

Guidelines

Emmy Noether Programme



I. Programme Information

1. Objective

The Emmy Noether Programme enables highly qualified early career researchers to become eligible for a university teaching career within a continuous period of, generally, five years; the DFG especially encourages proposals from female researchers. This programme offers an alternative to the traditional professorial track requiring “habilitation” by giving researchers the opportunity to achieve equivalent qualifications by leading an independent junior research group at a university or research institution in Germany and assuming an appropriate amount of relevant teaching duties. In addition, this programme aims to help outstanding early career researchers currently working abroad to return to Germany.

2. Proposals

2.1 Eligibility

2.1.1 Qualifications

Researchers who have achieved an excellent doctorate and who have also established a very strong scientific track record (including publications in respected international journals or other comparable publications) are eligible to submit proposals. Individuals who have earned the habilitation, or will soon attain it, are not eligible to apply.

2.1.2 Postdoctoral experience

The funding must follow a period of work as a postdoctoral researcher, during which you will have achieved scientific independence. As a rule this requires you to have two years of postdoctoral experience prior to the DFG grant.

2.1.3 International research experience

You should have substantial international research experience, as a rule evidenced by a research stay abroad of at least 12 months during the doctoral or postdoctoral phase, or by comparable scientific cooperation¹ with researchers abroad. Foreign applicants must also be able to demonstrate international research experience in at least two

¹ Evidence of the cooperation may be provided by a relevant publication, for example.

countries. Foreign applicants who have completed both their doctorate and their postdoctoral period solely in Germany, for example, would not meet this requirement.

2.1.4 Four-year submission deadline following receipt of doctorate

As a rule, proposals may only be submitted within four years after obtaining your doctorate. Licensed physicians should not have more than six years of postdoctoral experience. You are expected to have completed your research training rapidly. Family leave will be taken into consideration.

2.1.5 Foreign applicants

Foreign applicants are expected to continue their scientific career in Germany following completion of the funding period. Intent to do so must be confirmed by the applicant in writing and submitted with the proposal.

2.2 Format and deadline

Proposals may be submitted to the DFG at any time. Proposals should be submitted according to the instructions for project proposals.

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/54_01/54_01_en.pdf

3. Duration

The funding period is generally five years.

Funding will be initially awarded for a three-year period, with the possibility of an additional two-year period. An interim appraisal will be carried out after three years on the basis of an intermediate report. If successful, the remainder of the funding period may be claimed in full; if unsuccessful, the fourth year should be used to pay costs incurred by the programme and to bring the project to a close.

Funding for a sixth year is only possible in exceptional cases and only upon submission of a renewal proposal, which must be submitted six months prior to the end of the fifth year of funding. The proposal should explain why the candidate has not qualified for a professorship within five years and why it is anticipated that qualification will be attained within the sixth year (e.g. forthcoming publications).

II. Proposal Modules

The following modules may be submitted under the Emmy Noether Programme.

1. Emmy Noether Junior Research Group Leader

Use this module to request funding for your position as project leader under the Emmy Noether Programme.

For details on the grant amount, please consult the following overview (available in German only):

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12/60_12.pdf

Submitting a proposal for an Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Group requires that you request funding for your own position as junior research group leader. As a rule, you should also submit the basic module to request funding for additional staff to carry out the project. In justified and exceptional cases you may submit a proposal to cover your own position only, provided your project does not require additional personnel.

For more information on additional funding modules, please see the respective guidelines.

2. Basic Module

Use the basic module to request funding for direct project costs, project-specific staff, and instrumentation necessary to carry out the project.

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_01/52_01_en.pdf

In addition, you may submit the following modules:

3. Temporary Substitutes for Clinicians

If this project requires that clinicians conduct research, you can use this module to request funding for temporary substitutes to take over their patient-care responsibilities.

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_04/52_04_en.pdf

4. Mercator Fellows

This module enables you to pursue an intensive and long-term exchange with researchers in Germany and abroad. Fellows will partially be on site but will remain in contact with you even after their stay.

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_05/52_05_en.pdf

5. Project-Specific Workshops

If you would like to conduct workshops as part of your project, you may request funding to help you do so. Please note that this module cannot be submitted separately but only in conjunction with the proposed research project.

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_06/52_06_en.pdf

6. Public Relations

To enable you to present your work to the general lay public, you can request funding for public relations. Please note that this module cannot be submitted separately but only in conjunction with the proposed research project.

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_07/52_07_en.pdf

III. Special Provisions

1. Reducing to a part-time position

In exceptional cases it is possible to reduce your position as junior research group leader to a part-time position (reduced by up to 50 percent) in order to use the remaining time to care for children or other relatives requiring care due to old age or ill health. If you wish to receive part-time funding, the funding approved for the independent junior research group may not exceed the equivalent of full-time funding for five years, but

is to be distributed over the extended period. Please take this into account in your planning and provide detailed information on the proposed time schedule for the distribution of the funding in the proposal.

