Module
Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators

A module can only be applied for within the appropriate modularised programme. To determine which modules are available to you, please consult the DFG’s programme guidelines relevant to your proposal.

I Objective

This module allows you to request funding for your position as project leader for the duration of your project.

II Description

Temporary positions for principal investigators enable scientists and academics to focus exclusively on their proposed research projects. Grants for such positions must generally be used for employment at a research institution in Germany or at a German research institution abroad. Therefore, international research visits can generally only be undertaken for a maximum of one-third of the project duration.

During DFG-funded working hours, no other work may be performed for the employer (incl. teaching or non-research services such as patient care). Outside regular working hours, however, you may perform such duties in accordance with the secondary employment regulations applicable at your university.
Funding for temporary positions for principal investigators is granted for full-time positions. In exceptional cases, funding for part-time positions may be granted for family reasons or if you have a disability or chronic illness.

Grants are based on the salary level for postdoctoral researchers. Details can be found in the following overview:

www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12

III Special Provisions

If you wish to carry out your project

- at one of the institutes or member organisations of the Max Planck Society, Fraunhofer Society, Helmholtz Association or Leibniz Association, or
- at a publicly funded research institute associated with one of these organisations, or
- at an international research facility located in Germany,

please note the guidelines on the duty to cooperate.

www.dfg.de/formulare/55_01

IV Proposal Instructions

Please include a statement from your employer indicating that it will take over employer responsibilities during your funding period and, in cooperation with you, provide the conditions necessary for you to carry out your project. The prescribed template (available in German only) can be found at

www.dfg.de/formulare/41_027

If you are currently employed in a regular employment relationship, please note that if you take up the temporary principal investigator position, this employment relationship must be suspended for the duration of the project and you will not receive your regular salary during this time. Submit proof of your leave/sabbatical from your employer. Tenured professors in Germany and junior professors (during their appointment to junior professorships) are not eligible for funding under this module.
You may apply for funding once you have submitted your thesis to the examination office. In this case, your proposal must include a copy of your thesis, proof that you have submitted your thesis to the examination office, and a statement by your thesis supervisor with regard to your chances of success. If your proposal is approved, funding cannot be accepted until all doctoral examinations have been successfully completed and corresponding proof is received by the DFG.

If you would like to use the grant for a part-time position due to family reasons (childcare, dependent care), disability or chronic illness, you may still apply for a full-time position. Calculate the duration of the position and the project based on the time that would be required if the work were performed full time. If the grant is awarded, you may then flexibly reduce your weekly working hours.

In case of multiple applicants, each applicant’s work package must be identified in the project description.

If you have submitted a proposal for a temporary principal investigator position, please note that you cannot submit another proposal for this module until the pending proposal has been decided on.