Guidelines for Reviews in the Heisenberg Programme

I Programme Information

The objective of the Heisenberg Programme is to promote researchers who are eligible for appointment to a professorship and have demonstrated excellence in their research achievements.

Upon approval, grantees can choose from four different types of funding or combine them as needed, provided the relevant requirements are met: Heisenberg position, Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians, Heisenberg professorship and Heisenberg fellowship.

The Heisenberg Programme is directed primarily at researchers who have qualified for professorship via the Emmy Noether Programme, DFG staff positions, private-sector research or mid-level faculty positions. The target group also includes junior professors who have received positive evaluations, those who have achieved their habilitation, researchers returning from abroad, as well as appropriately qualified foreign researchers looking to pursue their careers in Germany.

Further information can be found in the Heisenberg Programme Guidelines (DFG form 50.03).

www.dfg.de/formulare/50_03
Please note:

General Guidelines for the Written Review (DFG form 10.20) are available at:

www.dfg.de/formulare/10_20

The review should not exceed two pages in length.

II Structure of the Review

1. How would you assess the qualifications of the applicant? How would you evaluate the quality of the applicant’s research work and publications to date (please refer to the Guidelines for Publication Lists) and their relevance to the research field? Previous publications should especially stand out with regard to relevance, autonomy, originality, topicality and publication type. Applicants who did not complete a habilitation must demonstrate habilitation-equivalent achievements, such as publications and teaching experience, and indicate these accordingly in their proposals.

An applicant’s previous achievements and research profile are primary factors for grant approval in the Heisenberg Programme. Therefore, please assess the applicant’s academic research career to date and the visibility of the research, considering, for example, participation in international conferences and advisory bodies and through other scientific activities. Assess in particular the applicant’s chances of appointment.

2. How would you assess the quality of the project, especially with regard to originality and the anticipated contribution to knowledge? Does the project enhance the applicant’s ability for appointment?

To what extent does the work programme convincingly reflect clear working hypotheses and an appropriately distinct topic? The work programme does not have to be described in as much detail as in a proposal in the Research Grants Programme. Note, however, that applicants must clearly indicate how the Heisenberg grant will be used to enhance their research profiles.

3. How would you assess the work and research environment?

4. Please provide a clear recommendation as to whether the proposal should be approved.

If increased publication funding is requested, please comment on the appropriateness of the funds.
If the applicant has also applied for funding in the Research Grants Programme, please comment on the requested amount in your review of the research grant. If increased publication funds have been requested in both the Heisenberg and the research grant proposal, please comment on whether sufficient justification for the approval and intended separate use of such funds has been provided in both cases.

5. Other aspects

If the Heisenberg applicant requests a part-time grant, please note the following:

In accordance with the policies for promoting equal opportunities and diversity in science and academia, the fellowship or position can be taken up on a part-time basis (at least 50%) for family reasons (childcare or dependent care) and in cases of disability or chronic illness. The DFG accepts all proposals as full-time proposals with the aim of ensuring that all applicants are reviewed uniformly.