2. Grant coverage following professorial appointment

If you are appointed to a professorship (W2/W3) at a German higher education institution during the funding period, the programme objective has been met. Should the appointment be accepted, the approved funds may be used until the end of the funding period. This also applies for a professorial appointment within Europe, provided the position corresponds to a W2/W3 post; provisional funding granted in this context can only be transferred in justified exceptional cases. Funds to cover your position may not be used or re-allocated, as they were awarded on an ad-personam basis. Such funds will be cancelled.

3. Returning to doctoral alma mater

Since the objective of the programme is to assist early career researchers in gaining scientific independence, the independent junior research group should not be located at the same university where you attained your doctorate. If you nevertheless choose to be located there, a good reason for this must be given.

4. Host institution

More than one potential host institution for the independent junior research group may be listed in the proposal. A final decision must be made within two months of award notification. Specific reasons for choosing each potential institution must be given. In addition an employer's statement from each institution listed must be attached (see below).

5. Employer's statement and/or contract template

Applicants must submit an employer's statement with their proposals. Provided the institution concurs, the DFG contract template (form 41.025, available in German only) should be used.

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/41_025/41_025_rtf.rtf

In addition to ensuring the employee is only required to work on project-related tasks, the contract also authorises the applicant to supervise doctoral researchers and teach two credit hours per semester. The contract aims to provide Emmy Noether fellows with a legal standing equivalent to that of junior professors. The DFG encourages the universities to create the appropriate conditions within their institutions and to make use of this facility. It is in the interest of the fellow to conclude such a contract with the university. If you wish to conclude such a contract and the university is unwilling to do so, you may establish your junior research group at another university following consultation with the DFG Head Office.

Please clarify in advance with your host institution whether you will be able to obtain a temporary employment contract for the duration of the funding period.

6. Projects with exploitation potential: Collaboration between science and industry

The DFG seeks to significantly improve knowledge transfer between science and the private sector. It is therefore possible to spend a portion of the grant period in an industrial environment.

After a minimum of three years at a German research institution, you may transfer with your independent junior research group to an existing business enterprise (“transfer project”) or establish your own spin-off (“spin-off project”). Funding for the sixth year is subject to the conditions listed under I.3.

If you are submitting a new proposal and are planning to transfer to an industrial setting following the three-year stay at a research institution, you should state this in your work programme. The work programme should provide detailed information on the three-year period at the research institution; it may then continue with either specific information on the proposed research during the fourth and fifth years in an industrial environment, or indicate the intent to transfer to an industrial setting after the third year. In the latter case, collaboration with industry must be the focal point of a renewal proposal for the fourth and fifth years of funding. The renewal proposal must be submitted no later than six months prior to completion of the three-year funding phase.

Current fellows may transfer retroactively to an industrial setting. A revised proposal must be submitted, indicating the request to revise the initial award and providing a de-

tailed work programme for the fourth and fifth years of funding. Fellows will still be required to undergo an interim evaluation toward the end of the first three years of funding.

If your project involves collaboration between science and industry, please attach either a cooperation agreement between the host institution and the commercial enterprise for a transfer project, or a business concept according to the High-Tech-Gründerfonds template for a spin-off project.

http://www.dfg.de/formulare/41_026e/41_026e_rtf.rtf

<http://www.high-tech-gruenderfonds.de>

7. Funding decision

Decisions on proposals under the Emmy Noether Programme are generally made on the basis of written reviews commissioned by the DFG and personal selection interviews held by the review boards with the applicants.

IV. Obligations

In submitting your proposal to the DFG, you agree to:

1. adhere to the **rules of good scientific practice**.²

The general principles of good scientific practice include, among others: maintaining professional standards, documenting results, rigorously questioning all findings, and attributing honestly any contributions by partners, competitors and predecessors.

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, depending on the nature and severity of the scientific misconduct:

² The rules of good scientific practice are presented in detail in the white paper *Proposals for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice* (published by Wiley-VCH) and in the usage guidelines for research grants (DFG forms 2.01 and 2.02) (cf. <http://www.dfg.de> ⇒ Research Funding / Legal Framework Conditions).

- 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 (complete or partial cancellation of the grant, recalling granted funds, 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;
- exclusion from acting as a reviewer or from membership in DFG committees;
- denying voting rights and eligibility in elections for DFG statutory bodies and committees.

By accepting funding, the recipient agrees to

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. inform the DFG of any changes in your professional status and address (within a period of five years following the funding period or, at the latest, at the time of your professorial appointment) to enable the DFG to contact you following your funding period to evaluate this programme.

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

V. Publication of Data on Grant Holders and Research Projects

The data necessary for processing your grant proposal will be stored and processed electronically by the DFG. If a grant is awarded, your work address (e.g. telephone, fax, e-mail, internet website), as well as information on the content of your research project (e.g. topic, summary, keywords, international cooperation), will be published in the DFG's project database GEPRIS and - in excerpts (grant holder's name, institution and location) - in the "Programmes and Projects" section of the DFG's electronic annual report. If you do not wish this information to be published electronically, please notify us in writing no later than four weeks after receipt of your award letter.

<http://www.dfg.de/gepris>

<http://www.dfg.de/jahresbericht>