

Guidelines

Heisenberg Programme



Disclaimer: The English translation of this document is provided for informational purposes. In the event of a discrepancy between the English and the German versions, the German text takes precedence.

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

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I Programme Information

1 Objective

Outstanding researchers who meet all the requirements for appointment to a long-term professorship are to be given the opportunity to continue preparing for an academic leadership position and work on advanced research topics.

When you are accepted into the Heisenberg Programme, you can choose from four different types of funding or combine them as needed, provided the relevant requirements are met: Heisenberg position (II 2.1), Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians (II 2.2), Heisenberg professorship (II. 2.3) and Heisenberg fellowship (II. 2.4).

2 Proposals

2.1 Eligibility

The Heisenberg Programme is directed primarily at those researchers who have qualified for professorship via the Emmy Noether Programme (or comparable group leader positions), DFG staff positions, private-sector research or mid-level faculty positions. The target group also includes junior professors who have had a positive interim evaluation, persons who hold a post-doctoral lecturing qualification (*Habilitation*), persons who can provide evidence of an equivalent to a post-doctoral lecturing qualification, and returnees from abroad or foreign researchers who wish to work in Germany, are suitably qualified, and are not yet employed as a full professor at their current institution.

Tenure-track professors in Germany and individuals holding a permanent position comparable with W2/W3 salary grades are not eligible to apply. Other permanent employment contracts (e.g. position as an academic counsellor) are not excluded from funding eligibility. If this applies, please enclose with your proposal a confirmation from your employer that your position will be paused in order to take up the Heisenberg funding.

2.2 Format and deadline

Proposals may be submitted to the DFG at any time. Submissions must follow the applicable instructions (DFG form 54.02).

www.dfg.de/formulare/54_02

3 Duration

The funding duration is generally five years.

Funding is initially awarded for a three-year period and may be offered for another two years. An evaluation is carried out at the end of the third year on the basis of an interim report, which should be submitted to the DFG after approximately 30 to 32 months of funding.

If the evaluation is successful, all of the remaining funding can be claimed.

II Heisenberg Grants

1 General provisions

Within the scope of the Heisenberg Programme you initially request a Heisenberg grant. If accepted into the Heisenberg Programme, you can select from the funding types described below to achieve the programme objective.

At the time of proposal submission, no binding statements (e. g. confirmation of the provision of core support, work facilities, organisational integration and professional legal status, creation of a professorial position for you, see below) are required from the admitting institution. However, at an early stage before submitting the proposal please clarify with the admitting institution the option of temporary employment for the desired funding period and other relevant conditions.

Upon acceptance into the Heisenberg Programme you can immediately, or at the latest within six months, choose the type of funding you would like and submit the relevant necessary statements. Work may commence two months later on the first of the month (e.g. if you submit your documents in January, it would be on 1 March). Note, however, that work must commence within one year of acceptance into the Heisenberg Programme (to the first of a month).

Please note the information on the individual funding types for options on changing the funding type at a later date.

As an exception, Heisenberg grantees may reduce their Heisenberg grants by up to 50% while extending the term accordingly if this is necessary for family reasons (provision of care for children or relatives in need of assistance) or for personal reasons (disability or chronic illness). The DFG must be notified in advance that the position is to be taken up on a part-time basis. The duration of the funding will then be extended accordingly. The host institution must agree to the extended duration of the position as a result of it being part-time. The employment contract is to be adapted as necessary.

2 Provisions on the individual funding types

2.1 Heisenberg position

With the Heisenberg position, funding is provided for your post and flexible research.

With the Heisenberg position, which is integrated into the host institution, you can conduct research at an academic institution in Germany or a German academic institution in another country. Other international stays to pursue the objectives of the Heisenberg Programme are generally only possible for up to a third of the total funding duration.

For a Heisenberg position, funds from the “Head of independent junior research group/Heisenberg grant” staff funding category are approved. Please refer to the “DFG Personnel Rates” (DFG form 60.12) for details.

www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12

When selecting the Heisenberg position, you must enclose an employer’s declaration. The employer’s declaration should be provided in the form of the model contract (DFG form 41.04), if the academic institution is willing to do this.

www.dfg.de/formulare/41_04

It is possible to switch from the Heisenberg position to the Heisenberg temporary substitute position or Heisenberg professorship if the specific requirements for the new funding type are met. It is not possible to switch to the Heisenberg fellowship.

