

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

of January 17, 2019

for 15 Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups

funded by the Initiative and Networking Fund of the
President of the Helmholtz Association

16th Call for Applications



The Helmholtz Association wishes to offer excellent international researchers with their own adequately equipped Young Investigator Group at a Helmholtz Center the opportunity to successfully and permanently establish themselves in the scientific community. Outstanding young female scientists meeting the eligibility criteria are especially encouraged to apply.

A. Goal of the funding

A key objective of the Helmholtz Association's mission is the individual promotion of talented young researchers. Through its Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups, the Association allows the best young international and German scientists to set up and lead their own research group. Young Investigator Group leaders are given early scientific independence and have attractive career prospects. This includes the option of permanent employment, support and flexibility during the family phase, mentoring, and further qualifications at the Helmholtz Leadership Academy. Young Investigator Group leaders are also expected to collaborate closely with a university partner, gathering teaching experience. The President of the Helmholtz Association supports every endeavor to establish professorships for successful candidates jointly with a partner university.

B. Purpose of the funding

Funding will be granted to up to 15 Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups working in the research fields of Energy; Earth and Environment; Health; Key Technologies / Information; Matter; and Aeronautics, Space, and Transport. The funding provided by the Initiative and Networking Fund of the President of the Helmholtz Association will amount to up to 150,000 Euro a year and will serve as co-financing. The Helmholtz Center and cooperating university are expected to provide funding to at least an equivalent amount. Young Investigator Groups thus generally receive a minimum of €300,000 a year for six years. This covers costs for:

- the group leader position, normally at E 14/15 TVöD (collective agreement 14/15 for civil service employees),
- scientific or technical staff (normally three or four),
- expenses for materials, travel, and investments.

Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups are jointly set up by Helmholtz Centers and universities in areas of joint interest: Specifically, the Group's focus must be of relevance to a Helmholtz program and should promote cooperation with a university or department. Where possible, leaders of Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups should be given joint professorships.

The Young Investigator Group can be based at a Helmholtz Center or jointly at a Helmholtz Center and a cooperating university. They are expected to perform specific scientific work for both partner institutions, and this work must be defined in the planned work program. Cooperation with international partners is welcomed. Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups cannot be established at institutions abroad, however. Commercial businesses are highly appreciated as associated partners. However, they cannot receive funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund.

In the interest of providing the best possible support for young scientists setting up their own groups and preparing them for their leadership responsibilities, group leaders are required to attend the "Leading your group" course at the Helmholtz Leadership Academy in the first or second year of funding. This course is designed especially for new Young Investigator Group leaders.

In addition, the Helmholtz Centers and partner organizations also provide qualification and advisory services. The planned qualification measures have to be described in the format of a career development concept in the application.

The Helmholtz Association wants to make sure that both women and men have the opportunity to successfully combine family planning and a scientific career. Therefore, during the family phase, group leaders who go on parental leave or work part-time can apply for additional funding for a temporary deputy to cover his/her leadership responsibilities (where possible), allowing seamless continuation of the research project.

C. Target group

This call is directed towards excellent researchers who have between two and six years' post-doctoral experience and documented research experience abroad (see Annex 2).

The most important selection criterion is the outstanding quality of the candidates (CV, publications, citation index, awards, etc.) and the planned research project (innovation capacity, relevance, structure, coherence, feasibility). Further criteria include the strategic importance for the nominating institution (the host Helmholtz Center) and clearly discernible synergy effects resulting from the cooperation between the Helmholtz Center and the partner university.

The Helmholtz Young Investigator Group program is primarily a recruiting instrument. Candidates already employed by a Helmholtz Center are eligible but have to demonstrate international experience, competitiveness and mobility to a special degree.

The Helmholtz Association especially wishes to attract promising female scientists to continue their careers in science. At least 40% of Young Investigator Group leader positions in this call should therefore be awarded to women.

D. Duration of funding

The term of each Young Investigator Group is six years, with an evaluation after four years. If a recipient takes parental leave during this time, the funding period can be extended and the evaluation postponed in coordination with the Head Office.

Following an unreservedly positive evaluation, the candidate will be offered a permanent employment contract by a Helmholtz Center – if possible, with staff responsibility – without having to submit a new application. The decision to grant a permanent position will be made on the basis of a quality assessment of the candidate's scientific achievements according to international standards. The examination procedure will be carried out by the host Center with substantial participation by external reviewers.

