

Academic career in Germany and Europe

Reinhard Beck, University Bonn

- Academic career, my way
- Academic career in Germany and Europe

How to stay in Research after PhD : My own way

My way :

Fall 1978 – Summer 1985: Study of Physics at the University Mainz

Summer 1985 – Summer 1989: PhD at the University Mainz

Fall 1989 – Spring 1991: Postdoc at MIT

Summer 1991 – Summer 1999 Research Assistant at the University Mainz

1999 Habilitation at the Physics faculty University Mainz

Since Fall 2004 – full Professor at the University Bonn

How to stay in Research after PhD : Important Points

1982 the Mainz electron accelerator (MAMI: Mainz Microtron) first beam, 100% duty cycle electron machine

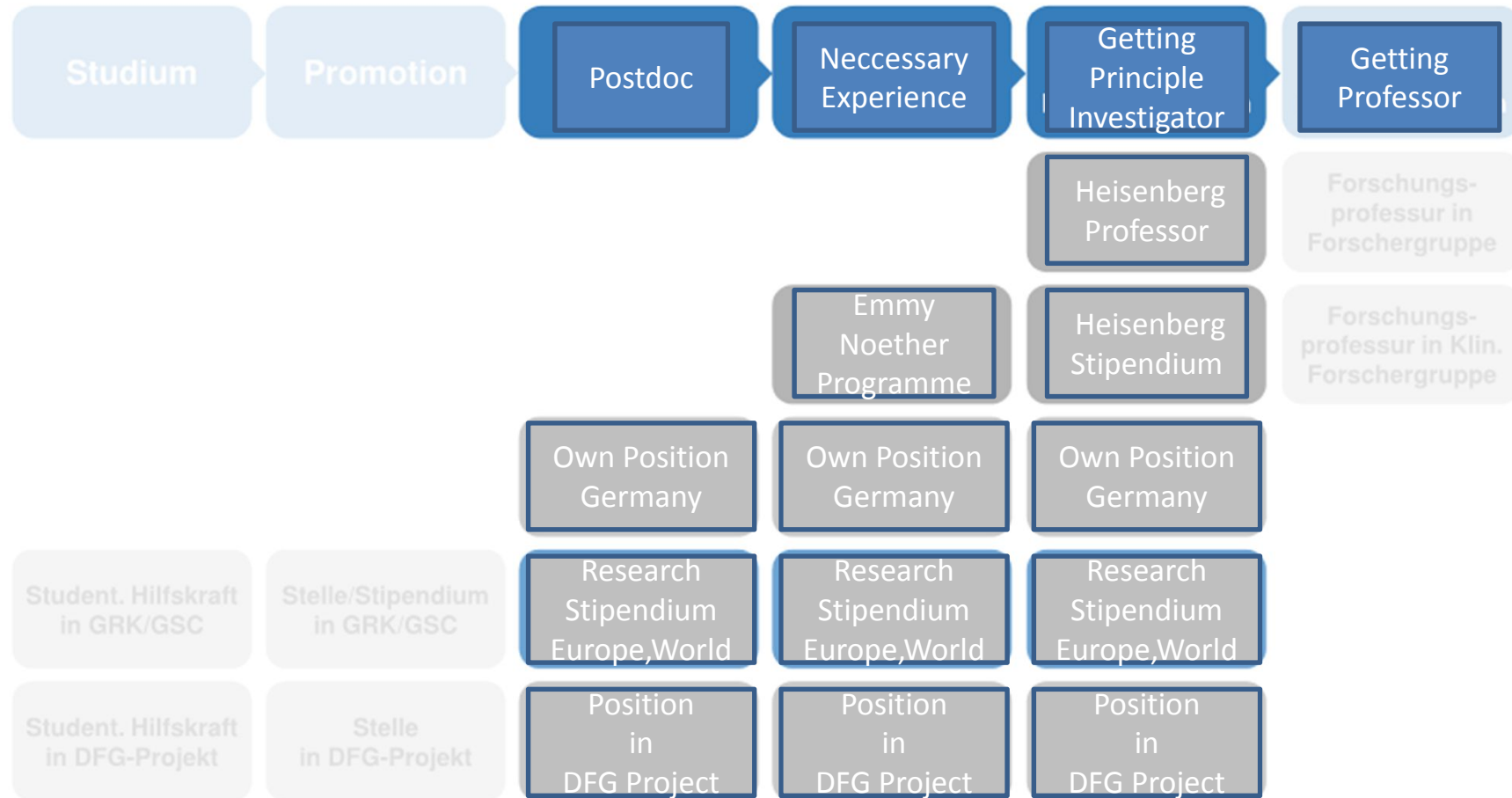
- Excellent new experimental environment
- Excellent funding from the German Research Foundation
- Excellent place to grow up as a student
- Diploma- and PhD-student

