



Federal Ministry
of Research, Technology
and Space

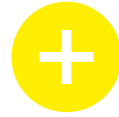
Global Minds Initiative Germany

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

GLOBAL MINDS INITIATIVE GERMANY



The “Global Minds Initiative Germany” offers international researchers **career prospects in the German science system.**



The Initiative enables the AvH and the DFG to **offer additional fellowships and positions and invite top researchers to Germany** in the context of existing funding programmes.



We support people and their projects. The differentiated programmes aim at **supporting individuals in all phases of their scientific careers.**



The internationally renowned funding programmes of both organizations enable a **speedy start** to a career in Germany.



No quotas, neither for individual countries nor for specific academic disciplines. **The only criterion is the applicant's academic record.**



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The **funding opportunities** offered by the **AvH** and the **DFG** create excellent conditions and **complement each other**.



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) **promotes outstanding international scientists and scholars**, expanding Germany's global academic cooperation networks. Its sponsorship programmes enable the rapid and high-quality integration of excellent academics from all disciplines into the German research landscape.



The German Research Foundation (DFG) is Germany's largest research funding organization and **central body for the self-government of the scientific community in Germany**, supporting research in all its forms and disciplines at universities and research institutions.



	Walter Benjamin- Programme Starting your Research Career	Emmy Noether- Programme Your Accelerated Path to a Professorship	Heisenberg- Programme On the Final Stretch to a Professorship	Module „Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators“
Purpose	offers excellent opportunities to develop an independent research profile with an own project	offers the opportunity to qualify for a professorship by leading an independent Emmy Noether group	enables outstanding researchers to prepare for a senior academic position while continuing their research work.	Enables national and international researchers to focus exclusively on their proposed research projects
Eligibility Requirements	Postdoctoral researchers at an early career phase.	Early career researchers (up to 4 years after doctorate)	Researchers who have qualified for a professorship	At any stage of he academic career
Funding Duration	Up to two years.	Six years	Up to five years	Project-specific (usually 3 to 6 years)

The German Excellence Strategy



Aims:

- **Strengthen** Germany as a base of research in the long term
- Further improve **international competitiveness and visibility**
- Further **develop and strengthen** German universities through the promotion of excellence in research, profile-building, and strategic cooperation

Funding Lines:

