly qualified and renowned postdoctoral researchers can also take on the leadership of a project or a junior professorship within a CRC.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students and junior researchers with

- an outstanding university degree equivalent to a German Master's degree or doctorate in a relevant subject
- excellent English language skills

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract or fellowship. A work contract offers a salary based on the collective agreement for public sector employees of the German states.

DURATION

Work contracts and fellowships are usually limited to 2 to 3 years.

APPLICATION

CRCs usually advertise vacancies and fellowships publicly, and the details can be found on their websites. Applications should be submitted to the coordinator of the respective CRC. An up-to-date list of all CRCs is available on the programme website. Vacancies and fellowships are also advertised on the DFG's website (see link below).



www.dfg.de/sfb/en

www.dfg.de/en > Research Funding > Research Careers



A man with glasses and a blue blazer is holding an open book, looking down at it. A woman in a blue blazer stands next to him, looking at the book. They are in a library with wooden bookshelves filled with books. In the foreground, there is a table with a microscope and other scientific instruments.

EUROPEAN FUNDING PROGRAMMES A-Z

ERC Advanced Grants

IN BRIEF

Senior researchers of any nationality can carry out research projects at the frontiers of knowledge at a host institution (universities, research institutions, companies or international organisations) in Germany (or another EU member state or Horizon 2020 associated country).

WHO CAN APPLY?

Senior scientists with

- an outstanding track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years
- a ground-breaking and ambitious research proposal

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The host institution must employ the researcher for at least the duration of the project. Applicants must provide a letter of commitment from the host institution.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of up to 2.5 million euros, in exceptional cases up to 3.5 million euros, to complete a research project of the researcher's choice. The researcher's salary may also be (partly) paid out of these funds.

DURATION

Up to 5 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online by the researcher on behalf of the host institution through the Funding & Tenders Portal (see link below). ERC Advanced Grants are advertised once a year. The application period in 2020 ends on 26 August 2020.



ERC Consolidator Grants

IN BRIEF

Postdoctoral researchers of any nationality can strengthen their research independence through the consolidation of their own research team at a host institution (universities, research institutions, companies or international organisations) in Germany (or another EU member state or Horizon 2020 associated country).

WHO CAN APPLY?

Researchers who

- completed an excellent PhD, generally between 7 and 12 years ago
- are at the beginning of an independent research career and have already shown research independence
- have a promising academic track record
- present a ground-breaking and ambitious research proposal

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The host institution must employ the researcher for at least the duration of the project. Applicants must provide a letter of commitment from the host institution.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of up to 2 million euros, in exceptional cases up to 2.75 million euros, to complete a research project of the researcher's choice. The researcher's salary may also be (partly) paid out of these funds.

DURATION

Up to 5 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online by the researcher on behalf of the host institution through the Funding & Tenders Portal (see link below). ERC Consolidator Grants are advertised once a year. The application period in 2020 ends on 2 February 2020.



ERC Starting Grants

IN BRIEF

Postdoctoral researchers of any nationality can strengthen their research independence by establishing their own research team at a host institution (universities, research institutions, companies or international organisations) in Germany (or another EU member state or Horizon 2020 associated country).

WHO CAN APPLY?

Junior researchers who

- completed an excellent PhD, generally between 2 and 7 years ago
- are at the beginning of an independent research career and have already shown research independence
- have a promising academic track record
- present a ground-breaking and ambitious research proposal

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The host institution must employ the researcher for at least the duration of the project. Applicants must provide a letter of commitment from the host institution.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of up to 1.5 million euros, in exceptional cases up to 2 million euros, to complete a research project of the researcher's choice. The researcher's salary may also be (partly) paid out of these funds.

DURATION

Up to 5 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online by the researcher on behalf of the host institution through the Funding & Tenders Portal (see link below). ERC Starting Grants are advertised once a year. Please check the website for information on the next application period.



Postdocs/Junior researchers
Senior researchers



ERC Synergy Grants

IN BRIEF

ERC Synergy Grants are awarded to groups of two to four outstanding researchers of any nationality. They can be at the start of their careers or established researchers and should bring together complementary skills, knowledge and resources to address research problems that could lead to breakthroughs not possible by the individual researchers working alone.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A group of excellent researchers that

- is interdisciplinary
- plans to use multidisciplinary approaches and
- has a groundbreaking and ambitious research proposal that would not be possible working alone

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The host institutions (universities, research institutions, companies or international organisations) must be in Europe (European Union or associated country) and they must employ the researchers for at least the duration of the project. Applicants must provide a letter of commitment from the host institutions.