The Initiative and Networking Fund cannot release the funds for the sixth year until the evaluation report has been submitted with a corresponding statement from the Helmholtz Center.

The planned evaluation process for the Young Investigator Group must be described in the career development concept. The position that will be offered to the candidate in case of an unreservedly positive evaluation must be specified in this plan.

E. Application

The call for applications will be issued internationally.

The application procedure involves several stages (see Appendix 4):

1. **Candidates** should approach the Helmholtz Centers **directly** with a draft of their application and contact the point of contact indicated (see Appendix 3) before applying.
2. Following an internal **candidate** pre-selection process, the **Helmholtz Centers** decide on their nominees and request that they submit the complete application documents.
3. The maximum number of candidates that each Helmholtz Center can nominate is as follows:

no more than four applications:

- Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (German Aerospace Centre) DLR,
- Forschungszentrum Jülich FZJ,
- Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) KIT.

no more than three applications:

- Alfred-Wegener-Institut Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung (Alfred-Wegener-Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research) AWI,
- Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY,
- Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum (German Cancer Research Centre) DKFZ,

- Helmholtz-Zentrum München – Forschungszentrum für Gesundheit und Umwelt (Helmholtz Zentrum München – German Research Centre for Environmental Health) HMGU,
- Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie HZB,
- Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf HZDR,
- Max-Planck-Institut für Plasmaphysik (Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics) IPP.

no more than two applications:

- Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen (German Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases) DZNE,
 - GEOMAR Helmholtz-Zentrum für Ozeanforschung Kiel (GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel),
 - Helmholtz-Zentrum Potsdam – Deutsches Geoforschungsinstitut (Helmholtz Centre Potsdam - GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences) GFZ,
 - GSI Helmholtz-Zentrum für Schwerionenforschung (GSI Helmholtz Centre for Heavy Ion Research)¹,
 - Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht – Zentrum für Material- und Küstenforschung (Centre for Materials and Coastal Research) HZG,
 - Helmholtz-Zentrum für Infektionsforschung (Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research) HZI,
 - The Helmholtz-Zentrum für Informationssicherheit (Helmholtz Center for Information Security), CISPA
 - Max-Delbrück-Centrum für Molekulare Medizin in der Helmholtz Gemeinschaft (Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association) MDC,
 - Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research) UFZ.
4. These applications are then submitted to the Helmholtz Head Office in Bonn via the heads of the Helmholtz Centers. Applications sent directly to the Helmholtz Head Office by candidates will not be accepted.
 5. The invitation of candidates to give a presentation in person before an interdisciplinary panel of experts in Berlin is based on written assessments. Candidates who are invited to give a presentation will receive their invitations about four weeks in advance.
 6. Successful candidates have to start their Young Investigator Group **within 12 months of receiving funding approval**. Otherwise, the funding will expire.

F. Dates and Deadlines

February 24, 2019: Deadline for candidates to submit application documents (draft applications) to the Helmholtz Centers

May 3, 2019: Deadline for submission of complete applications by the Helmholtz Centers to the Helmholtz Head Office in Bonn (cut-off date; key date for determining 2-6 years after doctorate)

September 30, 2019: Deadline for submission of the statement by the university to the Helmholtz Head Office in Bonn

October 17-18, 2019: Final selection conference in Berlin

No more than 12 months after receiving funding approval: start of the Young Investigator Group

¹ The GSI is eligible to apply only via Helmholtz Institute Jena and Mainz.

G. Documents to be submitted (see Annex 1)

Center cover letter (German or English, one PDF)²

1. Written confirmation by the board
2. Concept for career development measures, including the description of the planned evaluation process and position of the Young Investigator Group leader in case of a positive evaluation (see Annex 1)
3. Information about the Helmholtz Center's internal pre-selection process (see Annex 10)

Declaration of the Candidate (German or English)

1. Statement regarding current employment status and any comparable application submissions to other organizations
2. Statement about the handling of personal data

Assessable application (in English, one PDF, no more than 3 MB)

1. Application overview (see Annex 6)
2. Scientific portion of the application
3. Strategic significance of the Young Investigator Group for the Helmholtz Center and the relevant partners
4. Candidate CV
5. List of publications and citation index
6. Financial plan (see Annex 7)
7. Supporting letter from the prospective direct superior

List of six independent reviewers (see Annex 9)

University statement (as PDF) (see Annex 8)

² If there are multiple confirmations for several applications, please enclose a copy of each.