Fall 1989 – Spring 1991: Postdoc at MIT

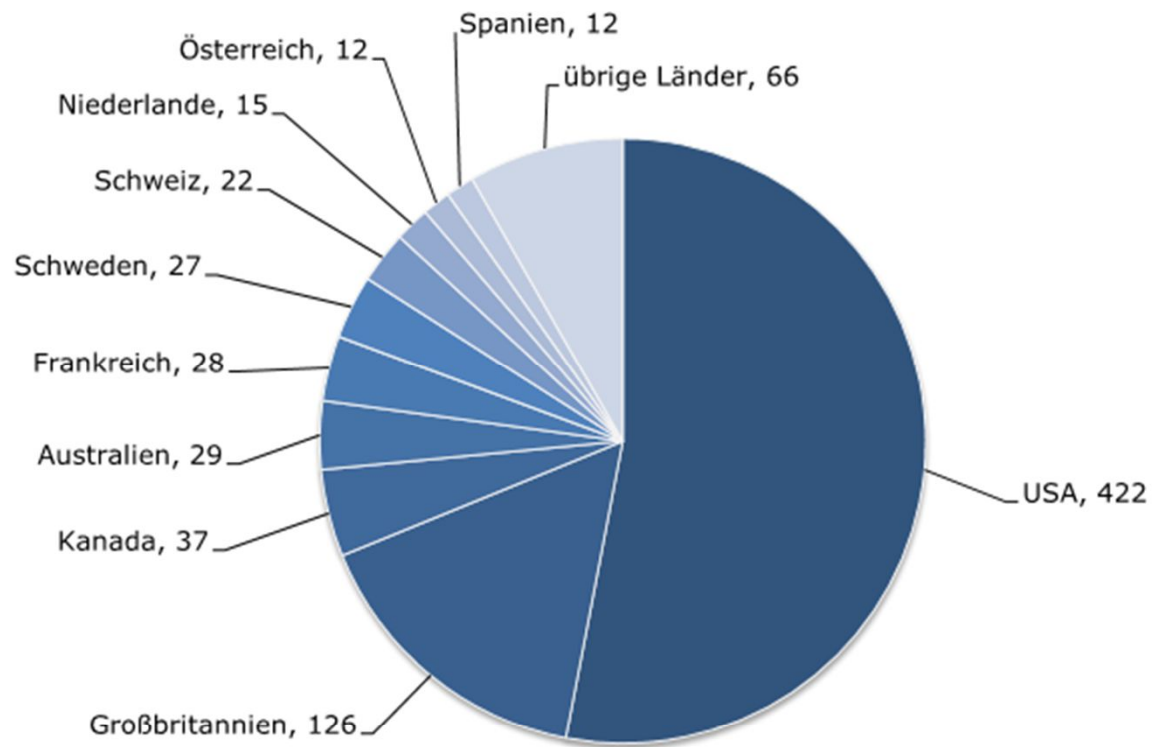
- Which direction after the postdoc time here at MIT ?
- How to start own research career ?
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University Bonn, University Mainz

- MAMI B upgrade to 850 MeV
- Habilitation in 1999

DFG German Research Foundation: Possible funding for an academic career



DFG German Research Foundation Research scholarship



About Us



The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) funds top-level research in all areas of science and the humanities. We support individuals and projects that have been judged outstanding in a competitive peer-review process. We foster international scientific cooperation and are committed to promoting research careers.

