

Staying in Academia:

Fellowship, Grants & More to Know

MALGORZATA WOREK

OUTLINE

- **Third-Party Funding**
 - Require an application to be submitted to funding organisations
 - Require time and preparation well in advance
 - Require long-term planning
 - ✓ Contact with host institution and your host well in advance
 - Require you to read all documents very carefully as they are complex and full of exceptions
 - ✓ Avoid rejections "on formal grounds"
 - Give you independence in terms of research and the place where you will do it
- **All programmes are designed for**
 - Talented early-career researchers who have already done excellent work
 - Researchers who are ready to work independently and show potential to be research leaders
- **Various programmes for early career scientists and postdocs are available**
- **9 examples from 6 funding agencies**

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS AND POSTDOC

I. German Research Foundation

- i. Walter Benjamin Programme
- ii. Emmy Noether Programme
- iii. Heisenberg Programme

II. German Academic Exchange Service

- i. DAAD PRIME programme

III. Helmholtz Association

- i. Helmholtz Young Investigator Group

IV. Max Planck Society

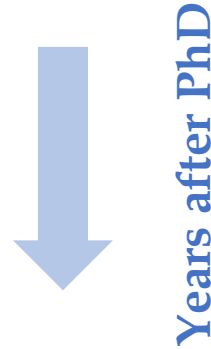
- i. Max Planck Research Group

V. European Research Council

- i. ERC Starting Grant
- ii. Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Postdoctoral Fellowships

VI. Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

- i. Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships



DAAD

HELMHOLTZ

RESEARCH FOR GRAND CHALLENGES



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG

WALTER BENJAMIN PROGRAMME





WALTER BENJAMIN PROGRAMME

- **Promotes early research careers**
 - **No formal age limit for submitting proposals**
 - PhD holders who are not yet fully independent
 - Support the mobility and topical development
 - Moving to a new academic environment and the expansion of the individual network
 - Can be carried out at a research institution in Germany and/or abroad

-
- **Funding abroad is through a fellowship**
 - **Fellowship calculator**

- **Funding in Germany is through financing of a position in the postdoc category**
 - TV-L E13

**FUNDING
ABROAD:**

Have worked as a
researcher in
Germany for at least
3 years, e.g. doing
PhD and/or postdoc

GENERALLY:

Have not worked
longer than 1 year at
the host institution
selected for the
fellowship

**IF YOU ARE
ALREADY
ABROAD:**

Have not spent
more than 3 years
abroad after
completing your
PhD in Germany or
abroad

**IF YOU ARE
ALREADY
ABROAD:**

Completed the
majority of your
schooling and
higher education in
Germany

-
- You may submit your proposal at any time

- Follow the proposal instructions given in Guidelines

- The maximum funding period is 2 years

- In exceptional cases, you may submit a **renewal proposal for a maximum of 1 additional year**
 - ✓ External circumstances made it impossible to complete the project within 2 years

- Funding for more than 36 months is not possible
-

Guidelines

Walter Benjamin Programme
with Proposal Preparation Instructions



EMMY NOETHER PROGRAMME



Emmy Noether- Programm



DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

EMMY NOETHER PROGRAMME

▪ Junior Research Group Leader

- For early career researchers to qualify for the post of professor at a university
- **Accelerated Path to Professorship**
- **Funding period is 6 (3 + 3) years**
- Evaluation is carried out at the end of the 3rd year
- Leading an independent junior research group at university in Germany with teaching responsibilities
- TV-L E14
- Encourage early career researchers currently working abroad to enter/re-enter the German research system

**PhD 2 - 4 years prior to proposal
submission**

Not yet having a habilitation

Funding for your own position as junior research group leader and for additional staff to carry out the project

DFG contract template should be used

Ensure that the employee is only required to work on tasks related to the project

Authorisation to supervise PhD students

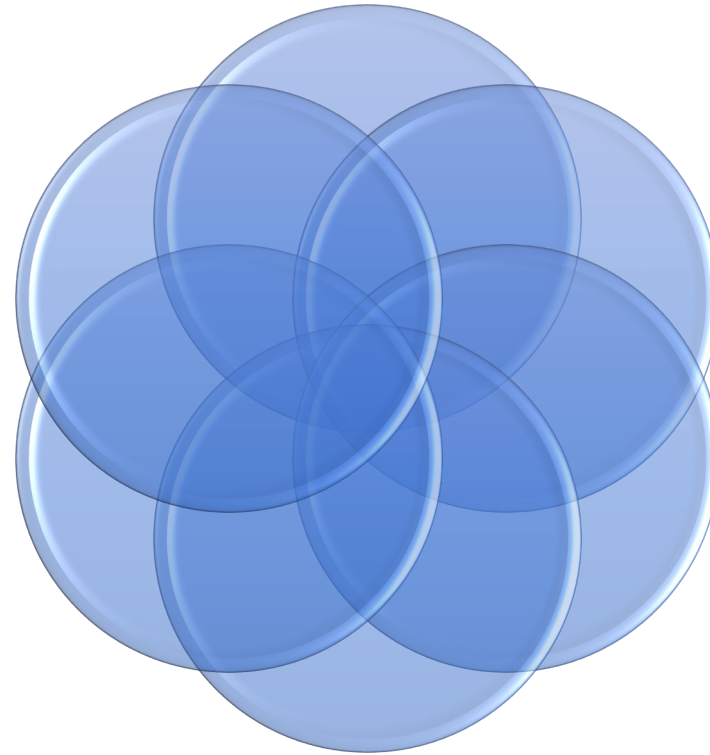
Authorisation to teach 2 credit hours per semester

Contract should provide Emmy Noether fellows with a legal standing equivalent to that of junior professors