Annex 1

Application Guidelines for Helmholtz Centers and Candidates

Eligibility requirements

Scientists who fulfill the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- **Two to max. six years after receiving doctorate.** Parental leave periods in this phase will be taken into consideration at two years per child under 12. The doctorate date and the dates of birth of any children must be indicated on the CV and on the cover sheet of the application (see Annex 6). Exceptions may be made only in special cases (for example, if the six-year limit is exceeded due to the special requirements of a physician's clinical career, or in the case of particularly excellent research achievements immediately after receiving the doctorate).
- **International research experience.** This can be documented by a minimum six-month continuous research stay abroad during the doctoral or postdoctoral studies. Exceptions can be made for outstanding researchers for whom international mobility may be restricted due to special circumstances (for example because of children). Candidates already employed by a Helmholtz Center are eligible but have to demonstrate international experience, competitiveness and mobility to a special degree.

Those who have already been appointed to a professorship at a German or foreign university at the time of application or who were funded by a comparable program are not eligible for application.

Applications will only be considered if they are complete and fulfill all criteria listed above. If a Helmholtz Center would like to submit an application that does not meet all the criteria, the nominating Helmholtz Center must submit a written statement including meaningful justification to the Helmholtz Head Office before the application is submitted.

If an incomplete application or a list of biased reviewers (see Appendix 9) is submitted, the Head Office reserves the right to exclude the application from the subsequent selection process.

Application and selection process

- Candidates must apply by the submission deadline, submitting a CV, list of publications, and a brief outline of the planned work program (letter of intent, no more than two pages) to the Helmholtz Center. **Candidates are encouraged to establish contact early on with the contact persons indicated for the relevant Helmholtz Center** (see Appendix 3).
- Each Helmholtz Center carries out a transparent pre-selection process. An account of this process must be included when applications are submitted (see Annex 10).
- The Helmholtz Center works with the selected candidates to prepare the **complete** application. Where an application is being resubmitted, developments since the last application are to be described (see Appendix 6).
- The partner university should be involved in the selection process at an early stage in order to allow joint appointment and integrate the Young Investigator Group leaders into the departments

of cooperating universities (see Appendix 5). A sample form for university statements concerning the rights and duties of candidates can be found in Appendix 8.

- The applicant is the host Helmholtz Center. The complete applications¹ must be submitted to the Helmholtz Association via the EABS electronic application and review system (<https://helmholtznet.de/antraege/default.aspx>) by the stated deadline (cutoff date). Please submit the digital version of the application as four PDF-files (see the section entitled *Structure and requirements for the complete application*):
 - Center cover letter
 - Declaration by the candidate
 - Assessable application
 - List of six independent reviewers

One hardcopy must also be sent to the Helmholtz Association Head Office (Ahrstrasse 45, 53175 Bonn, Germany).

- An overview of the selection procedure can be found in Appendix 4.

Structure and requirements for the complete application

Center cover letter (German or English, one PDF)²

1. Letter from the board
 - Confirming partial funding by the center, possibly shared with a university. The funding provided by the Initiative and Networking Fund of the President of the Helmholtz Association will amount to up to 150,000 Euro a year and will serve as co-financing. The Helmholtz Center and cooperating university are expected to provide funding to at least an equivalent amount.
 - Confirmation of provision of the necessary facilities (including furnishings and IT) and infrastructure for the candidates and group members.
 - Agreement to pay the €5,200 in fees for the “Leading your group” course at the Helmholtz Leadership Academy either fully or in part.
 - Confirmation that the leader of the Young Investigator Group will have a fixed contact person (such as an experienced group leader) available to him/her during the initial stages, including the appointment of this person.
 - Confirmation that the Young Investigator Group leader will be given the opportunity to reflect on his/her own development and discuss further career prospects within a suitable framework at least once a year, and indication, who will take part in the talk.
2. Concept for career development measures and description of the planned evaluation process for possible training
 - The activities of Young Investigator Group leaders require complex competencies in various areas of activity such as research, teaching, management, and leadership. In order to optimally support Young Investigator Group leaders in this task, a career development concept must be drawn up for the candidate. It must address the following issues:

¹The university statement can be submitted later (see call “F. Dates and Deadlines”).

²If there are multiple application confirmations, please enclose a copy of each.