The DFG is science-driven: researchers choose the topics of their research projects, and peer reviewers issue funding recommendations based on the quality of these projects. Funding decisions are made by committees made up of researchers and government representatives. Germany's federal and state governments finance the majority of the DFG's budget.

► **Researchers who have completed their doctorate and either live and work in Germany or would like to live and work here in the future can submit proposals to the DFG.**

Contact

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

German Research Foundation
Kennedyallee 40 - 53175 Bonn
Phone: + 49 228 885-1
Fax: + 49 228 885-27 77
info-nachwuchs@dfg.de
www.dfg.de

DFG Links

DFG funding programmes for research careers:
www.dfg.de/research_careers

Information on DFG-funded projects:
www.dfg.de/en/funded_projects

Photos: D. Auserthaler/DFG, E. Lichtenscheidt/DFG, U. Grabowsky/photocinet.net, Privatarchiv Prof. P. Roquette, AFP Emilio Szejda/Visual/Agust, 2019



English

DFG Programm Staff

For contact information please visit the DFG website.

Research careers – scientific queries:

Department II: Scientific Affairs

Research careers – procedural questions:

Quality and Programme Management

Research careers – strategy:

Research Careers Division

Design: Michaela Dreier/DFG

Supporting Academic Careers

DFG Programmes for Postdoctoral Researchers

Focus on Academic Careers

Creative and intelligent minds are the key to flourishing science and research. That is why the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) puts a special focus on promoting talented early-career researchers. We are committed to helping talents pursue their cutting-edge ideas in top-level settings and become independent early in their careers.



Flexible funding for individuals or for projects and tailored excellence programmes give early-career researchers the opportunity to advance their academic careers.

Starting Your Research Career

Walter Benjamin Programme

In the early postdoctoral phase, the Walter Benjamin Programme supports you in developing your research career with your own independent research project. Mobility is particularly important in this career phase, so as a rule you move on to another research environment. You have the freedom to select the place where you would like to work. In Germany, the DFG supports you with a position, and abroad with a fellowship. There is also the option of combining stays abroad and in Germany.

Project-based Postdoctoral Qualification

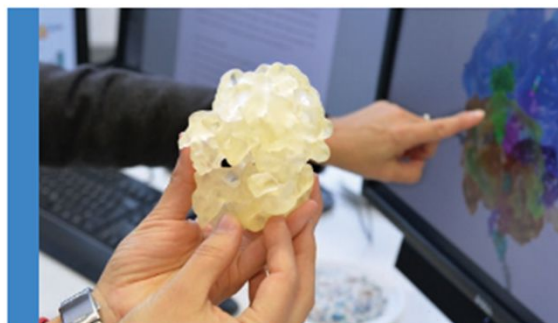
Working in a DFG-funded Project or Group

After your doctorate, you can join a project or group funded by the DFG to work on a postdoctoral position. The options include individual grant projects and large groups such as Research Units and Collaborative Research Centres.

As a postdoc in a Research Training Group, you can also contribute to the research and qualification programme and gain experience in supervising doctoral researchers. You will be embedded in a quality-checked environment: all DFG-funded projects and groups have been successful in a competitive review process. Working in such a setting gives you the chance to train for your career and expand your professional network. You can find out which specific projects and groups the DFG funds in the GEPRIS database.

Leading Your Individual Project

If you have an innovative idea for a research project with a clearly defined topic and duration, the DFG's Individual Research Grant programme gives you the opportunity to realise this project in Germany. As required, you can include a temporary position for yourself as the project's principal investigator.



Excellence Programmes



Emmy Noether Programme

This programme is aimed at outstanding researchers with two to four years of postdoctoral research experience (or up to six years for licensed medical doctors). It allows you to head your own independent junior research group for six years. It offers you a fast-track opportunity to qualify for a leading position in research.