A final decision must be made within 2 months of award notification

Should not be located at the same university where you obtained your PhD

More than one potential host institution may be listed in the proposal



-
- You may submit your proposal at any time

- Follow the proposal instructions given in Guidelines

Guidelines

Emmy Noether Programme



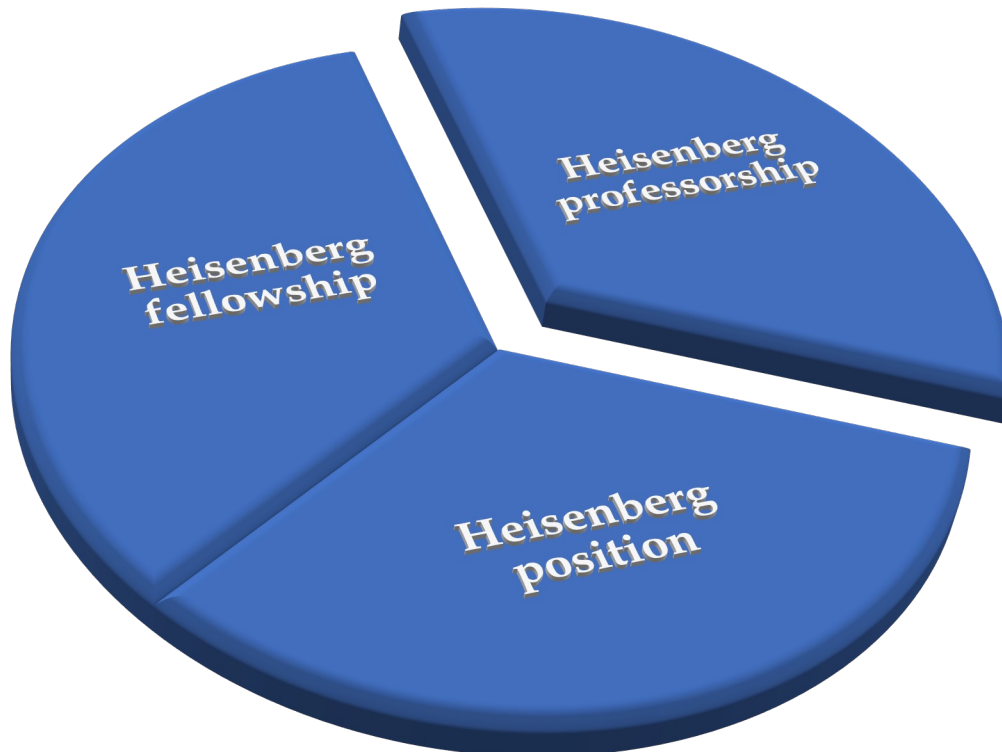
HEISENBERG PROGRAMME





HEISENBERG PROGRAMME

- **All the requirements for tenured professorships already fulfilled**
 - Researchers who have qualified for professorship
 - ✓ Emmy Noether Programme, leadership of a junior research group, DFG project staff positions, private-sector research or mid-level faculty positions
 - **No formal age limit**
 - **Funding period 5 years (3 + 2) for your own position**
 - Evaluation is carried out at the end of the 3rd year
 - You initially request a Heisenberg grant
 - Once accepted into the programme, you choose the type of funding within 6 months



HEISENBERG POSITION	HEISENBERG PROFESSORSHIP	HEISENBERG FELLOWSHIP
<p>Funding for your post TV-L E14</p>	<p>Funding for a temporary professorship W2 or W3</p>	<p>Fellowship 4450 EUR/per month</p>
<p>Conduct research at an academic institution in Germany or a German academic institution in another country</p>	<p>Professors at a German university</p>	<p>Research can be conducted at an academic institution in Germany or another country</p>
<p>Other international stays are only possible for up to a third of the total funding duration</p>	<p>University must provide a binding declaration that it will transfer this position to its own budget at the end of the DFG funding period</p>	<p>International stays in other countries are possible</p>
<p>It is possible to switch to the Heisenberg professorship (if all requirements are met) but it is not possible to switch to the Heisenberg fellowship</p>	<p>It is not possible to switch to the Heisenberg fellowship or position</p>	<p>It is possible to switch to the Heisenberg professorship and Heisenberg position</p>

