



Heisenberg Programme

Emmy Noether Annual Meeting 2026

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Overview

Eligibility

How to: preparation till funding

Your questions



Overview



Eligibility

Meeting all the requirements for appointment to a long-term professorship



Purpose

To enable outstanding researchers to prepare for a senior academic role



Location

In Germany or abroad



Duration

Max. 5 years



Heisenberg fellowship



Heisenberg professorship



Heisenberg position



Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians

+ flexible research funding or a general allowance (fellowship)



Heisenberg fellowship

- Research at an academic institution in Germany or another country
- Fellowship (currently €4.450 per month) + general allowance (€313 per month) + childcare allowance + foreign allowance
- Required documents: A declaration issued by the host institution confirming the position and the core support specific to the project



Heisenberg position

- Position (E 14 Stufe 5 to E 15 Stufe 4) und flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- Research at an academic institution in Germany or a German academic institution in another country (e.g. Max Planck Institute in Italy)
- Research stay(s) at foreign academic institutions outside of Germany possible for a maximum of 1/3 of the funding duration (usually 20 months)
- Required documents: Arbeitgebererklärung (DFG form 41.04; only available in German)



Heisenberg professorship

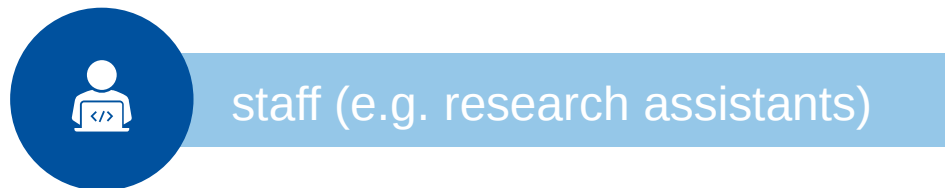
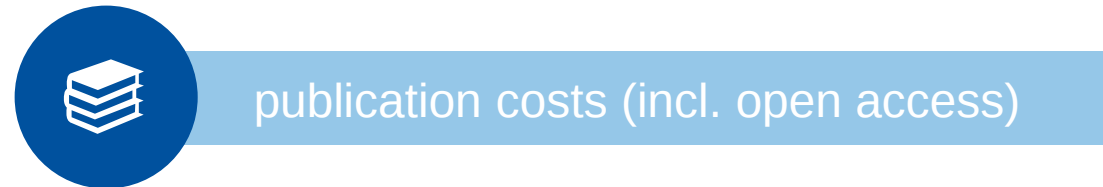
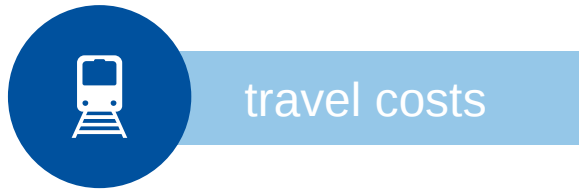
- Temporary professorship (W2 or W3) and flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- The university provides a binding statement that after the DFG funding period it will transfer the Heisenberg professorship permanently to its own budget (in case of positive DFG and an optional university mid-term evaluation)
- Required documents: proof of appointment (e.g. a declaration issued by the employing institution or a certificate of appointment); declaration regarding the continuation of the professorship; declaration regarding the core support specific to the project



Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians

- Funds for temporary substitute (Ä 1 Stufe 2 to Ä 2 Stufe 1) and flexible research funding (€1000 per month)
- Substitute staff takes over the patient-care responsibilities for the Heisenberg position holder; Heisenberg position holder may work full-time or part-time (at least 49%) on the Heisenberg project
- Required documents: informal letter from current institution (confirming the existing employment relationship and release from patient care); the academic institution must confirm the specific core support required for the project