Heisenberg Programme

If you already meet all the requirements for appointment to a professorship, the Heisenberg Programme may be an option for you. As you prepare for a leading academic position, the DFG provides you with funding for up to five years to work on an advanced research topic. The programme offers four different types of funding you can choose once you are accepted to the programme: a fellowship, a position, a rotation position or a professorship.

Walter Benjamin Programm

2 year scholarship after the PhD to start your academic career

An Exceptional Visionary

Philosopher and literary scholar **Walter Benjamin** (1892–1940) is one of the most renowned representatives of his disciplines in the 20th century. Despite a doctorate assessed as *summa cum laude* in 1919, he did not pursue a typical career path in academia. He withdrew his habilitation thesis as others judged the work as too unorthodox for the academic domain.



Today, Walter Benjamin is highly regarded for his visionary oeuvre including "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction", "On the Concept of History" and his work on Charles Baudelaire. During National Socialism in Germany, he fled from the Nazis and committed suicide in exile in 1940. The DFG programme bears the name of an open-minded, gifted intellectual with many interests who is famous for pushing boundaries.

Contact

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Photos: Günther Heinemann, Ronny Richter, Lucid Stelleyhd, August 2019

Design: Michaela Dreier/DFG

DFG Links

Additional information on the programme and the proposal process can be found on the DFG website at: www.dfg.de/walter_benjamin/en

To find your DFG programme contact, please visit: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office/structure/dfg_contacts

English



Walter Benjamin Programme

Starting Your Research Career

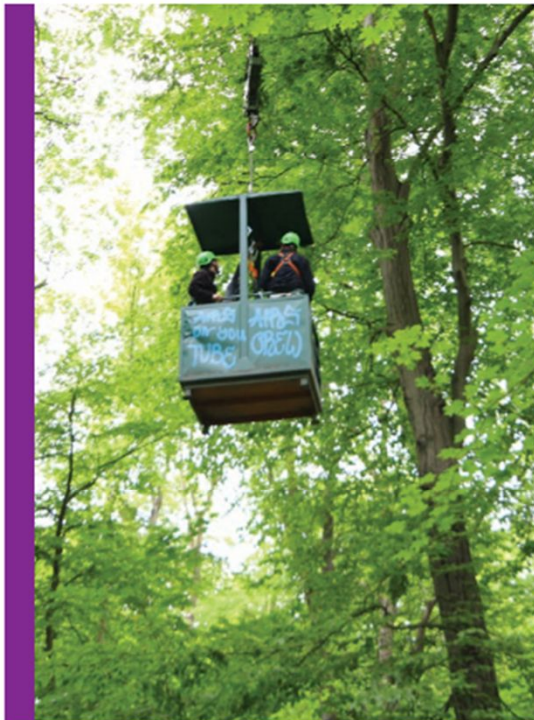
DFG German Research Foundation : Walter Benjamin Programme

The Future Before Your Eyes

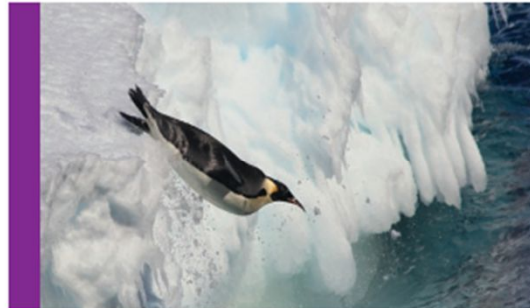
You have completed your doctorate and you would like to continue your career in research?

Right now, it is important that you have clear-cut plans and ideas for the next stages of your academic career. Mobility and the further development of your research are key elements for that endeavour.

If you are aiming at an academic career, the DFG's Walter Benjamin Programme offers you excellent opportunities to develop an independent research profile with your own project at an early stage.