FOR PROJECTS BASED IN GERMANY YOU CAN APPLY FOR A DFG RESEARCH GRANT TO HAVE YOUR GROUP

- **You may submit your proposal at any time**

- Follow the proposal instructions given in Guidelines

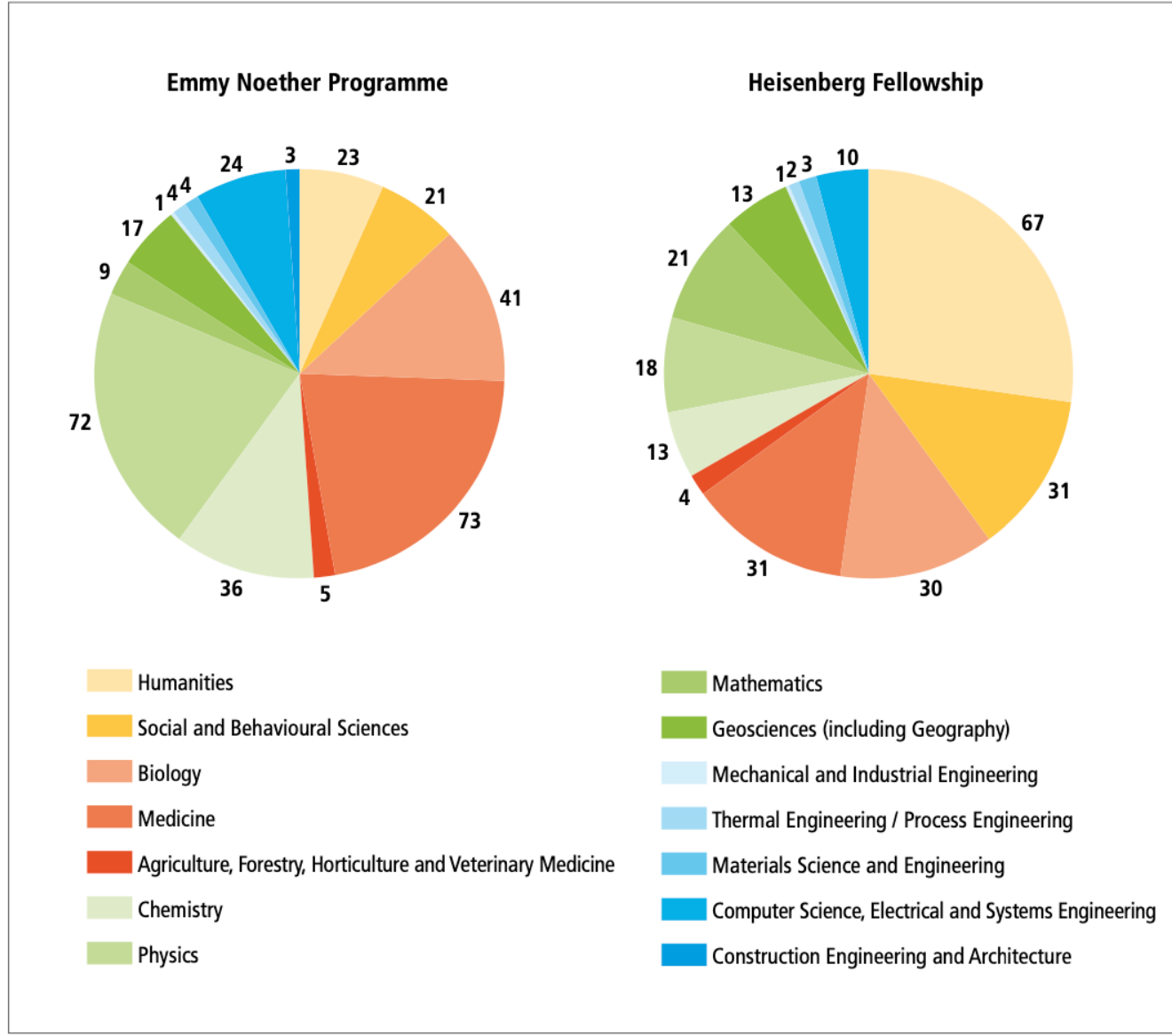
Guidelines

Heisenberg Programme

- Valid for proposals submitted as of 1 January 2018 -

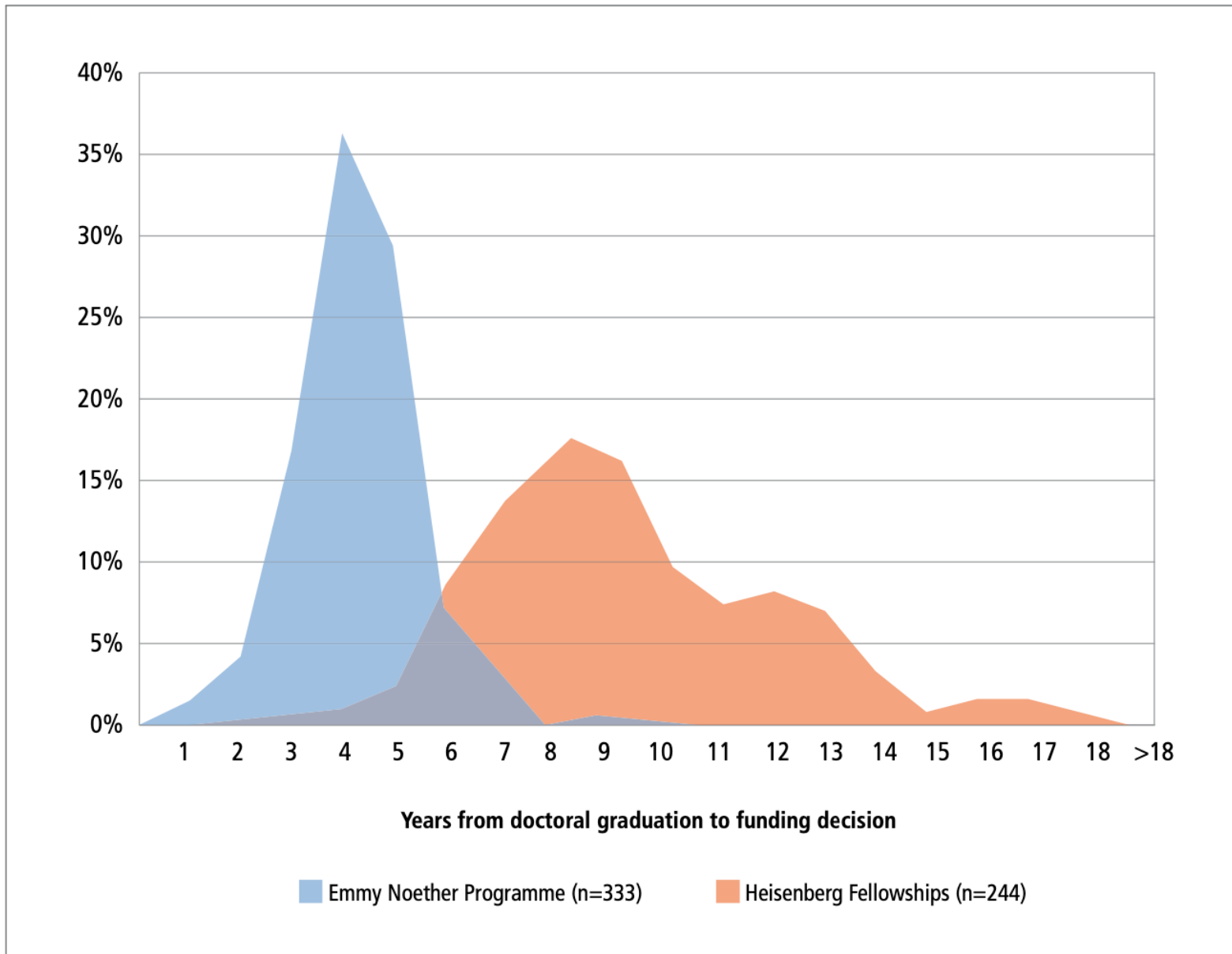
	Number of individuals	Proportion of women	Avg. age at funding decision	Avg. age in 2015	Avg. age at doctoral graduation
Emmy Noether Programme accepted	139	25.9%	33.3	41.3	29.5
Emmy Noether Programme rejected	194	24.2%	33.7	41.6	29.9
Heisenberg Fellowship accepted	108	22.2%	38.3	46.2	29.7
Heisenberg Fellowship rejected	136	34.6%	39.9	47.8	30.6
Total	577				