2.2 Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians

With the Heisenberg temporary substitute position, funding is provided for a replacement to cover your normal duties and for flexible research.

Clinician scientists may apply for a temporary substitute position instead of a Heisenberg position. This option is designed to enable them to retain their clinical position and make their clinical expertise available for the purposes of research in the Heisenberg Programme on either a full-time or a part-time basis (at least 49 % of a full-time position). The funding requested for the temporary substitute position is used to fund staff who take over the patient-care responsibilities for the Heisenberg position holder.

Physicians in human, dental and veterinary medicine and licensed psychologists may apply for temporary substitute positions.

For a Heisenberg temporary substitute position, funds from the "Medical research assistant" staff funding category are approved. Please refer to the "DFG Personnel Rates" (DFG form 60.12) for details.

www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12

If you choose the option of a Heisenberg temporary substitute position, you must enclose an informal letter from your current institution confirming the existing employment relationship and release from patient care. In addition, the academic institution must confirm the specific core support required for your project.

It is possible to switch from the Heisenberg temporary substitute position to a Heisenberg position or a Heisenberg professorship if the specific requirements for the new funding type are met. It is not possible to switch to the Heisenberg fellowship. International stays can be implemented within the scope of the Heisenberg position (see II 2.1).

2.3 Heisenberg professorship

With the Heisenberg professorship, funding is provided for a temporary professorship (W2 or W3) at a German university as well as flexible research.

The Heisenberg professorship enables academics to establish themselves as professors at a German university.

Funds from the "Professorship" staff funding category are provided for a Heisenberg professorship. Please refer to the "DFG Personnel Rates" (DFG form 60.12) for details.

www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12

The university must give a binding statement that after the DFG funding period ends it will transfer the Heisenberg professorship permanently to its own budget if the interim evaluation by the DFG and an evaluation by the university conducted at the same time lead to a positive result.

In cases of illness or birth, financial assistance may be applied for in accordance with the guidelines for allowances payable to public employees in such cases (federal regulations).

Heisenberg professors are entitled to a pension allowance of up to 30% of their pensionable salaries.

If you choose the Heisenberg professorship option, you must enclose proof of appointment (e.g. a declaration issued by the employing institution or a certificate of appointment). A declaration regarding the continuation of the professorship is also required. In addition, you will need a declaration issued by the institution regarding the core support specific to your project. If the certificate of appointment is not yet available at the time the option is selected, it must be submitted to the DFG as soon as it is available.

It is not possible to switch from the Heisenberg professorship to the Heisenberg fellowship.

2.4 Heisenberg fellowship

With the Heisenberg fellowship, research can be conducted at an academic institution in Germany or another country. The rights and duties at the selected institution must be negotiated and agreed individually but must not give the appearance of an employment relationship.

International stays in other countries are possible. The rights and duties must be agreed individually with the host institution.

The fellowship is €4,450 per month.

As part of the fellowship, an allowance for direct project costs totalling €250 is provided to finance items such as books, consumables and conference attendance in other countries. This allowance can be used to cover the costs of publishing the research findings

made within the fellowship in freely selected publication forms (but not in “grey literature”).

On request fellows can be granted a childcare allowance for children up to the age of 12, whereby the benefits provided under the German Child Raising Benefit Act (Erziehungsgeldgesetz) are offset. If a partial fellowship is received, the childcare allowance is reduced accordingly, unless one of the children requiring care is under three years of age and is cared for solely by the fellow.

The childcare allowance per month is

- for one child: €154,
- for two children: €205,
- for three or more children: €256.

Premiums for statutory or private health insurance will be subsidised in accordance with Section 257 of Volume V of the German Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch).

Researchers may apply for travel expense allowances (in the form of a lump sum) and foreign allowances in conjunction with an international research stay. For stays of over two years, a moving allowance may also be granted. Travel expense allowances (in the form of a lump sum) may also be granted to attend conferences abroad, or if abroad, to attend conferences in Germany. A brief description of the nature of participation in the conference, the scientific benefit to be gained, and an invitation and conference programme should be included.

www.dfg.de/formulare/14_33

If you choose the Heisenberg fellowship option, you must enclose a declaration issued by the host institution confirming the position and the core support specific to your project.