- Individual needs analysis taking into consideration the development levels of the individual, the team, and the organization as well as the professional, methodological, and social competence areas.
 - Preparation of a concrete qualification plan, taking into account the needs analysis and specifying the formats of the continuing education offers (such as workshops, coaching, and mentoring).
 - Presentation of career options following positive interim evaluation, including the offers made to the Young Investigator Group leader in case of a positive evaluation.
 - Frequency and contact persons for regular opportunities to reflect on career and development planning. In particular, a career development talk must be scheduled in the context of the evaluation.
 - The procedure and criteria for the planned evaluation with a view to continuing the project must be explained to the candidate.
 - Please provide a brief description of the planned evaluation procedure.
 - Please submit relevant tenure policies with the documents.
3. Information about the Helmholtz Centers' internal pre-selection process (see Annex 10).

Declaration by the Candidate (German or English, one PDF)

- Declaration of current employment, including term of contract, and the submission of comparable applications to other organizations
 - Candidates cannot apply for the Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups if they are already receiving funding from a similar program (such as the German Research Foundation's (DFG) Emmy Noether Groups).
- Agreement that the Helmholtz Association stores the information provided upon submission of the application and uses this data to process the application. In particular, this includes sending the application to external and internal reviewers.
- Agreement that the Helmholtz Association electronically stores and uses data provided upon submission of the application for purposes of review, statistics and evaluation.
- Agreement that the Helmholtz Association, in the event that the application is approved, publishes the name of the Young Investigator Group leader, the host Helmholtz Center and the title of the Helmholtz Young Investigator Group.
- Agreement that the Helmholtz Association, in the event that the application is approved, forwards the name of the Young Investigator Group leader and, if necessary, the CV and abstract provided in the application to the trainers of the "Leading your Group" course by the Helmholtz Leadership Academy.

The consent to the collection, processing and use of private data is voluntary and can be revoked at any time for the future. Revocations can be sent to info@helmholtz.de. In the event that the use of data is revoked, the data will be deleted or anonymized.

Assessable application (in English, one PDF, no more than 3 MB)

1. Application overview (see Annex 6)
2. Scientific portion of the application
 - No more than 20 pages (exclusion criterion) in English;
 - Presentation of clearly recognizable work packages, important intermediate steps, and milestones with a timetable;

- Presentation of the planned cooperation and communication structures.
- 3. Strategic significance of the Young Investigator Group for the Helmholtz Center and the involved partners
 - Statement on the connection to the Helmholtz program and to the focus of the (prospective) partner university/department; the benefit for both institutions should be presented in detail.
 - If the strategic significance is laid out specifically in the scientific portion of the application, a short reference to the relevant paragraphs is sufficient.
- 4. Candidate's CV
- 5. List of publications
- 6. Financial plan (see Annex 7)
 - Travel expenses can be included under material costs or expenditures.
 - No funding will be granted for overheads.
 - The Helmholtz Association aims to offer doctoral researchers regular employment contracts, including social security contributions, even though granting fellowships shall remain possible in exceptional cases. As a norm, doctoral researchers who receive funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund of the President of the Helmholtz Association must be compensated according to the good standard in the scientific field. In general, this means at least 65 % of an E 13 TVöD position (collective agreement 13 for civil service employees).
- 7. Supporting letter from the prospective direct superior (in English)

List of six independent reviewers (in German or English, as a PDF)

- The bias criteria (see Annex 9) must be observed. Specifically, reviewers who have an active role in a Helmholtz Center may not be named.
- The **proposals with complete contact and address data** (including e-mail addresses) should be attached to the application on a separate sheet and signed to confirm that no potential bias is known (if applicable, disclose possible contact points).

University statement (in German or English, as a PDF) (see Annex 5 and 8)

- Statement of rights and responsibilities (staff and budget responsibilities, doctoral candidate supervision, teaching responsibilities not exceeding four hours per semester week, access to all necessary resources/infrastructure), in accordance with the higher education laws applicable in the relevant federal state;
- Regarding a joint appointment to a professorship;
- Regarding career prospects should the Young Investigator Group leader wish to continue his or her career at the university after the funding period ends.
- A sample university statement is provided in Appendix 8.

Funding phase

Funding

Funding is provided on the basis of a grant agreement between the Helmholtz Association and the applying Helmholtz Center.

Evaluation of the Young Investigator Group

After three to four years, the Centers conduct an evaluation of the Young Investigator Group – in consultation with the partner university, if applicable. The evaluation results will be the basis for decisions as to whether the employment contract will be made permanent and on the group leader's future career.