Description of data set (Cohort 07/08)



Number of new proposals from Cohort 07/08 decided upon by funding format and research area

Time from year of doctoral graduation to year of funding decision by format (in years and proportion of all Cohort 07/08 applicants)



DAAD PRIME PROGRAMME

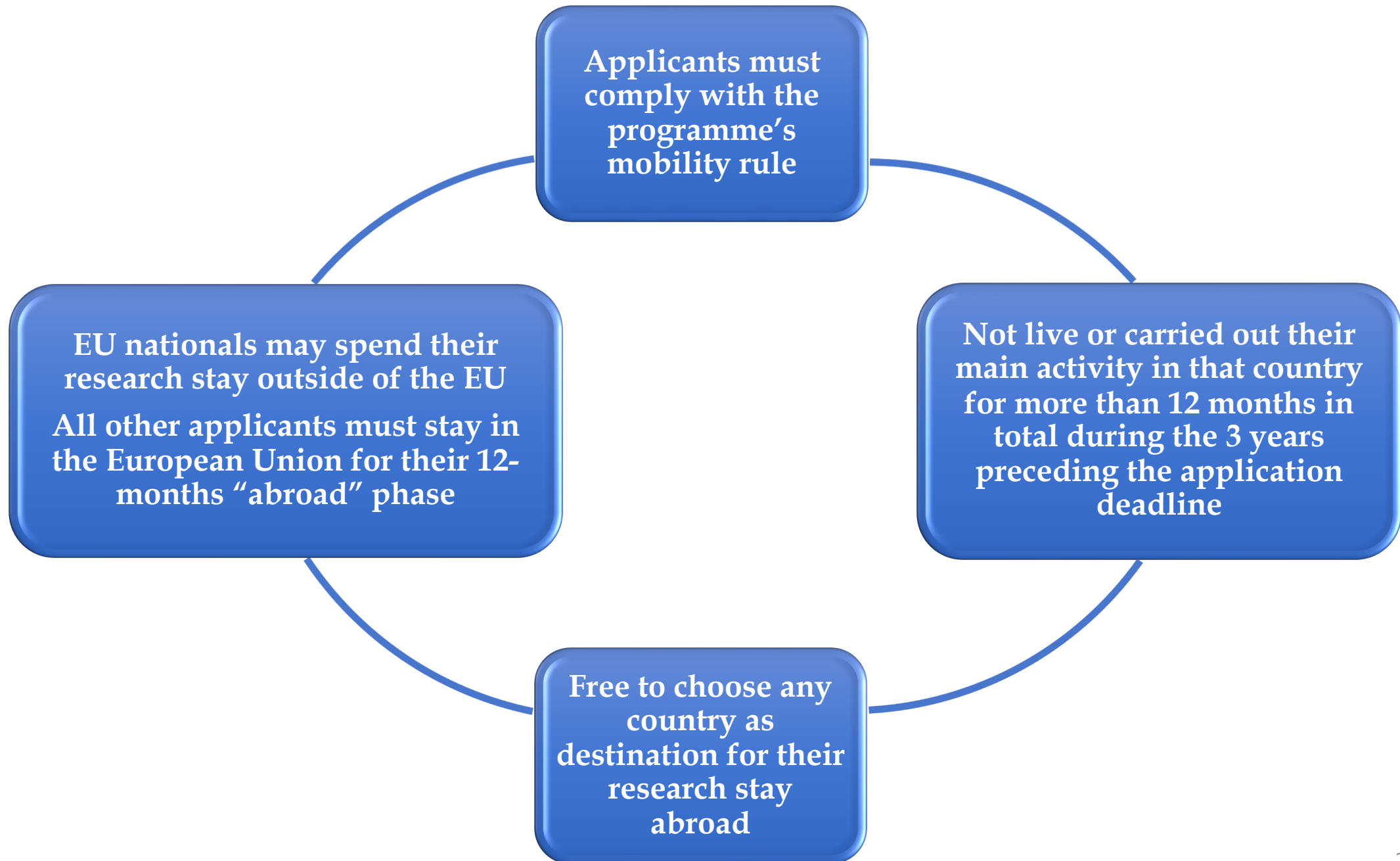
DAAD

Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience



© DAAD/Volker Lannert

- **Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience**
 - Support the international mobility of postdoctoral researchers by temporary positions at German universities
 - Funding is provided for **18 months (12 + 6)**
 - ✓ **12 months** to spent abroad
 - ✓ **6 months** (re-integration phase) at a German university
 - The German university administrates the salary during the whole funding period
 - Salary TV-L E13
 - Travel allowance
 - **No formal age limit**



Application

Current application/selection cycle:

Open for applications: 15 May 2023

Application deadline: 31 August 2023

Selection: February 2024

Earliest starting date: 1 June 2024

Review the following call closely, it will answer most of your questions:

[↓ Call for applications 2023/24 \(German\) \[pdf-file\]](#)

[↓ Call for applications 2023/24 \(English\) \[pdf-file\]](#)

**Follow the proposal instructions given in
Guidelines**

Yearly



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience PRIME 2023/24

Objective

DAAD PRIME funds the international mobility of postdoctoral researchers with temporary positions at German universities. Postdocs who see their long-term career perspectives in Germany receive funding for an independent research stay abroad, based on temporary employment at a German university. The grant also includes a mandatory return phase for reintegration into the German science system.

The programme aims to provide participants with an important qualification for a continued career in science. The target group are postdoctoral researchers who see their long-term professional career in

Germany. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) provides the funds for this programme.