Mobility, Independence and Career Support



The funding provided by the Walter Benjamin Programme allows you to pursue your own independent research project at the location of your choice.

You can decide whether you choose a research institution in Germany or abroad. There is also the option to combine stays at different places. It is important that you select a host institution with the best setting for your research idea. As mobility is particularly important in the early post-doctoral phase, you should move on to another academic environment.

If your proposal for the Walter Benjamin Programme is successful, you can focus on your research topic and, where required, take advantage of support to prepare you for the next stages of your academic career.

Proposal Process and Funding

There is no formal age limit for submitting proposals, yet only postdoctoral researchers at an early career phase are eligible to apply to this programme. Periods of family responsibilities are taken into account.

In the Walter Benjamin Programme, funding is provided as a position in Germany and as a fellowship abroad to cover maintenance. You will also receive a project costs allowance. Your host institute needs to provide you with working space and any additionally required project costs.

In Germany, you also need a statement from a researcher from your future host institution outlining the way he or she will individually support you in your career advancement and integrate you into local academic networks.

The review process for your proposal will focus on your previous research profile and your potential for an academic career, as well as your research project.



Ziele des Emmy Noether-Programms

- ▶ Weg zu **früher wissenschaftlicher Selbständigkeit**
- ▶ **Erlangung der Berufbarkeit** durch die **Leitung** einer eigenen **Nachwuchsgruppe**



Formale Voraussetzungen für die Bewerbung

- ▶ **mind. 2 bis max. 4 Jahre** (Medizin: bis 6 Jahre) Forschungserfahrung nach der Promotion (+ 2 Jahre pro Kind)
- ▶ Substanzielle **internationale** Forschungserfahrung



- ▶ Für hervorragend qualifizierte **Postdocs**
- ▶ Im **Inland** → aufnehmende Institution wird Arbeitgeberin
- ▶ i.d.R. für 5 Jahre
- ▶ **Stelle** (E15) + Projektmittel
- ▶ **Antrag an die DFG**

DFG German Research Foundation : Emmy Noether Programm

A Worthy Namesake

Emmy Noether (1882–1935) was a renowned mathematician from the 20th century. Although the theorem named after her is part of the basis for mathematical physics and she was one of the first female German mathematicians to qualify as a professor, she never received a full professorship in Germany. Today, the DFG's Emmy Noether Programme provides outstanding scientists and early career researchers with an alternative path to professorship.



- 1907** Doctorate
- 1919** Habilitation – with exception
- 1922** Appointment as Professor without Chair – without remuneration
- 1928/29** Visiting professor in Moscow
- 1932** Ackermann-Teubner Memorial Award in arithmetic and algebra
- 1933** Emigration to the USA due to her Jewish heritage; taught at Bryn Mawr women's college and at Princeton

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DFG Links

Additional information on the programme, the proposal process and contact details can be found on the DFG website at www.dfg.de/emmy_noether/en

English



Emmy Noether Programme

Your Accelerated Path
to Professorship

DFG

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Photos: David Aussehofer/DFG, October 2018

Design: Michaela Dreier/DFG

Your Accelerated Path to Professorship

Do you have innovative research ideas and an outstanding scientific track record? Do you want to research independently and lead your own working group? Are you interested in a career in academic research?

The Emmy Noether Programme offers excellent researchers the opportunity to qualify for a professorship by heading an independent junior research group.



Requirement: Early Outstanding Qualification



The requirements to receive funding are high in the Emmy Noether Programme. As a promising candidate, you have demonstrated early on in your scientific career that you are in a position to accomplish significant achievements and to undertake leadership tasks. At the time of your application, you are already an internationally recognised up-and-coming expert in your field based either in Germany or abroad.