Flexible research funding – Examples



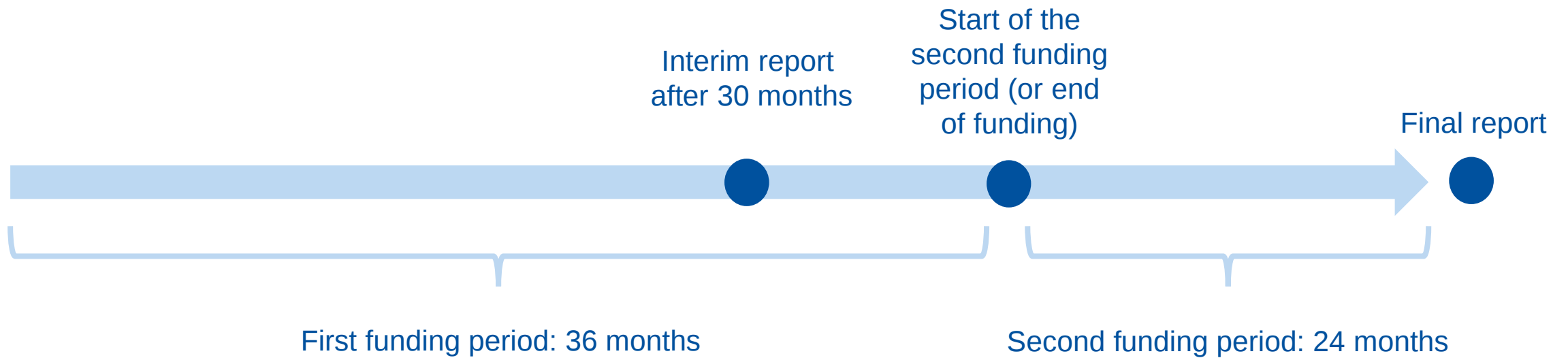
Additional funding for publication costs



Should the appropriate publication of your research findings made within the context of the Heisenberg grant call for a book format with high production costs, you may apply for additional funding of up to €5,000 per year. The request must be justified accordingly.

→ Cannot be used for open access publishing fees!

Total duration: 5 years (60 months)



Success rate Applications between 2021 and 2024



35.5%

Emmy Noether Programme



- Achieving the qualifications for appointment as a university professor
- (own) group leading position + group funding
- 6 years

Heisenberg Programme



Goal

- Being appointed as university professor

Funding

- Own position/fellowship/ professorship + flexible research funding

Duration

- 5 years



Eligibility



Qualifications indicating appointability (examples):

- Shortlist ranking in a professorial appointment process
- Last authorship/group leading experience
- Acquisition of third-party funding
- Supervision of PhD candidates/students
- Teaching experience
- Habilitation (almost or fully completed)
- ...



Not eligible

- Tenure track professors (in Germany)
- Those with positions equivalent to W2/W3 (positions in Germany)



Other permanent positions (e.g. Akademische Rätin or Akademischer Rat) do not impede the eligibility

Permanent professors (e.g. associate professors) from abroad are eligible as long as they have not achieved a full professorship yet



**Are there any questions
so far?**



How to: preparation till funding

**Guidelines Heisenberg
Programme**
(form 50.03)

**Proposal Preparation
Instructions**
(form 54.02)

Project Description
(form 53.19)



Project description

Academic profile

What have you worked on so far?

What qualifies you for a long-term professorship?

Research project(s)

Which projects would you like to work on during the Heisenberg funding period?



- You may submit your application any time
- In German or English
- Via the DFG's [elan-Portal](#)
- Processing your application takes around 8 months



► Which Heisenberg funding type are you aiming for?



