



JLU

DAS LEBEN STUDIEREN  
DIE WELT ERFORSCHEN

# The national funding landscape

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Forschung

# National Research Funding for Postdocs

## Förderorganisationen der Forschung in Deutschland

**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

wandel durch **austausch** • change by **exchange** •

**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft



**Alexander von Humboldt**  
Stiftung / Foundation



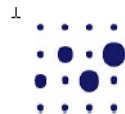
**Leopoldina**  
Nationale Akademie  
der Wissenschaften



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung



VolkswagenStiftung

**Daimler und  
Benz Stiftung**

## Funding Landscape for the First Postdoc Phase



### Funding Formats

- DFG: Research Fellowship
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: Feodor-Lynen-Programme
- DAAD: Research Fellowship
- DFG: Postdoc in Collaborative research projects
- DFG – Temporary position /Eigene Stelle
- Fritz von Thyssen Foundation: Postdoc Fellowship
- Leopoldina: Postdoc Fellowship
- Daimler & Benz: Postdoctoral Scholarships
- u.v.m.
- Travel Grants by DAAD and Boehringer Ingelheim Fund

## Funding Landscape for the Second Postdoc Phase



### Funding Formats

- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation: Feodor-Lynen-Programme
- DAAD Research Fellowships
- DFG: Collaborative research projects, Temporary position, Emmy Noether Programm
- Helmholtz: Young Investigator Group
- MPG: Young researcher groups / Nachwuchsgruppen
- Volkswagen Foundation: „Freigeist-Fellowships“; „Experiment!“ etc.
- ETH: „Branco-Weiss-Fellowships“
- Fund of the Chemical Industry: Liebig Stipendium
- u.v.m.
- Travel Grants by DAAD and Boehringer Ingelheim Fund

## Funding Landscape for the Second Postdoc Phase



Second Postdoc Phase

Tenure (W2/W3-Professorship)

### Funding Formats

- DFG: Emmy Noether-Programm
  - DFG: Heisenberg-Programm (Stipend/Professorship)
  - Helmholtz: Young Investigator Group
  - MPG: Nachwuchsgruppen
  - AvH: Sofja Kovalevskaja Award
  - Volkswagen Foundation: Lichtenberg Professorship
- u.v.m.

Legal Construct:

- Junior Professorships (with Tenure Track) bzw.
- „Qualifikationsprofessur mit Entwicklungszusage“ (§ 64 HHG)

# National Research Funding

## Foundations and Agencies in Germany

<https://www.stifterverband.org/>

<https://www.stiftungen.org>

[www.volkswagenstiftung.de](http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de)

<http://www.fritz-thyssen-stiftung.de>

<https://www.dbu.de>

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de>

<https://www.leopoldina.org>

<https://www.daad.de>

## International foundations and societies

<http://www.hfsp.org>

<https://www.training.nih.gov/postdoctoral/vf.asp>

<http://www.embo.org/funding-awards/fellowships>

<http://www.febs.org/our-activities/fellowships/>

1. **Research Funds**
2. **PostDoc-Programme JUST'US (Junior Science and Teaching Units)**



## Research Funds for Junior Scientists

### Aim of Funding

Autonomous preparation of applications for the DFG or comparable third-party donors / fund raising as minor, temporary project, implementation by oneself (or as a team)

### Entitlement

After successful completion of the doctorate (or: doctorate procedure has to be completed shortly), upon submission the applicant must not have completed his/her 35. anniversary; at present only faculty 01-10 and holder of a state funded position are eligible to apply (adjustment planned!)

### Application Process

No specifications on the format (DFG-Standards provide guidance); brief presentation of the planned project and necessary preliminary work, differentiation from dissertation topic (development of own research profil), temporal angle of application, own preliminary work, requested funds; CV + possible publications; representation of own scientific career management, (substantial) statement of chair.