HELMHOLTZ YOUNG INVESTIGATOR GROUP

HELMHOLTZ
RESEARCH FOR GRAND CHALLENGES

Work closely with a university partner :

- Gain valuable experience in teaching
- Build important networks
- Acquire all the qualifications for a successful scientific career

Reliable perspective:

- **After a positive evaluation, heads of junior research groups receive a permanent position at their Helmholtz Center**

More than 250 postdocs have already been supported in this way:

- Most of them were appointed to a university while still leading their group or directly afterwards

HELMHOLTZ YOUNG INVESTIGATOR GROUPS

- **Establish research group at Helmholtz**
 - To start independent scientific career
 - Further establish yourself and achieve high visibility in the scientific community
 - **2 – 6 years after receiving PhD degree**
 - Up to **9 of these junior research groups** are launched each year
 - **Funded for 5 years** ⇔ Evaluation after 4th year
 - In total 1.5 million EUR ⇔ 300 000 EUR/per year

Apply with your research project directly to a Helmholtz Center. Contact is possible all year round

The Helmholtz Center will carry out the pre-selection and set the application deadlines

Once you have been nominated, the Helmholtz Head Office will usually obtain at least two scientific reviews of your proposal

Approximately 18 applicants are invited to the final selection round

They present themselves to an interdisciplinary, international panel chaired by the President of the Helmholtz Association

This panel selects up to 9 Young Investigator Research Groups for funding each year

Helmholtz Center



**Last Call:
20th Call for Applications with Deadline
April 28, 2023**

Home | Research

Helmholtz Calls for Applications

Current calls for proposals for funding programs and scientific prizes coordinated by the Helmholtz Association's Head Office.

HELMHOLTZ

Research for grand challenges.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

As of December 1, 2022 for up to 9

Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups

Funded by the Initiative and Networking Fund (INF) of the President of the Helmholtz Association

20th Call for Applications | Deadline April 28, 2023

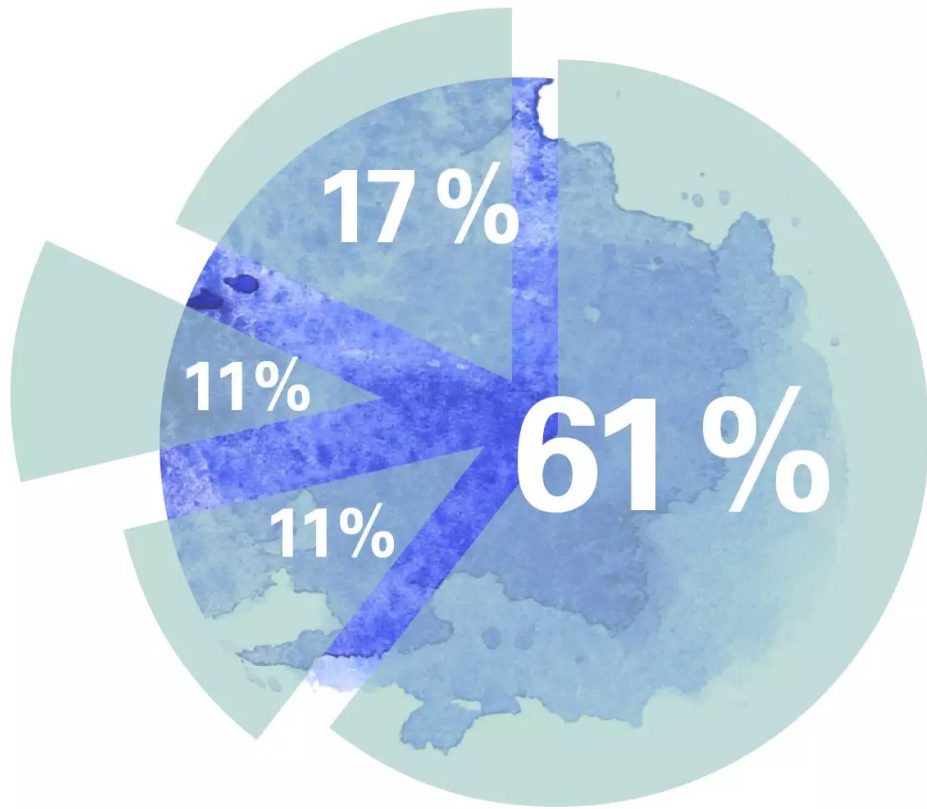
<https://www.helmholtz.de/en/research/current-calls-for-applications/>

MAX PLANCK RESEARCH GROUP



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

MAX PLANCK RESEARCH GROUP



61% of all former Research Group Leaders continued their career in a W2/W3 position in Germany or abroad

11% were appointed as Max Planck Directors

11% remained in scientific positions at a MPI

17% joined other research institutions or went into business and industry

- **Support of early career researchers**
 - Group Leader positions
 - Already after having 1 or 2 postdoc positions
 - **Completed their PhD no more than 7 years ago**
 - Two types of Max Planck Research Groups:
 - ✓ **Institute-specific:** These Max Planck Research Groups are thematically linked to the Institute concerned
 - ✓ **Open-topic Groups**
 - **6 year position with W2 contract**
 - Can be **extended by 3 years** in the event of positive evaluation ⇒ Maximum of **9 years in total (6 + 3)**
 - Call once a year

Max Planck
Research Groups
are not subject to
any thematic
restrictions

Applicants can
indicate up to 3
Max Planck
Institutes at
which they
would like to
work

COOPERATION
WITH THE
TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY OF
MUNICH:

Programme
which is unique
in Germany

1.
If an open-topic
Max Planck
Research Group
Leader
application is
approved,
candidates can
also undertake
an evaluation for
admission to the
TUM's tenure
track procedure

2.
If they perform
outstandingly
well, they can be
promoted to a
permanent
associate
professor
position after 6
years with
further
opportunity for
promotion to full
professorships



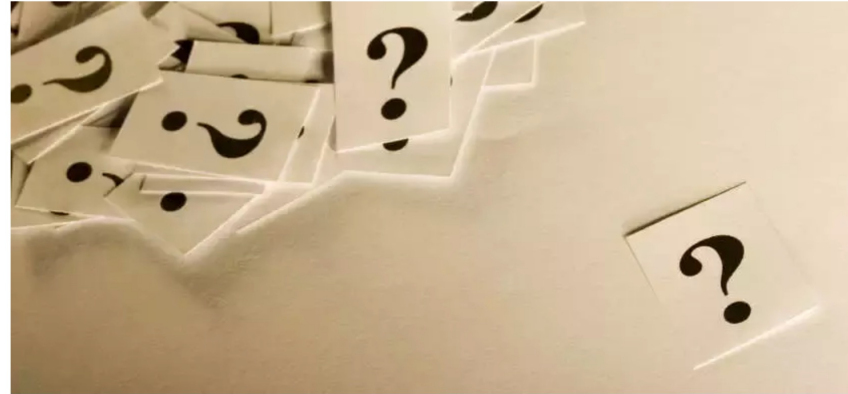
Homepage > Career > Research groups leaders > FAQs: Research Group Leaders

Contact

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FAQs: How to apply for a Max Planck Research Group Leader position?