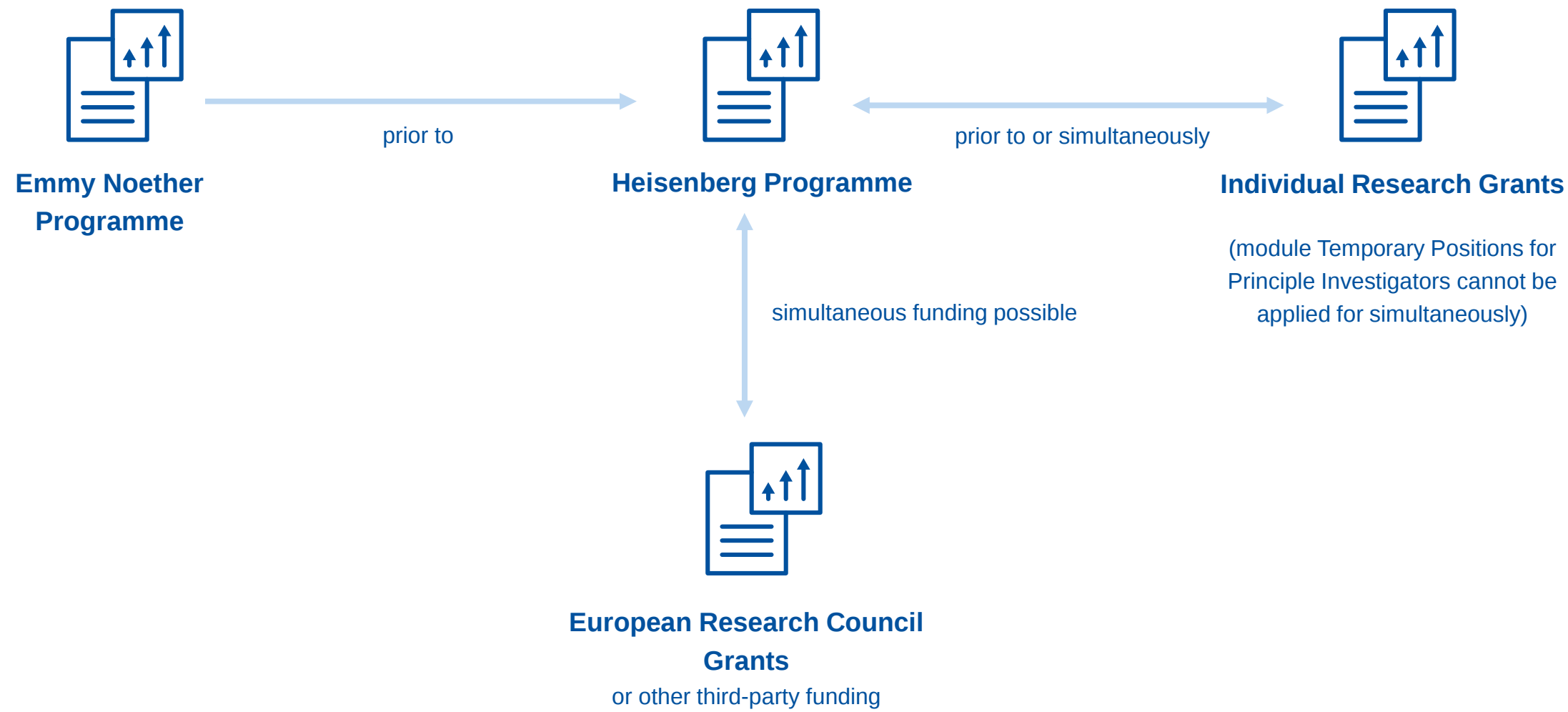
► At which university/research institution would you like to work?

