

A Noble Name

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

Heisenberg- Programme

Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation



- 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

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DFG Links

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

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

English



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Heisenberg Programme

On the Final Stretch
to Professorship

Design: Michaela Dreilke, Tim Wübben/DFG

On the Final Stretch to Professorship

The Heisenberg Programme enables early career researchers who meet the requirements for professorship the opportunity to pursue an advanced research topic prior to professorial appointment, thus enhancing their scientific credentials.

There are two variants of the programme:

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

The Heisenberg professorship offers an alternative path to tenured professorship. Your prospective host institution in Germany creates a new professorship in your research area and agrees to finance the tenured position once the initial 5-year DFG funding period has expired, subject to a positive interim evaluation by both the DFG and the host institution.



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, and/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 Heisenberg fellowship and the Heisenberg professorship: The research you propose to undertake should be high quality, innovative and internationally competitive.

For the Heisenberg professorship, the host institution must provide a “structural development plan”, i.e. a strategy explaining how your special expertise will be used to create a new scientific field and how that field will be integrated into the university’s current structure. In addition, the university must agree to finance the tenured professorship in the future.

It is possible to convert a Heisenberg fellowship into a Heisenberg professorship if, after applying for the fellowship, you find a university in Germany that has a suitable structural development plan.

Proposal Process and Funding

Proposals can be submitted at any time. A proposal for a research grant can be combined with a request for a DFG research fellowship or a Heisenberg professorship.

Fellowship:

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

Professorship:

Your proposal to the DFG must include a structural development plan to be agreed upon by you and your prospective institution. In addition to being reviewed by the DFG, your proposal will be considered within the university’s appointment procedure.

The DFG will fund the professorship for a maximum of five years; your salary is based on the standard German remuneration for professors.