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Funding of up to 10 million euros, in exceptional cases up to 14 million euros, for a research project of the researchers' choice. The researchers' salary may also be (partly) paid out of these funds.

DURATION

Up to 6 years.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online by the researchers on behalf of the host institutions through the Funding & Tenders Portal (see link below). ERC Synergy Grants are advertised once a year. Please check the website for information on the next application period.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal>





Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Fellowship

IN BRIEF

Experienced researchers of any nationality can enhance their qualifications and diversify their competences by conducting a research project at a host institution (universities, research institutions, companies or international organisations) in Germany (or another EU member state or Horizon 2020 associated country).

WHO CAN APPLY?

Researchers who

- have completed a doctorate or at least 4 years of full-time research experience after their graduation
- have generally not resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the host institution for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the call deadline

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Fellowship of 4,880 euros per month gross (depending on the host country), plus 600 euros mobility allowance and (if applicable) 500 euros family allowance. Host institutions receive funds for research and indirect costs.

DURATION

12 to 24 months.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online by the host institution and the researcher through the Funding & Tenders Portal (see link below). Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Fellowships are advertised once a year. The next application period will close on 9 September 2020.





Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks

IN BRIEF

PhD students receive structured doctoral training within these networks, which are formed jointly by different European institutions. They can apply for positions that are especially created by these networks.

WHO CAN APPLY?

PhD students or researchers with less than 4 years of research experience who

- have a relevant excellent higher education degree completed less than 4 years ago
- have not resided or carried out their main activity in Germany for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to taking up the position

TYPE AND EXTENT OF FUNDING

Work contract with a salary of approx. 3,270 euros per month gross (depending on the host country); plus 600 euros mobility allowance and (if applicable) 500 euros family allowance. The research costs of the host organisation(s) are also supported.

DURATION

The networks are funded for up to 4 years. PhD students can be employed in a network for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 3 years.

APPLICATION

Positions created by the Innovative Training Networks are advertised on the EURAXESS job portal (see link below). It is not possible for individual researchers to apply directly to the EU. Applications must be submitted to the respective network. Please check the job advertisements for details on vacancies and deadlines.





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Research in Germany

The www.research-in-germany.org website offers comprehensive information on the structure of research funding in Germany, a concise overview of individual funding opportunities at various organisations and numerous links to funding databases.

www.research-in-germany.org/funding

DAAD funding database

The scholarship database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) contains extensive information for those who are seeking financial support for their studies, research work or teaching assignments in Germany.

www.funding-guide.de

PhDGermany

The DAAD database PhDGermany contains a wide range of PhD positions in universities, companies and research institutions and is continually updated.

www.phdgermany.de

Stifterverband

Founded in 1920, the Stifterverband supports research and higher education on behalf of the German business community and is comprised of more than 3,000 companies, foundations, business associations and individuals. This website provides a search engine for research grants and other funding opportunities offered by nearly 500 foundations.

www.deutsches-stiftungszentrum.de/foerderung
(in German)



Association of German Foundations

The Association of German Foundations represents the interests of over 22,000 foundations in Germany. With over 4,000 members, it is the largest and oldest association of foundations in Europe. Its website offers a free online search facility covering roughly 12,000 foundations that are active in Germany.

www.stiftungssuche.de
(in German)

EURAXESS Germany funding database

The EURAXESS Germany funding database contains information for international researchers on funding opportunities, vacancies, social security and tax matters as well as other issues relating to researcher mobility.

www.euraxess.de

European funding programmes

The European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi) helps you to find your way through the European funding jungle.

www.kowi.eu



ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

“Research in Germany – Land of Ideas”

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) launched the initiative to “Promote Innovation and Research in Germany” in 2006. Since then various measures and events have been organised under the brand “Research in Germany – Land of Ideas” to present German innovation and research worldwide. The initiative also seeks to build strategic partnerships with institutions outside Germany.

The BMBF has also established the Research Marketing Alliance, a joint dialogue initiative for research, education, business and politics. This alliance aims to further strengthen connectivity between the actors of the German research, education and innovation system and to fully exploit the potential for individual and joint communication activities under the “Research in Germany” brand umbrella.

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Note

The DAAD places special emphasis on using language that treats women and men equally. The grammatical male form is occasionally used alone in this publication purely as a means of improving legibility. Naturally, these terms are meant in a gender-neutral way.

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