It is possible to switch from the Heisenberg fellowship to the Heisenberg position, Heisenberg temporary substitute position or Heisenberg professorship if the specific requirements for the new funding type are met. It is not possible to switch back to the Heisenberg fellowship. International stays can be implemented within the scope of the Heisenberg position.

III Special Provisions

Within the scope of the four Heisenberg grant types, you will also receive flexible research funding of €1,000 per month (II.2.1 – II.2.3) or a general allowance for direct project costs (II.2.4). Both also cover publication costs. The flexible research funding or the allowance for direct project costs can be used for all funding types. They do not have to be spent on a monthly basis but can also be used for larger items (e.g. workshops, conferences). The funds must be utilised in the first funding period (36 months) or the second funding period (24 months). In justified cases, a cost-neutral extension of one year can be granted for the utilisation of the flexible research funds or the allowance for direct project costs. Please contact the relevant programme office at the DFG Head Office.

Should the appropriate publication of your research findings made within the context of the Heisenberg grant call for a book format with high production costs, you may apply for additional funding of up to €5,000 per year. The request must be justified accordingly. Please note that costs in connection with open access publications are not recognised as production costs.

The Heisenberg grant enables you to dedicate your work to a particular field of research. You can also apply for additional funding to implement specific projects. If you are located for this at a German research institution, in addition to the Heisenberg funding you can also request a research grant (see Research Grants Programme Guidelines – DFG form 50.01).

www.dfg.de/formulare/50_01

As part of this research grant you can also request additional publication costs. If you request publication funds under both the Heisenberg grant and the research grant, particular attention will be given to the justification for this when reviewing the research grant.

It is not permitted to apply for the Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators module (parallel to the Heisenberg proposal) as a second option in the event that the Heisenberg proposal is rejected.

IV Obligations

In submitting a proposal to the DFG, you

1. agree to adhere to the **principles of good research practice**.¹

The principles of good research practice include, among others: maintaining professional standards, maintaining strict honesty with regard to one's own contributions and those of third parties, documenting results and rigorously questioning all findings.

2. recognise the DFG's **Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct** (Verfahrensordnung zum Umgang mit wissenschaftlichem Fehlverhalten – VerfOwF)² as legally binding.

Scientific misconduct is defined as the intentional and grossly negligent statement of falsehoods in a scientific context, the violation of intellectual property rights or impeding another person's research work. The circumstances of each case will be considered on an individual basis. In cases where scientific misconduct has been established, the DFG may impose one or more of the following sanctions in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, depending on the nature and severity of the scientific misconduct:

- issuing a written reprimand to those involved;
- exclusion from the right to apply for DFG funds for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- revoking funding decisions (full or partial termination of the grant contract, demanding repayment of funds spent);
- demanding that those concerned either retract the discredited publications or correct the falsified data (in particular by publishing an erratum), or appropriately indicate the DFG's retraction of funding in the discredited publications;

¹ The principles of good research practice can be found in detail in the [DFG Code of Conduct - Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice](#) and in the [Funding Guidelines: General Terms and Conditions of DFG Grants](#) (DFG form 2.00).

² [DFG Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct, DFG form 80.01](#)

- exclusion from serving as a reviewer for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- exclusion from membership in DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- denying voting rights and eligibility in elections for DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct.

By accepting funding, the recipient agrees to:

3. use the grant exclusively and in a targeted manner to realise the funded project. The use and accounting of funds must conform to the relevant regulations of the DFG.
4. submit progress reports on the research according to the dates specified in the award letter and to present financial accounts to the DFG detailing the use of funds.

The DFG expects that the findings of the projects it funds be made available to the public.

V Data Protection

Please note the DFG's Data Protection Notice on research funding, which can be viewed and downloaded at www.dfg.de/privacy_policy. If necessary, please also forward this information to those individuals whose data will be processed by the DFG due to their involvement in your project.

www.dfg.de/privacy_policy