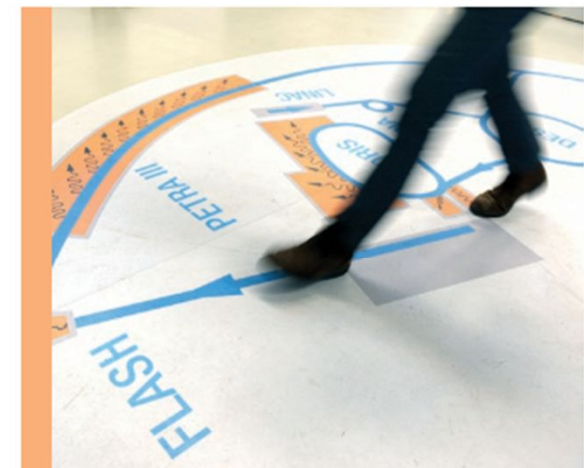
As a rule, you can apply up to four years after having obtained your doctorate; for licensed applicants from the fields of medicine and psychology, a maximum of six years applies. Parental leave will be taken into account. Academic excellence, as evidenced by your doctoral degree, quality publications and any other relevant achievements, is a further stepping stone to success. It is also expected that you have substantial international research experience.

Proposal Process and Funding

In your proposal, which you can submit at any time, you describe the research project that you would like to implement together with your independent junior research group. High standards are placed on your research project – its excellence must be demonstrated in accordance with the criteria applicable to your field.

The grant period is six years. Funding includes the position for you as the head of your independent junior research group and the funds for personnel, material and other resources for implementing the project. You can also apply for an earmarked family allowance to help with childcare or caring for family members when you need to attend conferences or travel for other research purposes.

Researchers working in clinical practice can apply for a temporary substitute position instead of a position as independent junior research group leader to enable them to devote part of their working hours to research.



DFG German Research Foundation : Heisenberg Programme

- ▶ Für **berufbare** Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler
- ▶ Im **Inland** und **Ausland**
- ▶ Für max. 5 Jahre
- ▶ **Stipendium** (4450 €)
 - + Sachkostenzuschuss
 - + ggf. Kinderbetreuungszuschlag
 - kombinierbar mit einem Projektantrag (Sachbeihilfe)
- ▶ **Antrag an die DFG**



- ▶ Für **berufbare** Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler
- ▶ Im **Inland** → aufnehmende Universität muss neue Dauerprofessur einrichten
- ▶ DFG-gefördert für max. 5 Jahre
- ▶ W2- oder W3-Professur
- ▶ **Antrag an die DFG**

A Noble Name

The Heisenberg Programme is named after Werner Heisenberg (1901 – 1976), who revolutionised physics by developing the uncertainty principle.



- 1927** Professor of theoretical physics in Leipzig
- 1933** Nobel Prize for the quantum mechanics of solids
- 1942** Director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics in Berlin-Dahlem
- 1946** Founding director of the Max Planck Institute for Physics in Göttingen (until 1958), then head of the Max Planck Institute for Physics in Munich (until 1970)
- 1953** First president of the reinstated Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Contact

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Photos: Eric Lichtenscheidt/DFG, David Auschler/DFG, October 2018



DFG Links

Additional information on the programme, the proposal process and contact details can be found on the DFG website at www.dfg.de/heisenberg/en

Design: Michaela Dreier/DFG

Heisenberg Programme

On the Final Stretch
to Professorship

DFG German Research Foundation : Heisenberg Programme

On the Final Stretch to Professorship

The Heisenberg Programme gives outstanding researchers who meet the requirements for professorship but have not yet been appointed to one the opportunity to pursue an advanced research topic, thus enhancing their scientific credentials.



Individuals accepted to the programme can choose between four grant types:

The Heisenberg fellowship offers a high degree of academic independence. You select a research environment that best suits your needs and research requirements, whether in Germany or abroad.

The Heisenberg position enables you to choose a location at a university in Germany and also allows short- or medium-term research visits abroad.

The Heisenberg professorship offers an alternative path to tenured professorship. The administration of a university in Germany must commit to continue financing the professorship after the DFG funding period has expired.

The Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians enables researchers working in clinical practice to devote part of their time to research.