Support for young researchers

Max Planck Research Groups are established as smaller, independent research units, often supplementing departments at Max Planck Institutes. The groups offer early career researchers who hold a doctorate an exceptional opportunity to further qualify themselves on a very high level. Under the guidance of the leaders, doctoral students and post-docs work together on a specific research topic. The leaders of the research groups are appointed by the President of the Max Planck Society for a five-year term.



https://www.mpg.de/mprg/faqs



Max Planck Institute for Physics

MÜNCHEN, BAYERN

- Astronomy, Astrophysics, Particle Physics, Plasma Physics, Quantum Physics



Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics

HEIDELBERG, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

- Astronomy, Astrophysics, Particle Physics, Plasma Physics, Quantum Physics

ERC STARTING GRANT



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC STARTING GRANT

ERC grant applications can only be submitted in response to a Call for Proposals ⇔ **Yearly**

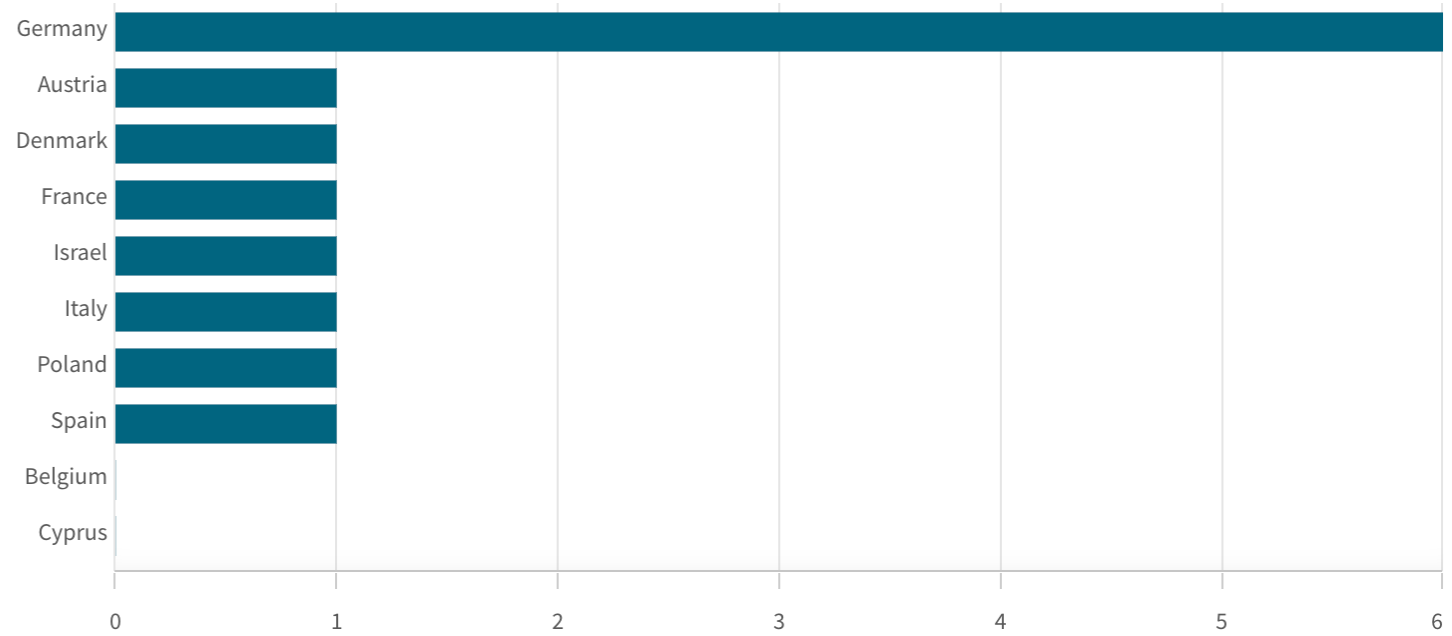
The ERC has yearly calls for proposals covering all scientific fields

Identify the host institution and team members you would like to work with

Contact the [National Contact Point](#) (NCP) in your country for support

- **Work independently and to be a research leader**
 - **Any nationality**
 - **2 - 7 years of experience since completion of PhD**
 - Research must be conducted in a **public or private research organisation** (known as a host institution/HI)
 - It could be the HI where the applicant already works, or any other HI located in one of **the EU [Member States](#) or [Associated Countries](#)**
 - Up to 1.5 million EUR for a **period of 5 years**

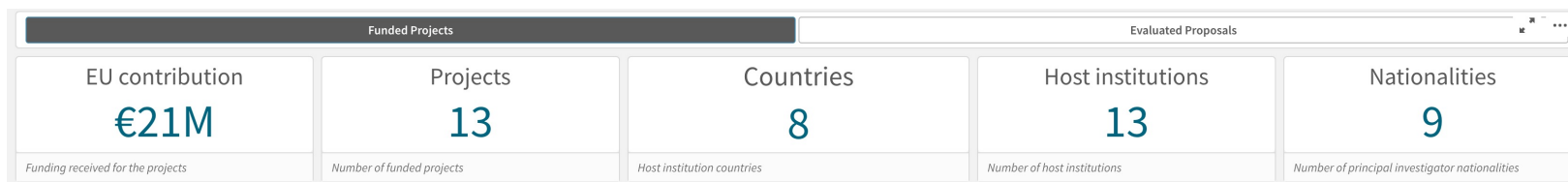
Number of funded projects by country



13 Host Institutions

2022

PE2 PANEL



Ongoing call

Call details: [ERC-2024-StG](#)