## Research Funds for Junior Scientists

### Type and Extend of Funding

onetime funding of max. 10.000 €

### Duration of Funding

open; Application to third-party donor needs to be conceivable

### Deadline for Application

Applications are welcome at anytime ([forschung@uni-giessen.de](mailto:forschung@uni-giessen.de))  
[http://www.uni-giessen.de/forschung/nawuwi/foerd/foerd\\_jlu](http://www.uni-giessen.de/forschung/nawuwi/foerd/foerd_jlu)

## Postdoc Programme JUST‘US – Internal Applications



### Aim of Funding

Development of autonomous research programme, potential creation of a research group / preparation for fund raising of postdoc individual funding at the DFG or comparable third-party donors; no immediate transfer to JLU-position

### Entitlement

last oral examination of the doctoral examination procedure should not be dating back to more than 6 months (parental-/nursing care leave will be considered); application for suggestion of a chair at JLU; doctoral grade min. ‚magna cum laude‘

### Application Process

No specifications on the format; Submission of working plan describing the phases of further project development right up to application; no detailed description of prospective project; utilisation of requested funds; CV + eventual publications; representation of own scientific career management, (substantial) statement of chair.

## Postdoc Programme JUST'US – Internal Applications



### Type and Extend of Funding

Monthly payments of 1.900 €  
+ eventual supplementary child allowance  
+ 300 € healthcare subsidy  
+ material expenses