During the course of the evaluation, the Center must meet with the Young Investigator Group leader to discuss his/her career. The meeting must be documented and is to be scheduled in the concept for career development measures (see above).

The evaluation report and a statement of the Helmholtz Center whether the employment contract will be made permanent must be submitted to the Head Office.

The Initiative and Networking Fund cannot release the funds for the fifth and sixth years until the evaluation report has been submitted with a corresponding statement from the Helmholtz Center.

Additional support during any family phase:

During a family phase, group leaders who take parental leave or work part-time can apply for additional funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund for a temporary deputy leader (postdoc according to the DFG rate) to supervise the group (to the extent possible), allowing seamless continuation of the research project.

Open science publication

By accepting funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund of the Helmholtz Association, scientists agree to make scientific publications based either entirely or in part on results of the funded project available to everyone in a freely accessible archive (repository) no later than six months after the original publication. If good reasons are presented, open science publication may be waived. These reasons must be reported to the Helmholtz Association as soon as they come to light.

Annex 2

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- *What if I do not fulfill the eligibility criteria (2-6 years after receiving doctorate, substantial international research experience)?*

Candidates who do not fulfill these requirements are advised not to apply (the cutoff date is the deadline for submission of complete applications by the Helmholtz Centers to the Helmholtz Head Office in Bonn). If a Helmholtz Center would like to submit an application for such an individual, a written statement including meaningful justification must be submitted to the Helmholtz Head Office before the application deadline. Funding will only be provided in particularly well-justified cases.

The Helmholtz Young Investigator Group program is primarily a recruiting instrument. Candidates who are already employed at a Helmholtz Center can be nominated, but they must demonstrate international experience, competitiveness and mobility to a special degree. Researchers who have been employed at a Helmholtz Center for some time are not the primary target group of the program.

- *Does evidence have to be provided for child-rearing periods?*

It is sufficient to note the doctorate date and the children's dates of birth on the CV and on the cover sheet (see Annex 6). Child-rearing periods within the period in question are recognized at two years for each child under the age of 12.

- *What academic certificates should I submit?*

Academic certificates (Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate) need not be submitted.

- *Will another call for the program be issued next year?*

A call of similar scope is planned for next year.

- *Is a general confirmation by the Center sufficient, or is an additional supporting letter from the Young Investigator Group's intended host institute necessary?*

A letter of support from the direct superior is required; as a rule, this should be the head of the institute.

- *What are the requirements for the written statement by the university/department?*

The letter from the university should be signed by high-ranking officials (President, Vice-Chancellor, and Dean, including official stamp). All the points listed in "Fact sheet for Universities" (Annex 5) should be observed. A sample university statement can be found in Appendix 8.

- *Is cooperation with international partners allowed?*

As a rule, such cooperation is allowed. However, funding can neither be used for personnel costs nor for investments at institutions abroad. The financing of the leader of a Young Investigator Group (when abroad as a guest) is an exception to this rule. In especially well-justified and documented cases, funds can be passed on to partners abroad to cover material expenses and hold events abroad, as long as these costs are directly related to the activities of the Helmholtz Young Investigator Group. Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups cannot be established abroad.

- *Are new group leaders obliged to participate in the Helmholtz Leadership Academy's "Leading your Group" course?*

Yes, participation within the first two years of their funding period is mandatory. This course was designed especially for new Helmholtz Association Young Investigator Group leaders. The curriculum ideally prepares participants for their new leadership responsibilities and supports them in successfully developing their own group. The course is offered in German and in English on an alternating schedule. Further information is available at www.helmholtz.de/academy.

The course fees of about €5,200 can be factored into the application's financial plan and covered either wholly or in part by the Centers.

- *What are the selection criteria?*
 - Excellent candidate quality: curriculum vitae, publications, citation index, awards and more
 - Excellence of the planned research project: innovation capacity, relevance; structure, coherence, and feasibility
 - Strategic importance for the nominating institution (the host Helmholtz Center) and clearly discernible synergy effects resulting from the cooperation between the center and the partner university.

- *Are there set selection quotas for individual Centers or research fields?*

Each Helmholtz Center can nominate a certain number of candidates (See Call "E. Application"). In the subsequent selection procedure, the best candidates and projects are selected according to the above-mentioned criteria, irrespective of their ties to topics or Centers.

- *When can I expect an invitation to a selection interview?*

If you are successful in passing the written stage of selection, you will be invited to give your presentation at the selection meeting. Your hosting Helmholtz Center will be informed with about four weeks' notice. We will provide the invited candidates with a detailed briefing shortly thereafter.