Deadline date:

24 Oct 2023, 17h Brussels time

Timeframe Starting Grant 2024

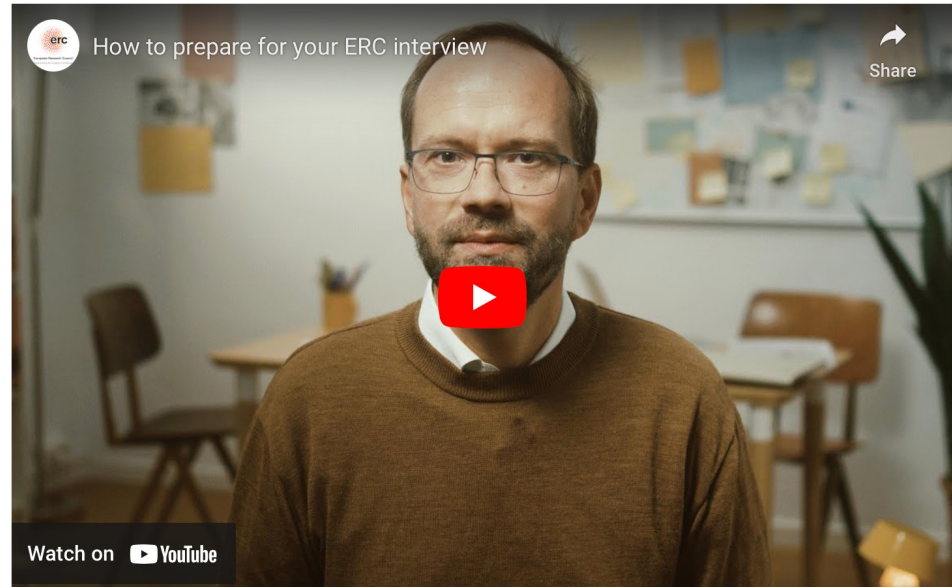
Documents

- [ERC Work Programme 2024](#)
- [Information for Applicants](#)
- [Guide for peer reviewers 2023](#)
- [Horizon Europe Guidance on Gender Equality Plans](#)

Find [more documents](#)

Videos

Step by step to the ERC application and evaluation process - watch the [instructional videos](#)



MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE EUROPEAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research

Should comply with mobility rules:

Must not have resided or carried out main activity in the country where you plan to apply for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline

Living Allowance: 5080 EUR/month gross*

Mobility Allowance: 600 EUR/month

Family Allowance: 660 EUR/month

* *Country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers*

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE EUROPEAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research & mobility

- To carry out research activities abroad
- **Maximum of 8 years experience from PhD**
- Application is submitted together with a host organisation:
 - University, Research institution, Business, Small and medium-sized enterprises, Other organisation
- Based in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country
- **Yearly**

TYPES OF POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

There are 2 types of Postdoctoral Fellowships:

EUROPEAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS:

- Moving within Europe or coming to Europe from another part of the world
- Take place in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country
- Can last between **1 - 2 years**
- Any nationality




GLOBAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS:

- Mobility of researchers outside Europe
- Lasts between **2 - 3 years**:
 - ✓ **1 - 2 years** will be spent in a non-associated Third Country
 - ✓ Mandatory **return phase of 1 year** to EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country
- Researchers from EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries

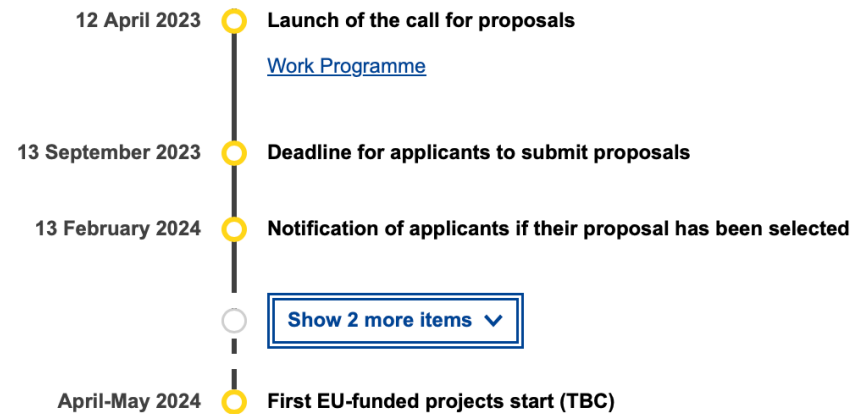
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

The [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) aim to support the creative and innovative potential of postdoctoral researchers wishing to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility. Find out more in this [video](#) EN |

2023 call for proposals

 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023 call	 HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01	 260.47 million Overall indicative budget for the call
<hr/>		
See Funding & tender opportunities portal >		

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01





Horizon Europe Programme

Guide for Applicants

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Version 2.1 - 2023

11/05/2023

EN

Horizon Europe

Work Programme 2023-2024

2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

(European Commission Decision C(2022)7550 of 6 December 2022)

FEODOR LYNEN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG

FEODOR LYNEN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

- **Enables researchers from Germany to conduct research around the world**
 - Host must be
 - ✓ Member of the Humboldt Network abroad
 - ✓ Scientists who have been awarded one of the selected research prizes
 - **PhD less than 4 years ago**
 - **Search tool** to find suitable hosts
 - Academic hosts participate in funding of this fellowship
 - ✓ Their contribution should amount to approximately 1/3 of the fellowship amount
 - This requirement is waived for certain countries (see **list of countries**)



Fellowship varies by target country and life situation

Fellowship calculator

Travel expenses are reimbursed in addition



YOU CAN APPLY IF:

You are a German citizen
working scientifically in
Germany at the time of
application

You are a citizen of a country
other than Germany but are
working scientifically in
Germany at the time of
application

TO SUCCESSFULLY APPLY:

You may not spend more than
6 months in total in the selected
host country within the **18-**
month period prior to
submitting your application