- **Clusters of Excellence**
- **Universities of Excellence**

The German Excellence Strategy

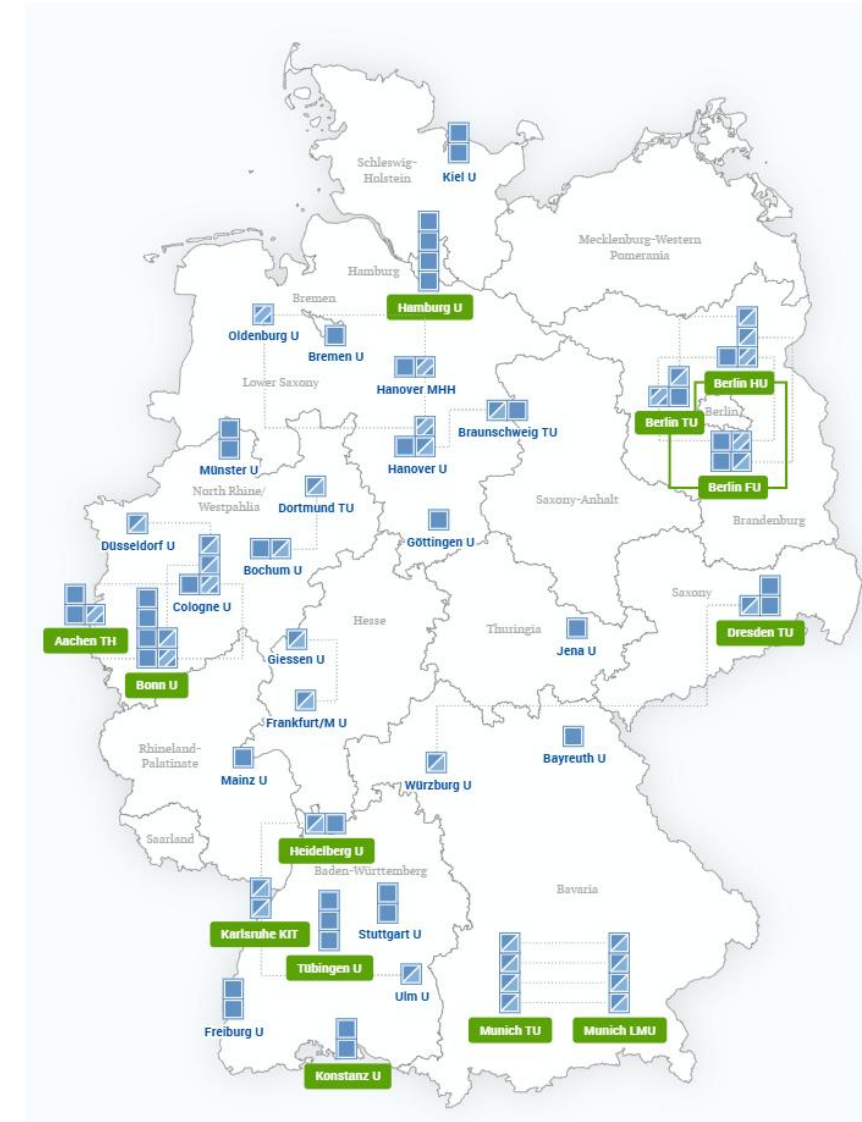


1st Funding Period (2019 – 2025/26)

- EUR 3.7 billion (533 million p.a.)
- 57 Clusters of Excellence
- 10 Universities of Excellence and 1 University Consortium of Excellence

2nd Funding (2026/27 – 2032/33)

- EUR 4.8 billion (687 million p.a.)
- 70 Clusters of Excellence
- up to 15 Universities of Excellence



- Due to long-term funding, Clusters of Excellence (CoE) and Collaborative Research Centres (CRC), established at German universities, provide excellent opportunities and sustainable structures for research
- for outstanding, experienced researchers
- 2 Modules “Professorships” and “Mercator Fellows Global”
- First call in CoE/CRC announced Oct 28
- Proposal submitted by the managing university of the CoE/CRC in agreement with the researcher for whom funding is requested.
- one proposal per CoE/CRC and call
- Submission due March 6, 2026
- Decisions in September 2026

	Module „Professorships”	Module „Mercator Fellows Global“
Type of funding	appointment an outstanding, experienced researcher from abroad to a long-term professorship at the applicant university of the CoE/EXC	Integration of an outstanding, experienced researcher as a long-term fellow, with 15-36 months of presence at the German site, providing additional expertise and international visibility to the consortium.
Eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced researcher, qualified for professoral appointment • ≥ 3 years abroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced researcher • ≥ 3 years abroad
Scope of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to € 3.5 million for 5 years • staff funding for the researcher up to the level of a professorship. • additional funding for staff • direct project costs • instrumentation funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to € 650.000 for the total period of residence within 5 years • staff funding for the researcher up to the level of a professorship. • additional funding for staff • direct project costs • instrumentation funding

GLOBAL MINDS IN GERMANY - ON THEIR WAY

- As of today, AvH and DFG have awarded **84** grants to a diverse group of scientists and scholars
- **66** Humboldt Research Fellowships
- **8** Humboldt / Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Awards
- **5** Emmy Noether grants
- **4** Walter Benjamin grants
- **1** Temporary PI position research grant
- Regions of origin:
 - **42%** Europe, **30%** Asia, **18 %** North America
- Disciplinary diversity:
 - **44%** Life Sciences **27%** Natural Sciences, **21%** Engineering Sciences, **7%** Humanities and Social Sciences
- **5** awardees are German citizens returning from abroad





More information:

<https://www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/funding-initiative/global-minds-initiative-germany>

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