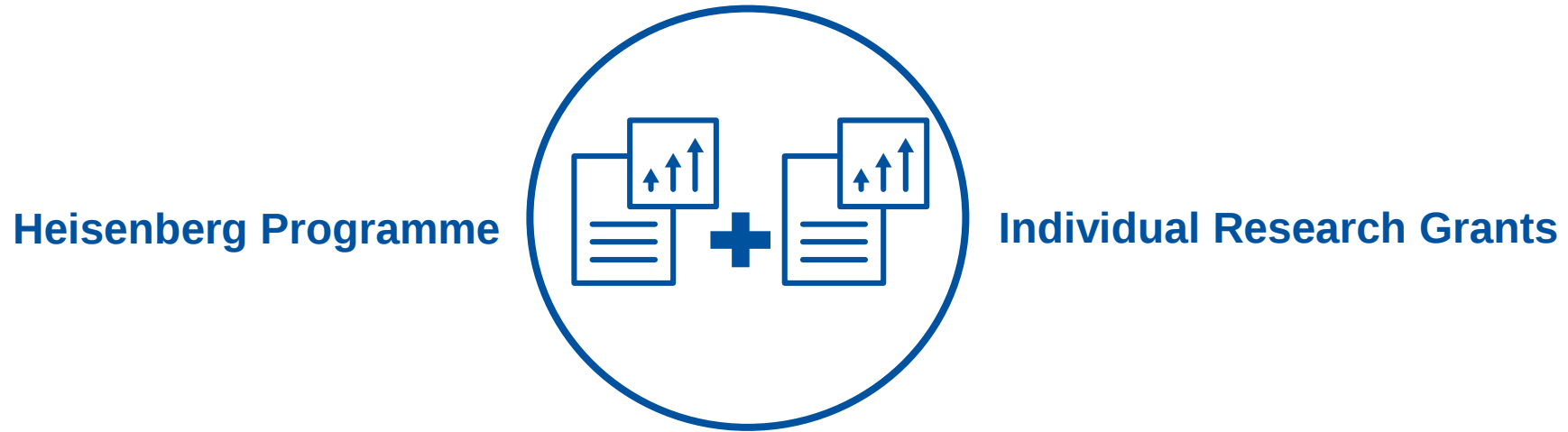


- Submission of your application
- Are you applying for an Individual Research Grant as well?



- Choosing your Heisenberg funding type (max. 6 months after receiving the congratulations letter)
- Starting your grant (max. 12 months after receiving the congratulations letter)





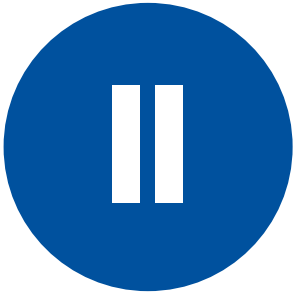
- Individual Research Grants: Funding for project costs/staff etc. (compatible with Heisenberg funding)
- Submission possible any time
- If you require the Individual Research Grant right at the beginning of your Heisenberg funding period
→ please submit both applications simultaneously



Change of funding type and/or institution

- Change possible any time except for the last year (please reach out for individual advice)
- Multiple changes possible
- Change from Heisenberg fellowship to other funding types is possible; change to a Heisenberg fellowship (after you started the grant with another funding type) is not possible





Interruptions

- You may pause the fund for a maximum of one year
- Important: The DFG must approve your interruption plans



Part-time

- Reduction possible (up to 50% of a full-time position)
- In cases of illness, childcare or other family care duties
- Important: The DFG must approve your part-time plans



Extensions

- The Heisenberg funding cannot be extended
- Exception: cost-neutral extension if cases of interruptions/part-time



Are there any questions?

I am currently funded by the Emmy Noether Programme and would like to apply for the Heisenberg Programme. When can I submit the proposal at the earliest?



Emmy Noether to Heisenberg

- Only possible at the end of the Emmy Noether funding period
- Consultation with DFG recommended

May I conduct teaching during the Heisenberg funding period?



Teaching

- Yes, that is possible
- DFG sets no limits regarding teaching hours
- Must be discussed with employer

I am shortlisted for a permanent professorship in a regular call.
May I still use the Heisenberg grant?



Permanent professorship

- If you accept the call before your Heisenberg proposal has been decided on → proposal will be terminated
- In case you are already accepted for the programme: combination possible

What if the DFG mid-term evaluation is positive, however, the host institution's is negative?



Evaluation

- Very rare constellation
- Individual arrangements: e.g. Heisenberg funding can be used until the end of the funding period; a professorship would, however, end then

May I use the Heisenberg grant at a non-university research institution such as a Max Planck Institute?



Non-university research institution

- Yes, it is possible
- Heisenberg professorship: a cooperation with a university is required
- Not necessary for other Heisenberg funding types

May I use the Heisenberg grant
at a university of applied
science?



University of applied science

- Yes, it is possible
- Institution must be eligible to receive DFG funding (public-law or non-profit private organization)



More information:

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