IF YOU HOLD GERMAN CITIZENSHIP BUT YOU ARE CURRENTLY NOT IN GERMANY
YOU CAN APPLY IF

STAYS IN THE
PROSPECTIVE HOST
COUNTRY (CURRENTLY OR
UNTIL RECENTLY):

You have been in the host country for **less than 6 months within the last 18 months prior** to submitting your application

STAYS ABROAD (EXCEPT
IN THE HOST COUNTRY):

You have been living abroad for **less than 5 years** at the time the Humboldt Foundation receives your application

You have spent **more than 5 years abroad**, but have now been living back in Germany **for at least 12 months** at the time the Humboldt Foundation receives your application

- ↓ Programme information for postdocs (PDF, 134 KB)
- ↓ Programme information for experienced researchers (PDF, 148 KB)
- Search for potential hosts in the Humboldt Network (German only)
- Information for academic hosts
- Information for expert reviewers
- Information for independent peer reviewers
- Recently selected fellows



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation

Programme Information

Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships for postdocs

In providing Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships for postdocs, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation enables highly-qualified scientists and scholars from Germany who are just embarking on their academic careers and who **completed their doctorates less than four years ago**¹ to spend extended periods of research (6-24 months) abroad. Scientists and scholars from all disciplines may apply for any country abroad.

All members of the Humboldt Network abroad may act as academic hosts for the Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship Programme. These include:

- Any scientists or scholars who have been sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation,
- Any hosts who have already supervised scientists or scholars who were sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation,
- Any (former) members of a Humboldt Foundation selection committee,
- Any participants in the Frontiers of Research Symposia organised by the Humboldt Foundation.

In addition, scientists or scholars who have been awarded one of the [selected research prizes](#) may act as hosts. The Humboldt Foundation can provide assistance with finding a host.

HOST

PROGRAMME	ORGANIZATION	TENURE TRACK	DURATION (YEARS)	MAX. TIME AFTER PHD (YEARS)
Walter Benjamin Programme	DFG	No	2 (+1)	No formal limit
Emmy Noether Programme	DFG	No	6 (3 + 3)	2 - 4
Heisenberg Program	DFG	Possible	5 (3 + 2)	No formal limit
DAAD PRIME programme	DAAD	No	1.5 (1 + 0.5)	No formal limit
Helmholtz Young Investigator Group	Helmholtz Association	Yes	5	2 - 6
Max Planck Research Group	Max Planck Society	Possible	6 + 3	7
ERC Starting Grant	European Research Council	No	5	2 - 7
Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Postdoctoral Fellowships	European Research Council	No	2 - 3	8
Feodor Lynen Research Fellowships	Alexander von Humboldt Foundation	No	0.5 - 2	4

NOT YET READY FOR THIRD-PARTY FUNDS ?

- Apply for a regular postdoc position
- **INSPIRE:**
 - <https://inspirehep.net/jobs>
- **AcademicJobsOnline:**
 - <https://academicjobsonline.org>
- Carefully prepare the required documents
 - The cover letter is very important
 - Show the documents to your supervisor and ask for advice
 - 2 – 3 letters of reference
 - **Mock interviews can be organised if you have an interview**

REGULAR POSTDOC POSITIONS



The screenshot shows the INSPIRE HEP website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the INSPIRE HEP logo, a search bar containing the word "jobs", and buttons for "Help" and "Submit". Below the navigation bar, there is a section for "Select Job Filters:" with several filter boxes: "hep-ex", "hep-ph", "PostDoc", "Europe", "North America", and "open". A "Subscribe to mailing list" link is also visible. The main content area displays "85 results" and a "Most Recent" sorting option. Four job listings are shown, each with a title, location, filters, deadline, and posting date:

- Postdoctoral Fellow in Physics** (Southern Methodist U. (main) • North America)
Filters: hep-ex, Experiments: CERN-LHC-ATLAS • PostDoc
Deadline on Sep 30, 2023
Posted 2 days ago
- Lederman Fellowship and CMS Postdoc Positions** (Fermilab • North America)
Filters: astro-ph, hep-ex, physics, Experiments: CERN-LHC-CMS • PostDoc
Deadline on Sep 29, 2023
Posted 3 days ago
- Postdoctoral Position in High Energy Nuclear Physics on SpinQuest** (New Mexico State U. • North America)
Filters: hep-ex, nucl-ex, Experiments: FNAL-E-1039 • PostDoc
Deadline on Oct 23, 2023
Posted 3 days ago
- Postdoctoral Researchers in Experimental High Energy Physics** (U. Kansas, Lawrence • North America)
Filters: hep-ex, Experiments: CERN-LHC-CMS • PostDoc
Deadline on Aug 28, 2023
Posted 4 days ago

EXPERIMENT:

- Apply at any time during the year and get a position relatively quickly ⇒ **Within 1 – 2 months after the deadline**

THEORY:

- Apply in **October/November 2023** for positions starting from **1st October 2024**
- Common Deadline for Postdoc Offers
- No postdoctoral offer for the autumn of a given year with an acceptance date earlier than 7 January of that year !**
- Call for New Theory Postdoc Accord:** Shift the High Energy Theory postdoc acceptance deadline from **January 7th to February 15th**

FELLOWSHIPS

DESY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- Created in 1995 to enable junior scientists to participate in research in experimental particle physics, theoretical particle physics and photon science
- DESY fellowships are awarded for a duration of **2 years with the possibility of a prolongation by 1 additional year**
- Experimental particle physics
 - Awarded twice a year
 - Deadline: **31 March or 30 September each year**
- Theoretical particle physics
 - Awarded once a year
 - Deadline: **1st of December each year**



FELLOWSHIPS

CERN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- The Research Fellowship Programme is aimed at PhD holders in the field of theoretical and experimental physics
- **Up to 6 years' experience after obtaining PhD degree**
- **24 months**, with a possible extension up to **36 months**
- **Deadline: 3 September 2023** (at midnight) CET time
- [Research Fellowship: Theoretical Physics](#)
- [Research Fellowship: Experimental Physics](#)
- [Research Fellowship: Applied Physics and Engineering](#)



Good Luck!