Application Annex AA9

Fact Sheet for Universities

The Helmholtz Investigator Groups program

The Helmholtz Investigator Groups program provides the opportunity to set up and lead a research group for excellent scientists from Germany and abroad. The program aims to foster the early scientific independence of researchers. It offers excellent working conditions in a research-intensive environment as well as attractive career prospects based on proven scientific achievements. Since the start of the program in 2003, more than 280 recipients have been awarded funding for their research group at a Helmholtz Center.

Universities as important strategic partners

The Helmholtz Association's most important strategic partners are universities. Close cooperation with them plays a key role in the Helmholtz Investigator Group program. This cooperation allows group leaders to experience the benefits of a collaborative culture based on the division of labor when striving to achieve a common goal. At the same time, they have the opportunity to gain teaching experience and qualify for a professorship. The Helmholtz Association supports all efforts to jointly appoint the selected Helmholtz Investigator Group leaders to professorships at the partner universities.

A Helmholtz Investigator Group may be based at a university, a Helmholtz Center, or both. However, the group is expected to agree on clearly defined tasks at each of the institutions. These tasks must be set out in detail in the planned work schedule.

Selection procedure

The applications are assessed in a multi-stage selection process that meets the highest quality standards. In the first stage, the Helmholtz Center performs a pre-selection. After nomination by the Helmholtz Centers and a formal eligibility check, all candidates are invited to present their proposals to one of several interdisciplinary expert panels. Each panel includes international reviewers with relevant scientific expertise. Following the presentations and subsequent panel deliberations, the panels make the final funding recommendations.

University statement

A written statement by the university board (or another authorized university representative) and the relevant department/faculty is required to confirm the rights and responsibilities of the Helmholtz Investigator Group leader in accordance with the applicable higher education laws of the federal state. The statement must address the following points:

- teaching responsibilities (maximum of four semester hours per week);
- research independence;
- supervision of doctoral candidates;
- access to all necessary resources and infrastructure;
- staff and budget responsibilities (if applicable).

The form for the university statement is provided below. This statement must be submitted to the Helmholtz Head Office **after funding approval and before the official start of the group**.

University statement

(university) and the department / faculty expressly welcome the application of (group leader name) for a position as Helmholtz Investigator Group leader bearing the title of

at (institute/facility at which the group is to be based).

In order to grant (group leader name) scientific independence early on and to provide the opportunity to gain the relevant qualifications for an academic career, this university and department / faculty declare the following:

As an Investigator Group leader, he/she will be integrated into research and teaching activities at the university. By mutual agreement, the group leader will be entrusted with teaching responsibilities of not more than four weekly teaching hours per semester. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Neither the university nor the department will issue official instructions that influence the group leader's independent work on the specified research project. ☐ Yes ☐ No

The group leader will be given the authority to supervise doctoral candidates in completing their doctorates. [specify if necessary] ☐ Yes ☐ No

Specifications:

The Helmholtz Investigator Group will have access to all necessary resources and will be able to use the infrastructure of the university and the department / faculty. [specify if necessary] ☐ Yes ☐ No

Specifications:

The group leader will be given responsibility for the Investigator Group university related personnel and budget. [click "does not apply" if neither university related personnel nor university related budget are scheduled] ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Does not apply

_____
Candidate Signature and date

_____
University representative Signature and date
Name/ Position:

_____
Department / Faculty representative signature and date
Name/ Position: