

Rise up! Programme for Newly Appointed Associate Professors

Programme objectives

With Rise up!, the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung aims to provide first-time appointed associate professors at German universities with the leeway to develop an internationally competitive, innovative basic research programme in the biological, chemical, or medical sciences. Rise up! is meant for outstanding scientists with a proven track record and especially bold, creative ideas that could have a transformative impact on their field of research, but who lack flexible core funding to pursue these ideas.

Extent of funding

You can apply for up to 600,000 EUR for a research period of up to 3 years to advance a defined research programme. The funding can be used towards scientific personnel, consumables and project-related equipment, as well as travel and publications.

Conditions for applying

If you wish to apply, you must fulfil the following criteria:

- You have accepted the call to an associate (W2) professorship at a German university. In case you have already taken up this position, the start date must be less than 12 months prior to the Rise up! application deadline.
- This is your first call to a tenured or non-tenured associate professorship at W2 level or equivalent (e.g., W3 positions "ohne Lehrstuhl/ ohne Leitungsfunktion" in Baden-Württemberg).
- You should have substantial international experience.
- Your research focuses on fundamental questions in the biological, medical, and chemical sciences. The foundation accepts only proposals that focus on research of broader relevance to the biosciences, for instance, studies in basic biology, biophysics, computational biology, medicine, biochemistry, and chemical biology. The foundation particularly encourages applications with the potential to yield novel insights into fundamental processes. It does not support research in classical zoology or botany, or pure organic or inorganic chemistry.
- You propose an especially bold and creative research programme that may have a transformative impact on your research field.
- You have a proven track record and can demonstrate international visibility of your scientific achievements.
- For the proposed research, you are not receiving and are not expecting to receive any
 - institutional funding in addition to the core funding associated with your professorship
 - third-party funding (e.g., ERC grants)
- equivalent or above the scope of Rise up! funding.

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What cannot be funded by the Rise up! programme?

- Rise up! does not support W2-level research group leaders at non-university research institutions.
- Rise up! does not replace an associate professor's core funding. The conditions and amounts of core funding have to be guaranteed in writing at the time of submission of the Rise up! proposal.

Selection procedure

The decision to grant funds is made by the Executive Committee of the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung based on the recommendations made by the foundation's Scientific Advisory Board and external peer-reviews. You may recommend potential reviewers in your cover letter. Additionally, you may name (giving reasons) any scientists to whom your proposal should not be presented for evaluation.

Questions about the programme?

Please contact Dr Friederike Keggenhoff,

tel: +49 (0) 6131 27 508-12, email: funding@bistiftung.de

Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung

The Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung is an independent, non-profit foundation that is committed to promoting the medical, biological, chemical, and pharmaceutical sciences. It was established in 1977 by Hubertus Liebrecht (1931–1991), a member of the shareholder family of the Boehringer Ingelheim company. Through its funding programmes Exploration Grants, Plus 3, and Rise up!, the foundation supports excellent scientists during critical stages of their careers. It also endows awards for junior scientists in Germany. Additionally, it funds institutional projects in the life sciences, such as the AITHYRA Institute in Vienna and a new research department (BioAI) at the Center for Systems Biology in Dresden, which combine biomedicine with AI. Other supported institutions include the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB) in Mainz and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, both in Germany.

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Rise up! application guidelines

Applications for funding by the Rise up! programme can be submitted via the foundation's online application tool accessible via this <u>link</u>. The following information needs to be provided:

A: Information to be entered in the online application form

B: Required PDF documents to be uploaded

C: Project proposal - detailed guidelines

A: Information to be entered in the online application form

1. General information

1.1. Personal details

- Surname, first name, academic title
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Degrees

1.2 Address of current place of work

- Institution and department/faculty (full name)
- Work address
- Phone number for contact
- Email address for contact

1.3 Current position and funding of your research group

- Official position (or accepted position, if not yet started)
- Type of contract / duration: permanent/tenure-track/fixed-term (please specify incl. dates)
- Please state how your research group has been funded or will be funded from the start date of your professorship. List the (1) resources/funding bodies and (2) funding amounts (including personnel and non-personnel resources), that your university/institution or a third party has committed to you in writing for the period covered by your proposal to the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung, as well as (3) their respective durations.

1.4 Top 5 publications and manuscripts

- Please list the five most important papers of your career to date (including full list of authors, year, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, page range of article, and DOI), indicate shared first authorship with * and co-corresponding authorship with #. Add a short description of the main findings and their impact on the respective field of research (max. 500 characters, incl. spaces).
- You may list up to two submitted manuscripts, manuscripts in revision or papers currently accepted / in print.
- Please submit each paper as a separate PDF file, each no larger than 3 MB, and all labelled according to the full list of publications.

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2. Information about the project

2.1. Title of project

2.2. Subject and area of research

- Subject (e.g., molecular biology, immunology)
- Area of research (e.g., DNA repair)

2.3. Proposed beginning and duration of funding

2.4. Summary

Please summarise the hypotheses and the main objectives of your proposed project in generally accessible language and in no more than 2,600 characters (incl. spaces).

2.5. Total funds requested

B: Required PDF documents to be uploaded

Please upload separate PDF files (each no larger than 3 MB) for each of the following sections:

- Cover letter
- 2. Academic CV
 - a. including previously received awards, fellowships and research grants (do not list posters or oral presentations at scientific conferences)
- 3. Certificates (if not in English or German, include translation)
 - a. Certificates of appointment
 - b. Doctoral degree(s)
 - c. University degree(s) (MSc, Diploma or equivalent)
 - d. Additional degrees or certificates (if applicable)
- 4. Full list of publications
 - a. List all your publications numbered and in the following format: including full list of authors, year, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, page range of article, and DOI, indicate shared first authorship with * and co-corresponding authorship with #, and highlight the five most important papers of your career to date (in yellow).
 - b. Use separate sections for
 - i. original articles (published or accepted/in press)
 - ii. reviews
 - iii. manuscripts submitted or in revision (do not include manuscripts in preparation)
- 5. Five most important publications and manuscripts
 - a. Please submit each paper as a separate PDF file, each no larger than 3 MB, and all labelled according to the full list of publications (find more information under section A 1.4).
- 6. Project proposal for up to 3 years (detailed guidelines below)
- Written statement by the university regarding the amount of annual core funding and staff
 positions associated with the professorship, as well as any additional institutional research
 funding.
- 8. Cooperation agreements
- 9. Other documents (e.g., quotes of items of equipment exceeding 10,000 EUR)

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C: Project proposal - detailed guidelines

The proposal – written in English – should consist of no more than 20 pages and should be comprehensible without reading the cited or appended literature. The proposal should be uploaded as PDF file. Please adhere to the following order to facilitate the review process:

1. Information about the project

1.1. Title of project

1.2. Subject and area of research

- Subject (e.g., molecular biology, immunology)
- Area of research (e.g., DNA repair)

1.3. Proposed beginning and duration of funding

1.4. Summary

Please summarise the hypotheses and the main objectives of your proposed project in generally accessible language and in no more than 2,600 characters (incl. spaces).

1.5. State of research

Please describe the current state of knowledge concisely and exclusively in relation to your own research, mentioning the most significant work by other scientists. Make clear how your own work fits into this context, and to which of the open questions in the field you are making a new contribution, and what importance, in your view, it will have on the field.

1.6. Your own preliminary studies

Please describe your preliminary work and results obtained so far, citing the relevant literature. If you have not started your professorship yet or intend to develop a new research programme deviating from your previous work, extensive preliminary results directly linked to the proposed research programme may not exist. In this case, describe the major results of your previous work, including unpublished results.

1.7. Overall objective and specific aims

A brief description of your proposed research programme for the funding period, as well as its overarching goal and specific aims. State which aspects of your proposal are especially innovative and may have a transformative impact on your field of research (and beyond, if applicable).

1.8. Research design and methods

Detailed research plan including milestones, risks, and mitigation strategies.

1.9. Cooperation agreements

Please list the scientists (other than those named in sections 2.2.1. and 4.1.) with whom you are currently cooperating or coordinating your work, or have agreed to do so in the future, as well as the projects or project components concerned in each case.

2. Funds requested

2.1. Total funds requested

Please state the total amount of the funds requested.

2.2. Breakdown of costs

Please list the costs according to the funding period in a table.

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2.2.1. Personnel expenses

Please specify:

- The number and type of positions (e.g., 1 PhD position, 65 % TVöD E13)
- The proposed periods of employment
- The requested amount of funding per position

Please provide justification of any substantial deviation from DFG's standard rates.

2.2.2. Consumables

Please state the amount of funding you expect to need annually for consumables and provide justification of any substantial deviations from DFG's standard rates.

2.2.3. Other resources

Please specify the purpose and amount of any additional funds that you need. If you are requesting funds exceeding 10,000 EUR for individual items of equipment, please provide written justification and recent price quotes.

3. References

Numbered and including full list of authors, year, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, page range of article, and DOI.

4. Other information

4.1. Composition of the research group

Please list all members of your research group (names, academic titles, official positions, and funding source including fellowship holders) and highlight those who are to participate in the planned project (other than those named in section 2.2.1).

4.2. Conflicts of interest due to commercial activities

Please inform us of any conflicts of interest e.g., if you are the owner of a commercial enterprise or own a stake in one. In each case, explain how your research project relates to the commercial enterprise's activities.

4.3. Applications submitted to others

Please list any other bodies to which you have submitted a funding application for the present research programme or any part thereof, stating the amount of funding requested.

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