The Requirements

The Heisenberg Programme is aimed at researchers from any subject area who are qualified for appointment. You may have attained this qualification in many ways: by leading an independent junior research group, via a junior professorship, via a habilitation or comparable accomplishments, or through equivalent career levels abroad. You may also apply if you are employed abroad but have the appropriate qualifications and would like to continue your career in Germany in the long-term future.

In terms of scientific requirements, no distinction is made between the different Heisenberg grant types. The research you propose to undertake should be high quality, innovative and internationally competitive.



Proposal Process and Funding

A Heisenberg proposal can be combined with a proposal for a research grant in Germany. Proposals can be submitted at any time. Funding in the Heisenberg Programme is offered for a maximum of five years, or less if you are appointed as a professor before this time.



Fellowship:

Funding includes a fellowship in the amount of €4,450 per month, a general allowance for direct project costs, plus additional allowances and foreign allowances where applicable.

Position:

Funding is normally awarded for a position in accordance with the public service sector wage agreement (TVöD or TV-L) in the E 15 compensation group. Flexible research funding of €1,000 per month is also provided.

Professorship:

Your salary will be in line with the normal pay level for professors in Germany. Flexible research funding of €1,000/month is also provided.

Temporary substitute position for clinicians:

This grant type provides funding for a substitute to perform your role and flexible research funding of €1,000 per month.

It is also possible to switch grant types during the course of the funding period.

DFG Info Talk 5.7.2022:

DFG Funding Opportunities for Postdocs



The DFG's mission: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/mission

DFG statistics: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics

Funding rates: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/facts_figures/statistics/processing_times_success_rates/

Overview of funding options for postdocs:

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers/completion_of_doctorates

Overview of all DFG funding programmes: www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/

DFG "Principles of Effective Career Support in Academia":

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers/career_support/

GEPRIS database of all DFG funded projects: gepris.dfg.de/gepris/OCTOPUS?language=en

Info about the individual research grants programme:

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/research_grants

Info about the Walter Benjamin Programme:

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/walter_benjamin/

Walter Benjamin Programme FAQs:

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/walter_benjamin/faq_walter_benjamin/

Unsure about your formal eligibility for a certain programme? You can send your CV to verfahren-nachwuchs@dfg.de

Info about the Emmy Noether Programme:

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/emmy_noether

Emmy Noether Programme FAQs:

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/emmy_noether/faq_emmy_noether

Info about the Heisenberg Programme:

www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/heisenberg

Heisenberg Programme FAQs: www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/faq/faq_heisenberg

For general questions on programmes for research careers: info-researchcareers@dfg.de

Your contacts at the DFG head office: www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

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The logo for the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), consisting of the letters "DFG" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Our How-To Guide for first-time DFG applicants with a lot of pieces of advice: www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/individual_grants_programmes

Video on the DFG's review process: www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUIIfyUOOCM

Review Boards and their elected members:
www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/statutory_bodies/review_boards/list

Measures to promote equal opportunity:
https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/principles_dfg_funding/equal_opportunities/index.html

Upcoming talks in the Prospect series:
www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers/info_talks

Academic career in Europe

<https://youtu.be/xbFzkVWgCU>

Fördermöglichkeiten der DFG

Mitarbeit in einem DFG-Forschungsprojekt

Mehrere Tausend Stellen für Postdocs in DFG-Projekten:

DFG-Einzelprojektförderung

Projekte in der Sachbeihilfe für einzelne, thematisch und zeitlich begrenzte Forschungsvorhaben

DFG-Forschergruppen

Enge Arbeitsbündnisse mehrerer herausragender Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler, die gemeinsam eine Forschungsaufgabe bearbeiten

DFG-Schwerpunktprogramme

Überregionale Verbünde zur Bearbeitung eines innovativen Forschungsgebiets

DFG-Sonderforschungsbereiche

Interdisziplinäre Forschungseinrichtungen zur Profilbildung von Hochschulen

DFG-Graduiertenkollegs

Thematisch fokussierte, strukturbildende Einrichtungen von Hochschulen zur Förderung des wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses