

**Heisenberg-
Programm**



Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

The Heisenberg Professorship

The Heisenberg Professorship

- I. Heisenberg Programme: Fellowship or professorship?
- II. Applying for a Heisenberg professorship: How does it work?
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 - 3. What to consider when applying
 - 4. Salary (W2 or W3) and resources
 - 5. Who does what?
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The Heisenberg Professorship

I. Heisenberg Programme: Fellowship or professorship

	Heisenberg fellowship	Heisenberg professorship
Funding period		
Research grant		
Applicant		
Prerequisite		
Benefit / Drawback		

The Heisenberg Professorship

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Applicant	Researcher	Researcher (together with the university [structural development plan])
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Benefit / Drawback	More freedom / Uncertainty	More security due to tenure-track option / More obligations

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<p><i>Conversion of fellowship</i>  <i>to professorship is possible</i></p>		

1. Requirements

You already hold a Heisenberg fellowship

→ “conversion” proposal

You do not currently receive funding

→ Heisenberg professorship proposal

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- ▶ You are demonstrably among the top habilitation holders in your subject area
- ▶ The university is willing to work out a structural development plan with you
- ▶ The university is willing to institute a professorship after funding expires

1. Requirements

- ▶ You and the university agree to apply
 - ▶ Are you a good fit with the university's research priorities?
 - ▶ Will funding for the professorship be assumed later by the university?
- ▶ The structural development plan must be
 - ▶ conceived and designed by you
 - ▶ discussed with others
 - ▶ approved and signed by the university administration

2. Elements of the structural plan

- ▶ Description of the **current state** of the university institution (department/school) that interests you
- ▶ Description of this institution's **objectives** (structural development in the strict sense)
- ▶ Explanation of the **need for a professorship** for this purpose (*doubling of a professorship or basic early appointment: no chance of success*)
- ▶ Explanation of the **suitability of the applicant** to fill this professorship
- ▶ University's guarantee to **finance the professorship** after DFG funding ends
- ▶ **Salary** for this professorship (W2/W3)

3. What to consider when applying

- ▶ Proposals are much **less formalised** than in the Emmy Noether or Research Grant Programmes
- ▶ Recommended to use German or English **language** depending on disciplinary culture
- ▶ **Scope of presentation** of scientific topics depends on whether a research grant is requested at the same time

3. What to consider when applying

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- ▶ **Scope of presentation** of scientific topics depends on whether a research grant is requested at the same time
 - *If yes*, and if the research grant proposal covers all Heisenberg-relevant activities, it is sufficient simply to refer to it
 - *If no, or if the research grant proposal does not cover everything*, it may be helpful to write approximately five pages (in keeping with disciplinary culture) on each subtopic not included in the research grant proposal

4. Salary (W2 or W3) and resources

- ▶ **University decides** depending on the amount to be financed later by the university
- ▶ **Salary** subject to negotiation (depending on “market situation” and comparative considerations within the institution)
- ▶ **DFG** not involved in negotiations but **pays salary and assistance (*Beihilfe*)** as well as a pension allowance
- ▶ **Core support** provided by the university; funding for **direct project costs** may be requested from the DFG (through the Research Grants Programme)

5. Who does what?

- ▶ **You** approach a university's school/department of interest and discuss the possibility of a Heisenberg professorship
- ▶ **Department/dean** discusses the plan with the university administration
- ▶ If dean and university administration approve: **Joint development of structural plan**, preparation of proposal/formal signature(s)
- ▶ **You** submit your own proposal for a Heisenberg professorship. The structural plan can be attached or sent to the DFG separately.

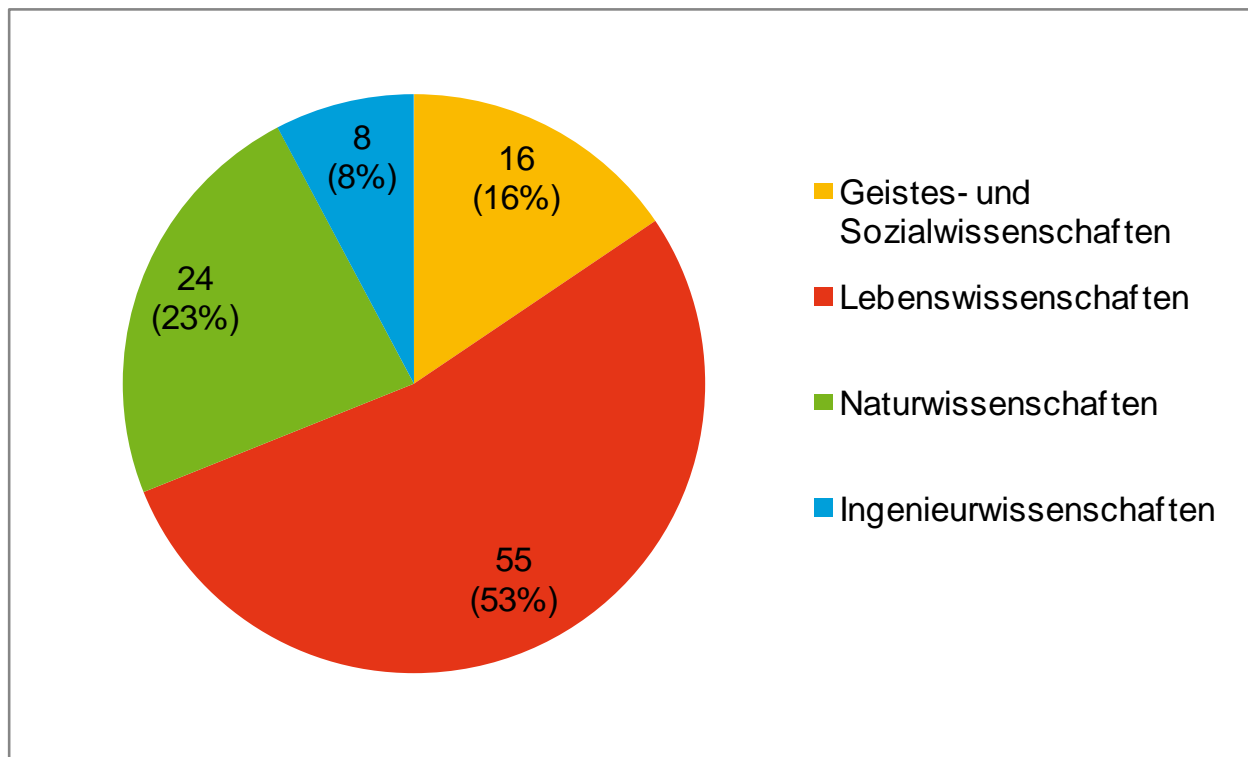
5. Who does what?

- ▶ Upon successful review: University establishes an **appointment committee** (anonymised reviews available upon request)
- ▶ **Appointment offer** by the university
- ▶ **Appointment negotiation** (information is available from the *Deutscher Hochschulverband*)
- ▶ **Appointment as professor** by the university

The Heisenberg Professorship

III. Statistics

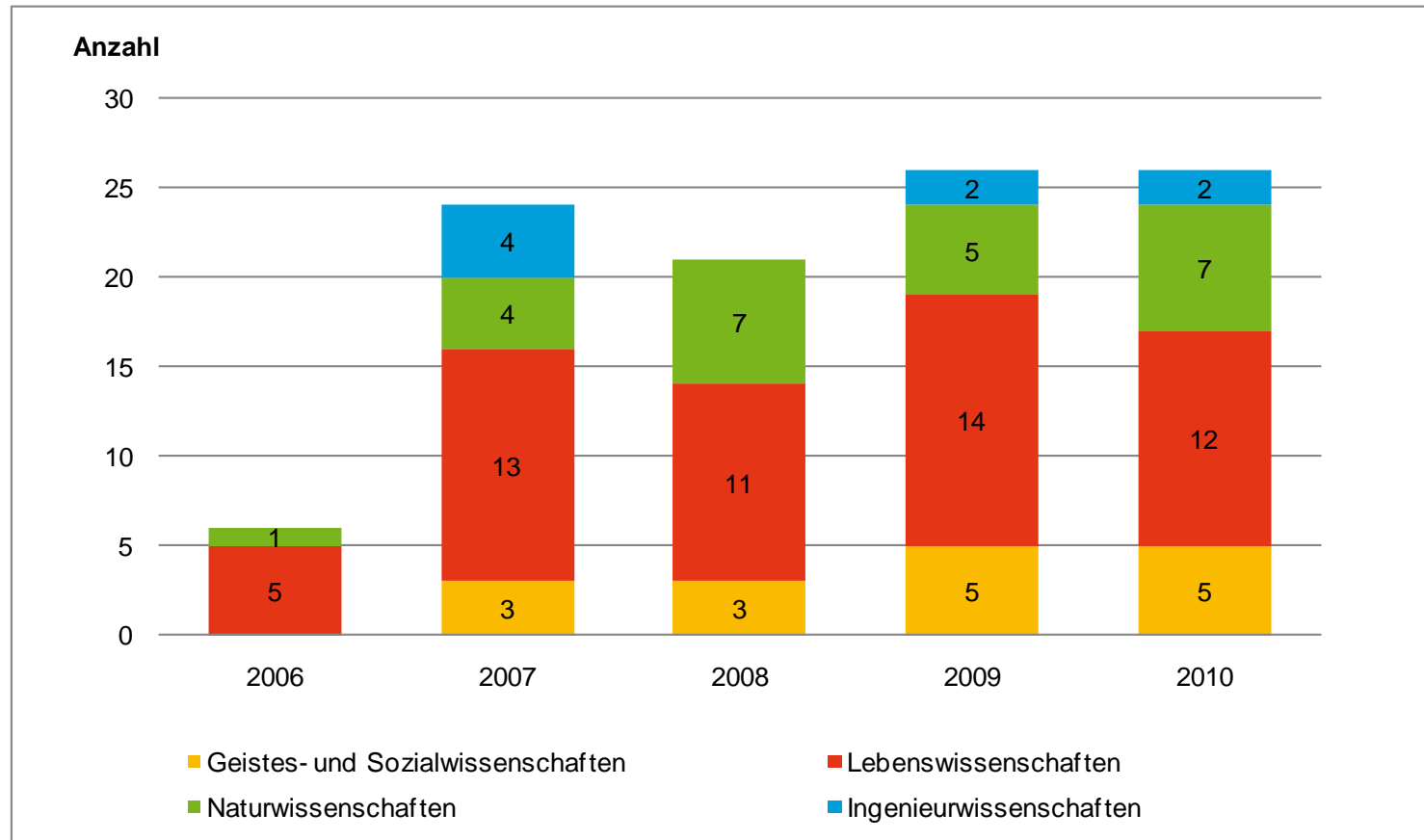
Approved Heisenberg professorships by discipline (new proposals 2006 – 2010)



The Heisenberg Professorship

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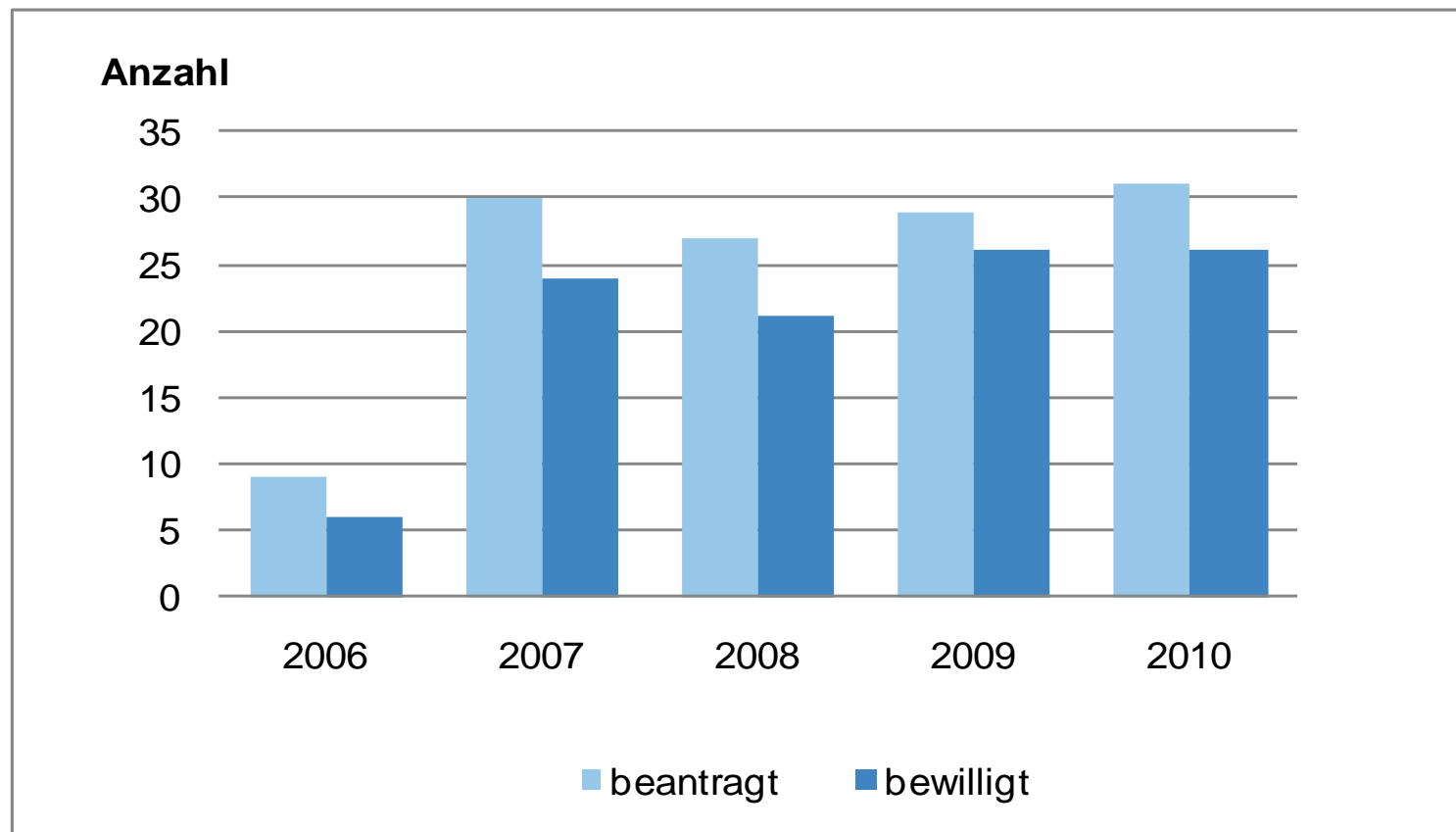
New professorships awarded by year and discipline (2006 – 2010)



The Heisenberg Professorship

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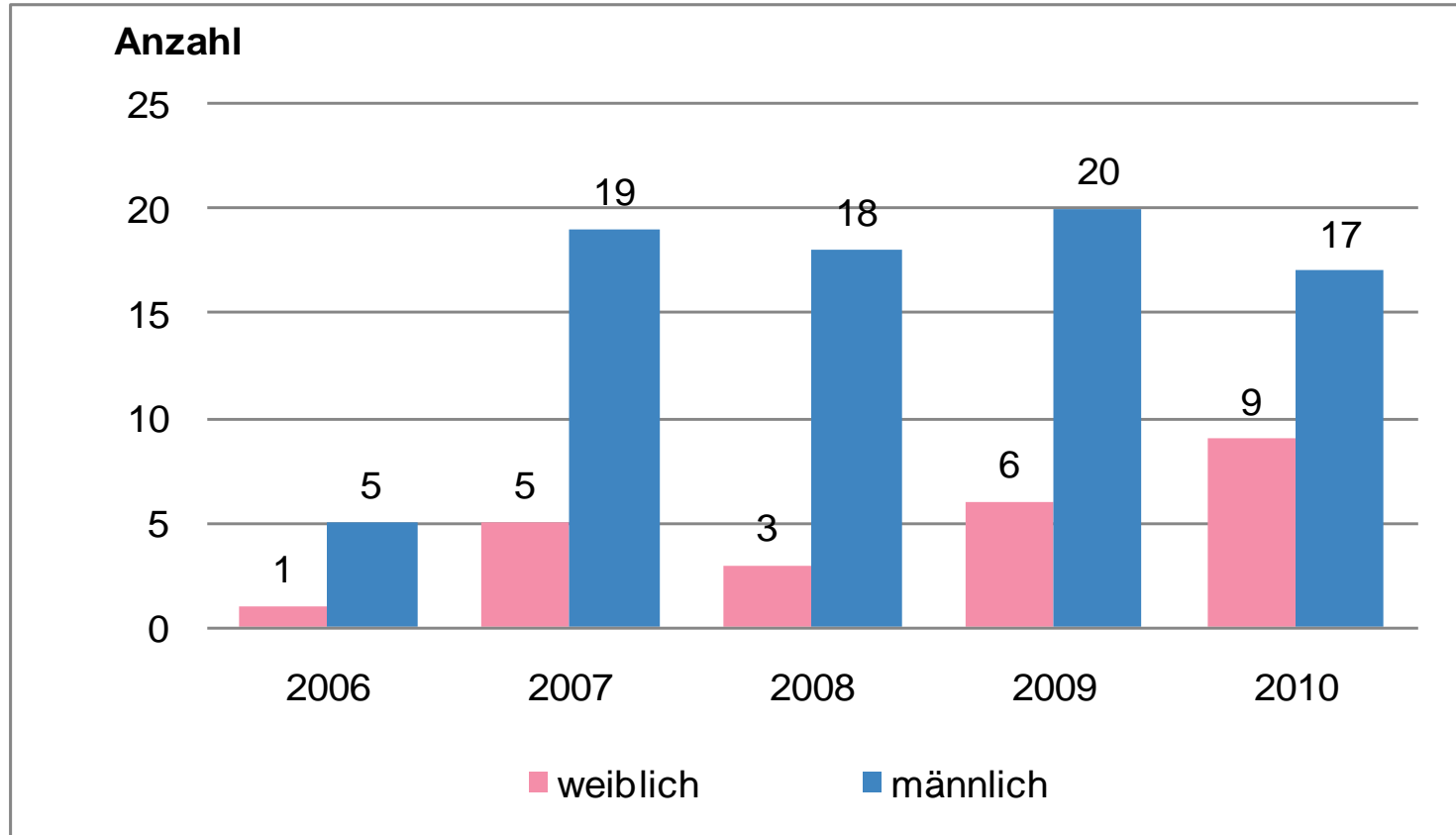
New submitted and approved proposals for Heisenberg professorships by year (2006 – 2010)



The Heisenberg Professorship

III. Statistics

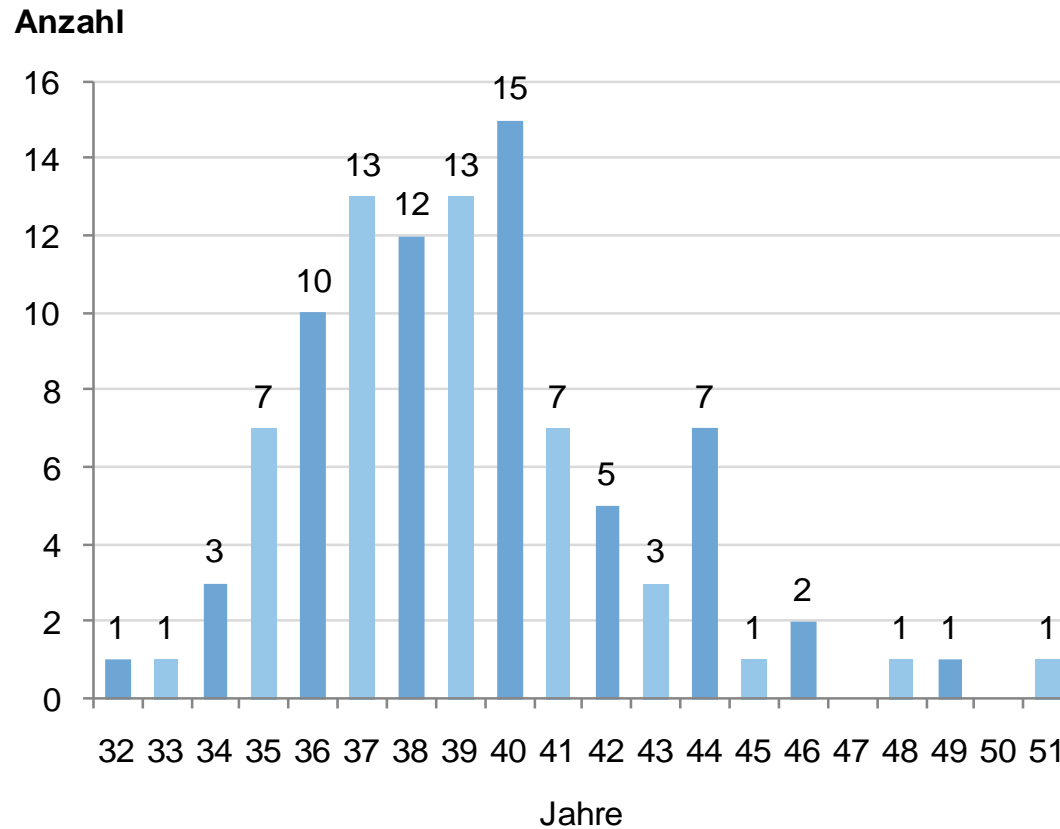
New proposals approved for Heisenberg professorships by year and gender (2006 – 2010)



