

Guidelines

Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize



Disclaimer: The English translation of this document is provided for informational purposes. In the event of a discrepancy between the English and the German versions, the German text takes precedence.

I Objectives

The Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize, named after the physicist and former President of the DFG, has been awarded to researchers at an early stage of their career since 1977 and aims to support and encourage the winners to continue to pursue their academic career.

II Selection criteria

The funding is intended for researchers who are in a development and probationary phase of their career and seeks to enable them to remain in academia and achieve their professional goal of obtaining a permanent professorship or equivalent. Therefore, the prize is not available for those who at the time of the decision already hold a permanent professorship or a permanent position with comparable remuneration.

The prize is not to be regarded as being awarded solely in recognition of a dissertation: since obtaining their doctorate, nominees are to have established a distinctive scientific profile, the results of their research having attracted attention within the subject-specific community, suggesting that excellent performance can be expected of them in the future. Generally speaking, this requires the presentation of documented research results, in particular in the form of publications above and beyond the dissertation.

III Prize endowment

Up to ten prizes can be awarded per year, each endowed with €200,000. The prize money can be used for up to three years for the purpose of further academic research.

IV Nomination system

1. Requirements for nomination

The prize is open to early-career doctoral researchers who are academically based at research institutions in Germany or at German research institutions abroad by 1 January of the year of the prize ceremony at the latest, regardless of where the research was conducted.

It is not restricted to any specific subject areas.

Nominees may not have held a doctorate for longer than six years in the year of nomination. Periods of absence that are shown in the application (e.g. due to illness, care duties, etc.) can be considered. The deadline for female researchers providing childcare within the eligibility period will be extended by two years per child, while the deadline for their male counterparts will be extended by one year per child, with no documentation required. Male researchers who provide childcare beyond the one-year period can also be eligible for an extension of a maximum of two years per child provided appropriate documentation is given. The eligibility period may be extended for a maximum of six years in total.

Those who have gained a post-doctoral teaching qualification may also be nominated for the Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize; the same applies to junior professors, those receiving funding under the DFG's Emmy Noether Programme, heads of Junior Research Groups and comparable researchers in early career phases. Researchers holding a position with a tenure track can be nominated as long as their tenure is not secured at the time of the final decision.

2. Eligibility to submit nominations

Prizes are awarded at the recommendation of third parties. The DFG issues a call for proposals to those entitled to submit nominations. Nominations may be submitted by the elected members of DFG review boards, universities and equivalent higher education institutions with the right to award doctorates in Germany, other members of the DFG, the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and the Humanities, the Hermann von Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, previous winners of the Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize and former members of the Selection Committee.

Individuals may submit one proposal each, institutions may submit up to three proposals, and the four non-university research institutions Max Planck Society, Leibniz Association, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and Helmholtz Association may submit up to five proposals.

Self-nominations are excluded.

3. Nomination documents

Nominations must be received within the call period published by the DFG. They are to include the following documents, preferably in German and English:

- a statement of appreciation justifying the nomination;
- an academic curriculum vitae;
- a current list of publications;
- a list of up to five important publications with full text links.

The DFG will specify the detailed modalities of submission in its call for proposals.

V Selection procedure

There is an annual call for nominations. Those entitled to submit nominations will be notified in good time. Proposals received by the deadline are collected, checked for completeness and formal compliance with the nomination requirements and forwarded to the established Selection Committee for the Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize.

The decision is made by the Joint Committee of the DFG at the recommendation of the Selection Committee.

VI Use of the prize money

The money may be used exclusively for further academic research work for a period of up to three years. The funds may not be used to cover the winner's personal expenses. The Special Funding Guidelines for Academic Awards apply (only available in German).

www.dfg.de/formulare/2_33

VII Further Information

For further details and contact persons at the Head Office, see
the DFG website.

VIII Data Protection

Please note the DFG's data protection notice on research funding, which can be viewed and downloaded at www.dfg.de/privacy_policy. If necessary, please also forward this information to those individuals whose data will be processed by the DFG due to their involvement in your project.

www.dfg.de/privacy_policy