

# 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 six 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 encourage outstanding early career researchers currently working abroad to enter or re-enter the German research system.

## 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 are qualified for professorial appointment or will attain this qualification in the immediate future are not eligible to apply as the programme’s objective will have already been met. This is especially the case if you have earned or will soon attain the “habilitation” or if you have completed an equivalent qualification.

Individuals who hold a temporary junior professorship or comparable qualifying professorship (W1/W2) are eligible to apply if they are still at an early stage of their academic careers. This also applies to tenure-track professorships. Note that junior professors and individuals holding equivalent qualifying professorships who have undergone successful interim evaluation no longer belong to the programme’s target group and therefore may not 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, evidenced for example by research visits abroad, international research cooperation or an international working environment during the doctoral or postdoctoral phase in Germany. Please describe your international research experience in the proposal (in a separate appendix).

### 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. For licensed applicants from the fields of medicine and psychology, a maximum of six years applies.

The submission 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, no documentation is necessary. Male researchers who provide childcare beyond the one-year period can also be eligible for a max. two-year extension per child provided appropriate documentation is given.

The eligibility period may be extended for a maximum of six years in total. Children under the age of 12 when the period begins who live permanently in the same household as the applicant are included.

### 2.1.5 Foreign applicants

Foreign applicants who are not integrated in the German research system are expected to continue their scientific or academic 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.

### 2.1.6 Participation in similar funding measures

If you are currently leading an independent (junior) research group that is supported by a German research institution, German federal or state programmes, or an international research institution located in Germany that is similar in structure, objectives or scope to

the DFG's Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Group, then you are not eligible to apply. Subsequent acceptance of such a measure precludes continued support in the Emmy Noether Programme.

## 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.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/54\\_01](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/54_01)

## 3 Duration

The funding period is six years.

Funding is initially awarded for a three-year period, with the possibility of an additional three years. An evaluation is carried out at the end of the third year on the basis of an interim report, which should be submitted to the DFG six months before completion of the third year. If the evaluation is successful, approval is given for another three years.

## II Proposal Modules

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

### 1 Junior Research Group Leader

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

Submitting a proposal for an Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Group generally requires that you request funding for your own position as junior research group leader.

This does not apply to junior or qualifying professors, to whom the Emmy Noether Programme is open as group funding only.

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 details on the grant amount for the position, please consult the following overview:

[www.dfg.de/formulare/60\\_12](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12)

Clinician scientists may apply for a temporary substitute position instead of a position as junior research group leader. This option is designed to enable them to retain their clinical position and make their clinical expertise available for the purposes of research in the Emmy Noether Programme on either a full-time or a part-time basis (at least 49% of a full-time position). The staff funding requested for the temporary substitute position is used to fund staff who take over the research group leader's patient-care responsibilities.

Physicians in human and veterinary medicine and licensed psychologists may apply for temporary substitute positions. Proposals are submitted in the Temporary Substitutes for Clinicians module.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/52\\_04](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_04)

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.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/52\\_01](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_01)

**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.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/52\\_04](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_04)

#### **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.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/52\\_05](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_05)

#### **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.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/52\\_06](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_06)

#### **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.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/52\\_07](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_07)

#### **7 Standard Allowance for Gender Equality Measures**

This module enables project heads to implement targeted measures to promote gender equality in science and academia and to make jobs in science and academia more family friendly.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/52\\_14](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_14)

A total of €1,000 per funding year and applicant can be requested.

#### **8 Family Allowance**

An earmarked family allowance of up to €6,000 per year may be requested for the care of children and relatives in need of care during conference or research trips.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/52\\_17](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/52_17)

### **III Special Provisions**

#### **1 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.

#### **2 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).

#### **3 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 should be used.

[www.dfg.de/formulare/53\\_12\\_elan](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/53_12_elan)

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.

If you apply for a temporary substitute position instead of a position as independent junior research group leader, please append to your proposal an individual letter of confirmation of employment from your clinical employer for the full duration of the funding period under the Emmy Noether Programme. In addition, submit a statement of intent from your employer indicating that you will be released from your clinical obligations to pursue research within the Emmy Noether Programme and that substitute clinical staff will be temporarily employed to take over your patient-care responsibilities during this time. Your employer should also confirm that, while you are released from your normal responsibilities, your duties will be limited to the funded project and your employer will not exert any influence on the independent implementation of the project by issuing instructions. The above-mentioned form 53.12 does not apply in this case.

Please also explain how you will combine qualification-related teaching responsibilities and the supervision of doctoral researchers with your clinical and research activities.

If you hold a junior professorship or comparable qualifying professorship, a statement from your employer confirming the duration of your employment and agreeing to make the necessary core support available to you for your project is sufficient.

#### **4 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.

#### **5 Grant coverage following professorial appointment**

If you hold a DFG-funded position as leader of an independent junior research group and you are appointed to a professorship at a German higher education institution during the funding period, the approved funds may be used until the end of the funding period; the funds awarded on an ad-personam basis for your position will be cancelled.

If you leave the German research system, the funding in the Emmy Noether Programme will come to an end.



## IV Obligations

In submitting a proposal to the DFG, you

1. agree to adhere to the **principles of good scientific practice**.<sup>1</sup>

The principles of good scientific practice include, among others: maintaining professional standards, maintaining strict honesty with regard to one's own contributions and those of third parties, documenting results and rigorously questioning all findings.

2. recognise the DFG's **Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct** (Verfahrensordnung zum Umgang mit wissenschaftlichem Fehlverhalten - VerfOwF)<sup>2</sup> as legally binding.

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 in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, depending on the nature and severity of the scientific misconduct:

- 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 (full or partial termination of the grant contract, 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;

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<sup>1</sup> The principles of good scientific practice can be found in detail in the DFG [Code of Conduct - Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice](#) and in the [Funding Guidelines: General Terms and Conditions of DFG Grants](#) (DFG form 2.00).

<sup>2</sup> [DFG Rules of Procedure for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct, DFG form 80.01](#)

- exclusion from serving as a reviewer for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- exclusion from membership in DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct;
- denying voting rights and eligibility in elections for DFG bodies and committees for a period of one to eight years, depending on the severity of the scientific misconduct.

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 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](http://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](http://www.dfg.de/privacy_policy)