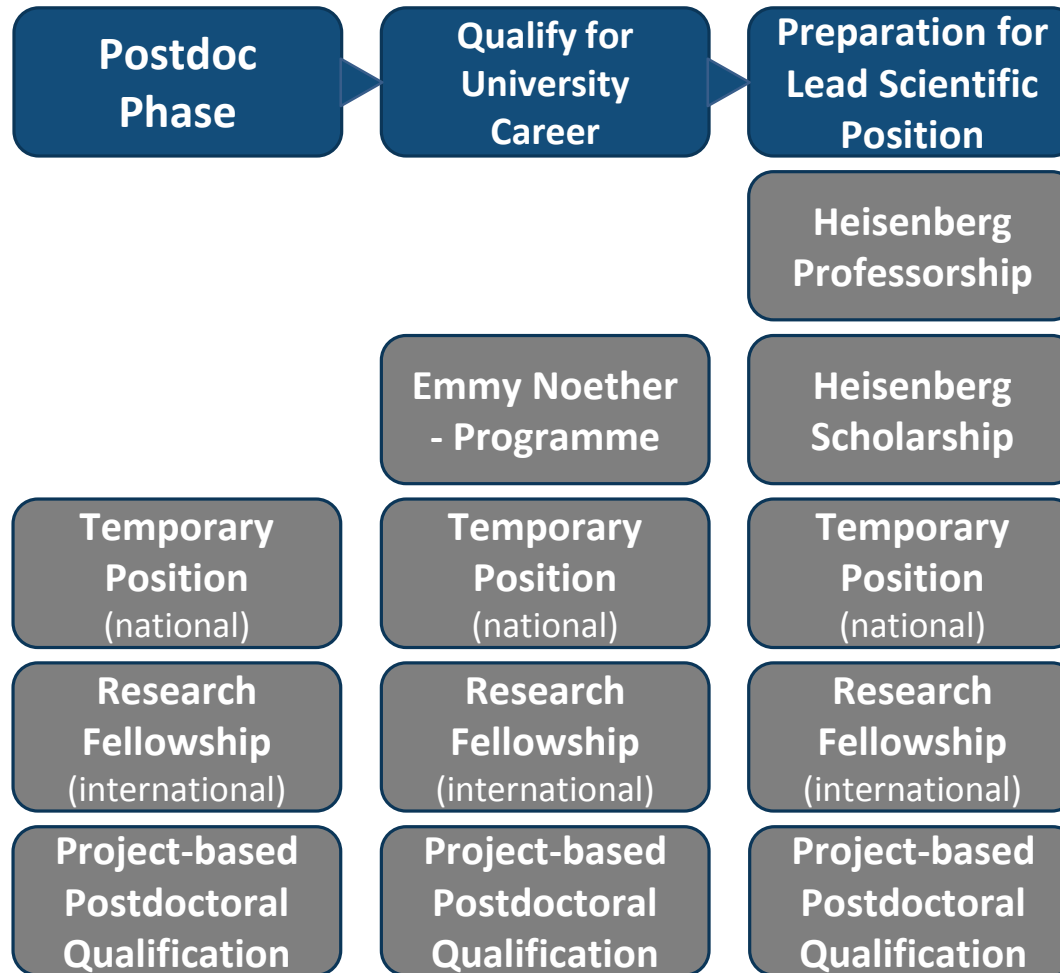
### Duration of Funding

Generally for up to 2 years

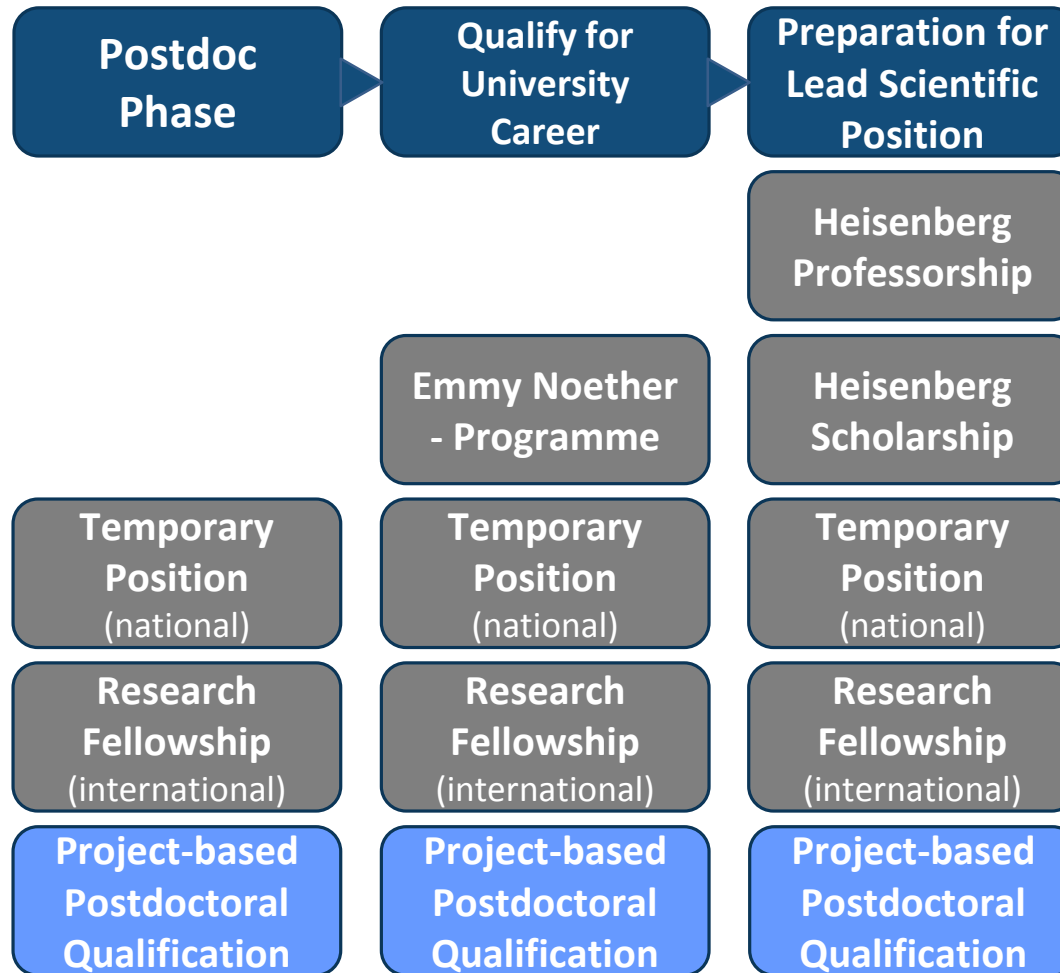
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## Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)



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## Funding Programmes of the DFG

Thousands of positions for postdocs in DFG projects:

▶ **DFG – Individual Grants Programme**

Individual project proposals with a defined thematic focus and project duration.

▶ **DFG – Research Units**

Team of researchers working together on a research project which extends beyond the funding options available under the Individual Grants Programme or Priority Programme.

▶ **DFG – Priority Programmes**

Nationwide collaboration between participating researchers in priority programmes.

▶ **DFG – Collaborative Research Centres**

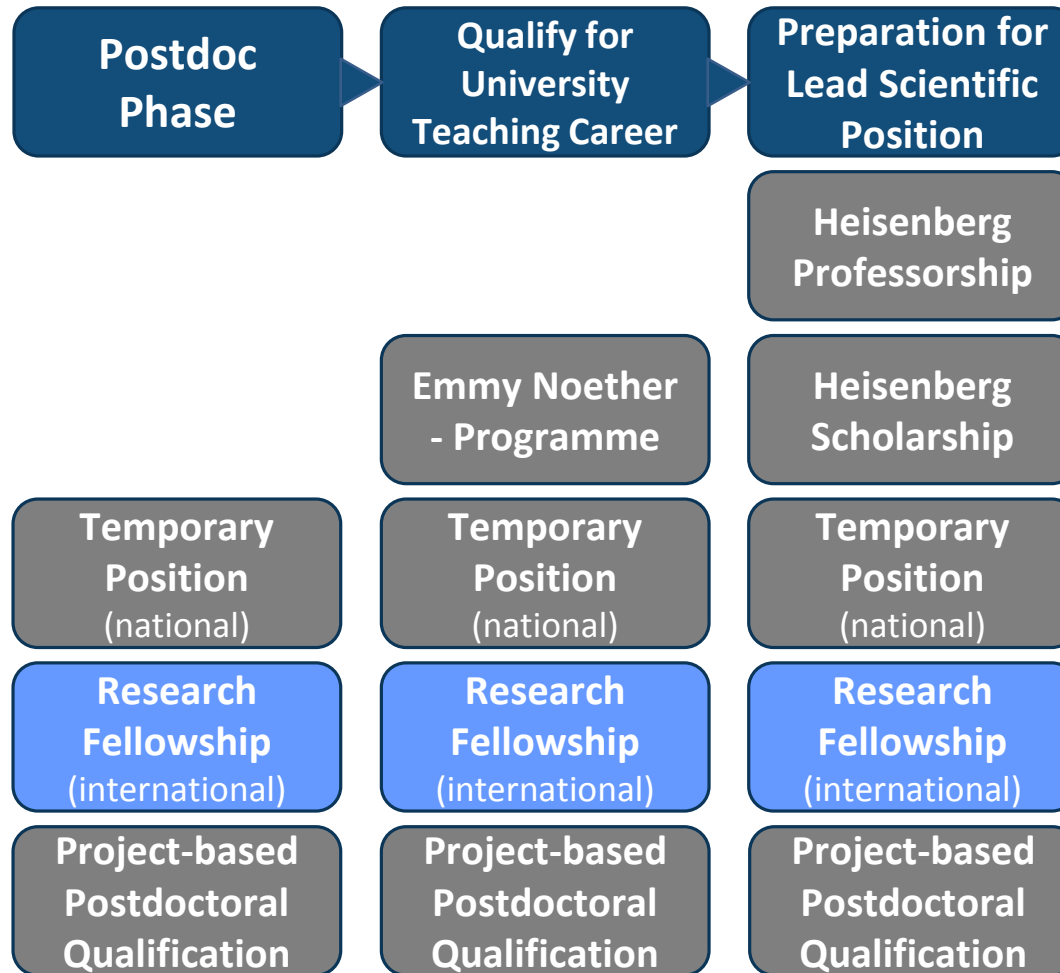
Long-term university-based research institutions, established for up to 12 years, in which researchers work together within a multidisciplinary research programme.

## Funding Programmes

- ▶ Positions for **doctoral** and **postdoctoral** researchers
- ▶ At a **national** institution
- ▶ Funding **duration** depends on the project duration
- ▶ **Position** (E13 – E14 TvöD/TV-L)
- ▶ Apply at the project leadership



## Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)



## DFG Research Fellowship (Forschungsstipendium)

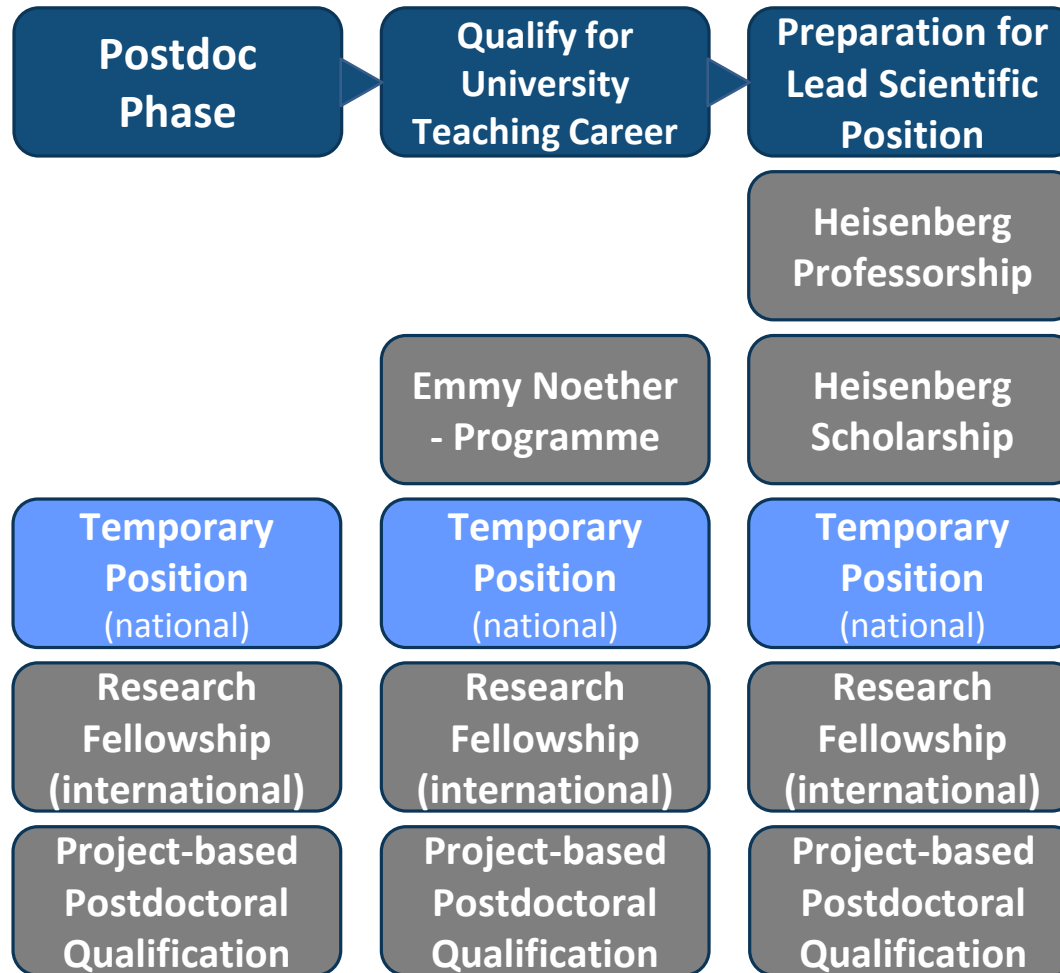
- ▶ Fellowships for **postdocs**
- ▶ **International** research projects
- ▶ Duration: up to 2 years
- ▶ Additionally potentially up to 6 months fellowship for relocation
- ▶ Fellowship minimum = 1.750 €
  - ▶ Where applicable:
    - + Foreign allowance
    - + Travel allowance
    - + Publication costs
  - Benefits for fellowship recipients with children:
    - + Children's supplement
    - + Support for costs associated with parenting –fellowship extension or childcare allowance
- ▶ **Apply at the DFG**

## Benefits for fellowship recipients with children:



- ▶ **Children's supplement:** + 400€ for the first child  
+ 100€ for every additional child
- ▶ **Fellowship extension** for parents for up to 12 months
- ▶ or **childcare allowance** = “Money instead of time”
  - up to 12 x 1.750 € = max. 21.000 €
  - childcare associated costs need proof thereof
- ▶ Fellowship extension and childcare allowance can be flexibly **combined**

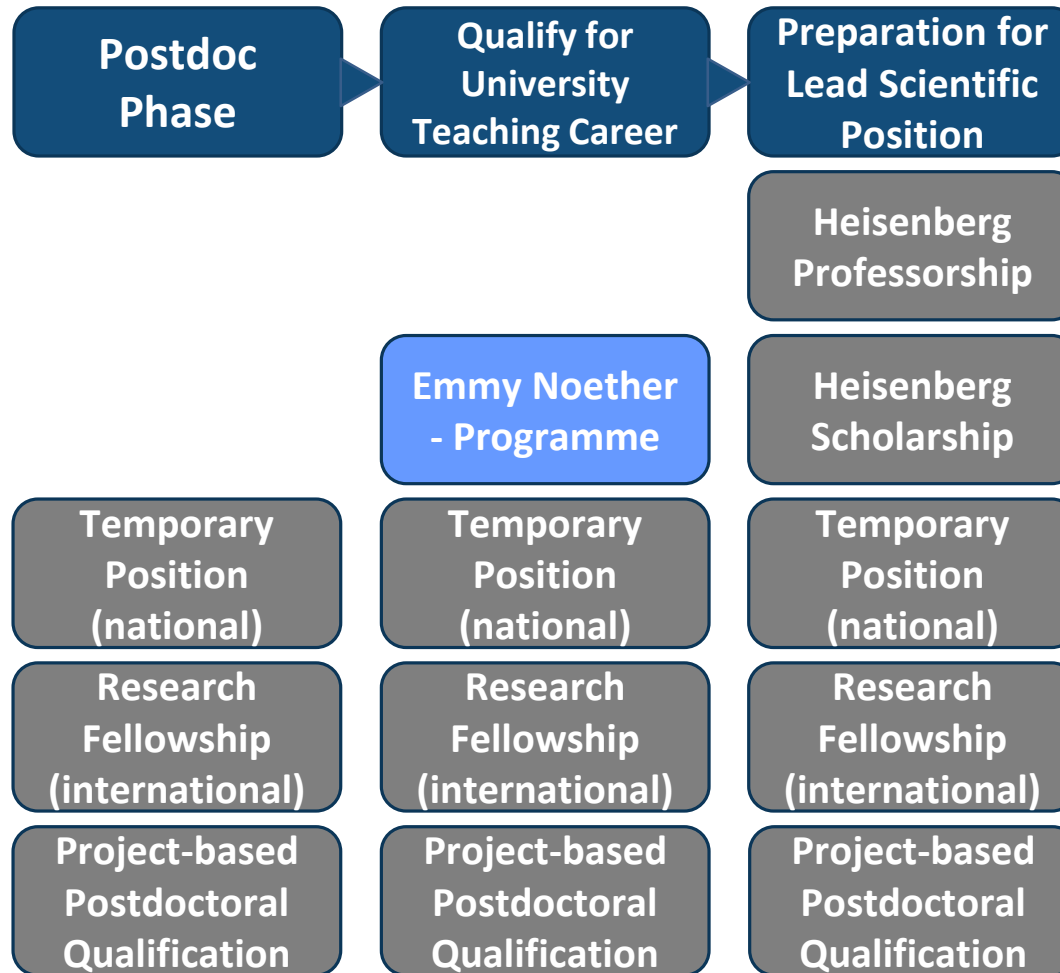
## Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)



## Research grant module Temporary Position (Eigene Stelle)

- ▶ Possibility of implementing **individual research projects** in Germany
- ▶ **Flexibly** adjustable to individual project needs
- ▶ **No deadlines**
- ▶ **No age restrictions**
- ▶ Applicable **funding**: personell rates, supplies, travel allowance, devices, publication costs
- ▶ Additional **module**: Temporary Position
  - ▶ For postdocs
  - ▶ The **national** participating institution becomes the employer
  - ▶ Max. 3 years
  - ▶ **Position** (E13 – E14 TVöD / TV-L) + project funds

## Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)



## Emmy Noether – Programme

### Goals of the Emmy Noether Programme

- ▶ Path to achieving independence at an early stage of your scientific career
- ▶ **Obtain qualifications required for a university teaching career** through leading your own independent junior research group

### Formal criteria for the application

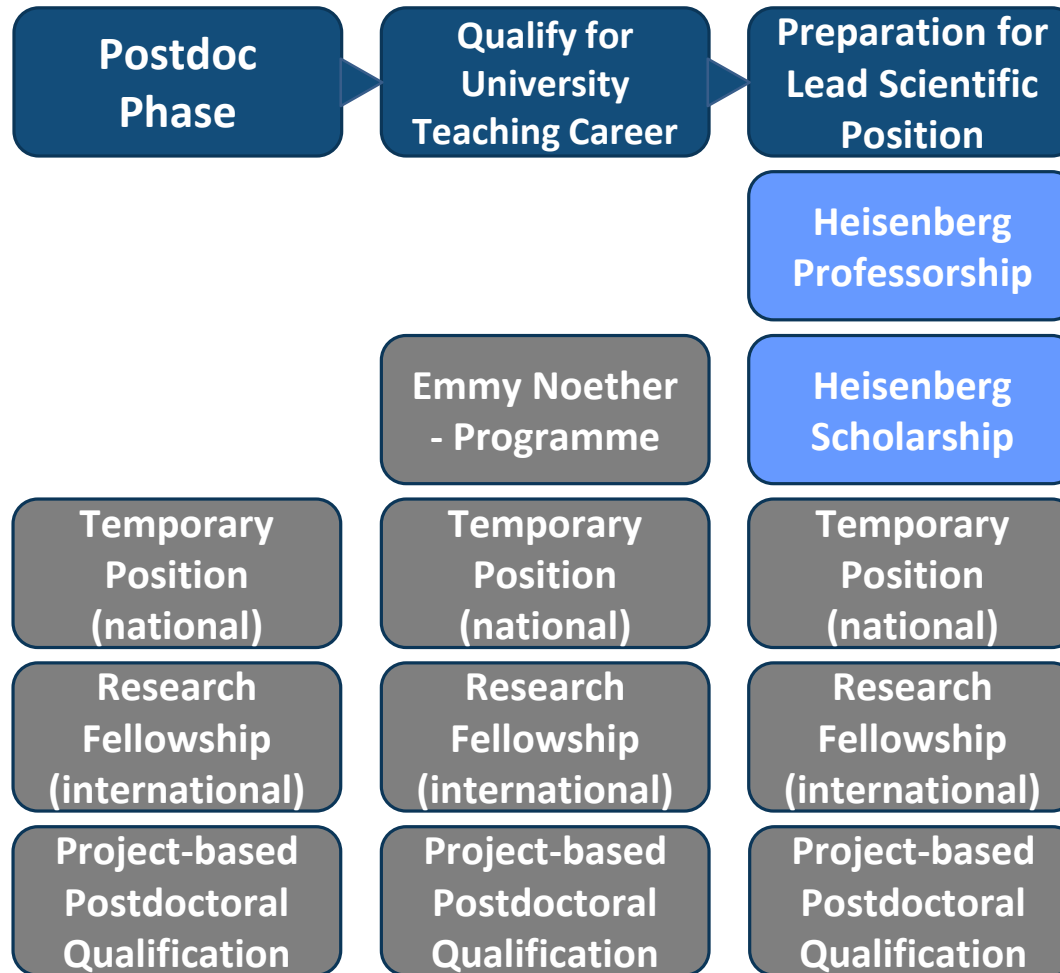
- ▶ **Min. 2 years – max. 4 years** (Medicine: up to 6 years) of postdoctoral research experience (+ 2 years per child)
- ▶ Substantial **international** research experience

## Emmy Noether – Programme

- ▶ For highly qualified PostDocs
- ▶ The **national** participating institution becomes the employer
- ▶ Usually 5 years
- ▶ **Position** (E15) + project funds
- ▶ Apply at the DFG



## Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)



## Heisenberg – Programme – Fellowship

- ▶ For those who **fulfil all the requirements for tenured professorships**
- ▶ **National** and **International** funding
- ▶ Up to 5 years
- ▶ **Fellowship** (4450 €)
  - + material expenses
  - + child allowances (if applicable)
  - Can be combined with a project application (allowances)
- ▶ Apply at the DFG

## Heisenberg – Programme – Professorship



- ▶ For those who **fulfil all the requirements for tenured professorships**
- ▶ **National** funding – participating university needs to introduce a new permanent professorship position
- ▶ DFG funded for up to 5 years
- ▶ W2 or W3 professorship
- ▶ Apply at the DFG

## Application – Preparation

- ▶ Prepare your application thoroughly
- ▶ Read the guidelines for the application carefully
  - ▶ You can find all the necessary information on the DFG website
- ▶ If you have any questions, ask for advice
- ▶ Try to view your application from the perspective of the evaluating committee
- ▶ Ask others to read your application critically
- ▶ Start with smaller projects
- ▶ Plan ahead: It usually takes more than 6 months from application to decision

## Application – Content

- ▶ An application usually consists of three parts
- 1. General information → Details about the application and the applicant including obligations, such as acknowledgment of recommendations for safeguarding good scientific practice
- 2. Description of the project → status quo, previous work, goals, time schedule
- 3. Appendix → CV with a limited list of publications

## Application – elan

→ German

**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

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### Register

If you do not have an elan account, please register here:

[→ Register](#)

### Login

If you have an elan account and would like to log in, please enter the following information:

E-Mail address:

Password:

Save E-Mail address:

[→ Login](#)

[Forgot password?](#)

## Your first DFG Proposal

- ▶ Special Identification of first-time proposal
- ▶ Target group: early career researchers, german researcher returning from abroad or researchers returning after working in industry or taking a family break
- ▶ Goal: early academic independence

“When a first-time proposal is reviewed, **less importance is attached to the applicant's project-specific experience and more weighting is given to personal potential and the quality of the proposed project.**

First-time proposals are subject to the **same quality standards** as proposals from established researchers. **Different levels of experience** are of course taken into due consideration. “

## Tips for the application

- ▶ Language of the application: English or German
- ▶ If applicable, notifications about personal limitations or competition
- ▶ Open communication with employees from the DFG office



## Tips for your CV

- ▶ Clear structure
- ▶ Prizes, fellowships, and awards are mentioned
- ▶ Gaps, for example related to illness, maternal leave, or taking care of relatives are included (no details required)
- ▶ Directory of up to ten of your most important publications

## Tips on budgeting

- ▶ No upper limits
- ▶ Realistic reasoning based on the project needs
- ▶ Basic equipment from the university vs. supplementary project specific equipment
- ▶ Information exchange and consultation are helpful
- ▶ List of current staff rates on the DFG website

## Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)



- Research Information of the DFG
- DFG Database informing on ongoing and finalised research projects

All information needed for **research grants** and **first time proposal** can be found on the DFG-Homepage:

- Information on submitting proposals for research grants:  
[http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/grundlagen\\_dfg\\_foerderung/wissenschaftliche\\_karriere/erstantrag/information\\_proposals\\_research\\_grants.pdf](http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/grundlagen_dfg_foerderung/wissenschaftliche_karriere/erstantrag/information_proposals_research_grants.pdf)
- First time proposals:  
[http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/grundlagen\\_dfg\\_foerderung/wissenschaftliche\\_karriere/erstantrag/first\\_time\\_proposals.pdf](http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/grundlagen_dfg_foerderung/wissenschaftliche_karriere/erstantrag/first_time_proposals.pdf)
- „Ten golden rules for proposal submission“:  
[http://www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/research\\_careers/first\\_proposal/notes\\_research\\_grants/index.html](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/research_careers/first_proposal/notes_research_grants/index.html)
- Recognition of the rules for „Good Scientific Practice“  
([http://www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/principles\\_dfg\\_funding/good\\_scientific\\_practice/index.html](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/principles_dfg_funding/good_scientific_practice/index.html))