The Heisenberg Professorship

III. Statistics

Age distribution for Heisenberg professorships (2006 – 2010)

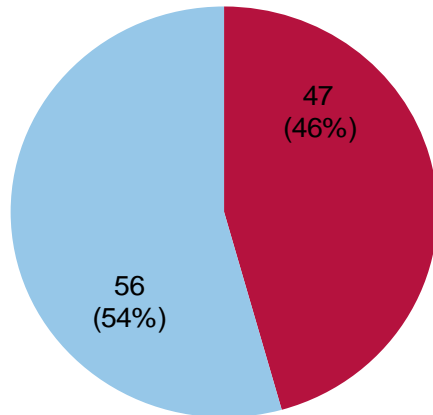


The Heisenberg Professorship

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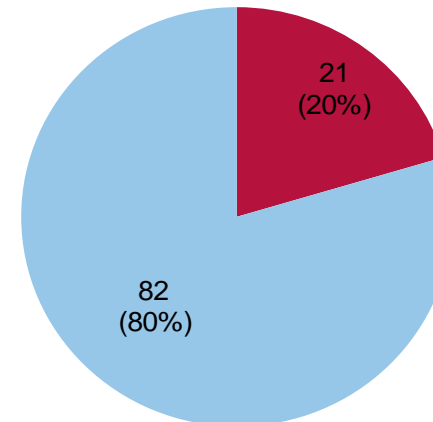
Prior funding under the Heisenberg Fellowship and Emmy Noether Programmes

Heisenberg-Stipendium



- ehemalige(r) Heisenberg-Stipendiat/in
- kein(e) ehemalig(e) Heisenberg-Stipendiat/in

Emmy Noether Nachwuchsgruppen



- ehemalige(r) ENP-Nachwuchsgruppenleiter/in
- kein(e) ehemalig(e) ENP-Nachwuchsgruppenleiter/in

The Heisenberg Professorship

IV. Options following rejection of a proposal

- ▶ **Rejected Heisenberg professorship**
→ *could become a Heisenberg fellowship*
- ▶ **Rejected Heisenberg fellowship in Germany / Heisenberg professorship**
→ *could become a “Temporary Position for Principal Investigator”*
- ▶ **Rejected Heisenberg fellowship abroad**
→ *could become a research fellowship*

The Heisenberg Professorship

V. Outlook: The interim evaluation

- ▶ **When:** prior to month 36 of total funding period
- ▶ **Formal requirements:** Renewal proposal and report (individual reviewers and review board are interested in track record and plans for the near future)
- ▶ **Procedure:** Proposal and report are reviewed and discussed by review board

The Heisenberg Professorship

VI. Other useful information

► Was does the university do?

- Typically conducts its own (appointment) procedure for legal reasons
- Often uses anonymised DFG reviews
- Hybrid forms

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▶ **Tension between expectations**

- Scientific achievement / third-party funding agreements
- Heavy teaching and supervision load
- Committee obligations / involvement in university self-government

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▶ **Top reputation for you and the university**

Award of Heisenberg professorship associated with high reputation:

- Heisenberg professors often quickly appointed to another professorship
- Departments/schools gain prestige from the award
- Universities use Heisenberg professorship as evidence of excellent research



DFG

For more information

- ▶ on the DFG: **www.dfg.de**
- ▶ on DFG-funded projects: www.dfg.de/en/gepris
- ▶ on over 17,000 German research institutes: www.research-explorer.de
- ▶ on the Heisenberg Programme: **Paul Heuermann**
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