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 reinstituted Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

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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/heisenberg/en

Heisenberg Programme

On the Final Stretch to Professorship

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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.