- *When is the final decision made?*

Your hosting Helmholtz Center will be informed of the funding decision no more than two days after the selection meeting. The successful candidates will receive a welcome letter shortly thereafter.

Helmholtz-Nachwuchsgruppen / Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups

Ansprechpersonen in den Helmholtz-Zentren / Contact persons at the Helmholtz Centers

(as of January 2019)

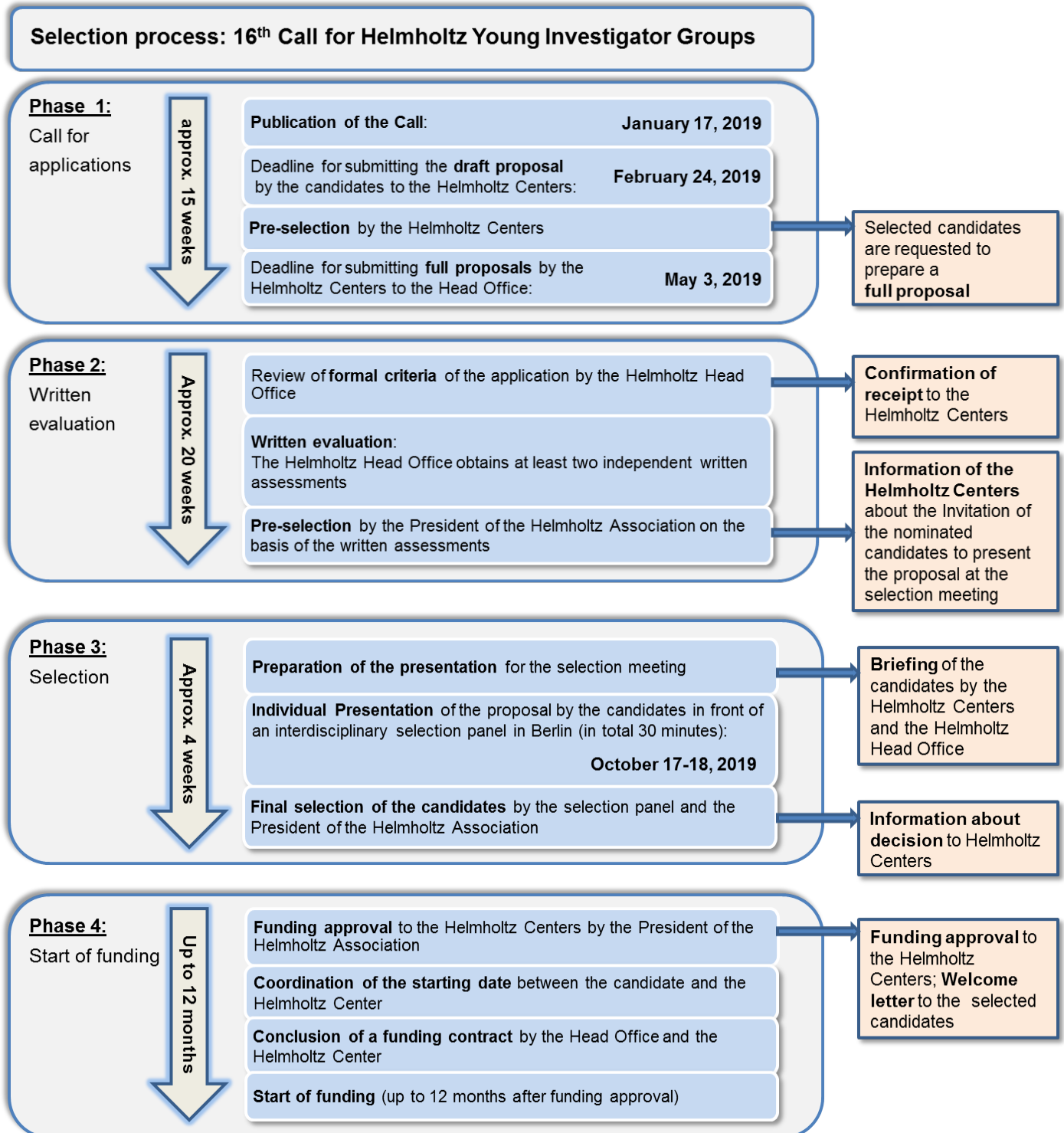
<p>Alfred-Wegener-Institut Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung AWI / Alfred-Wegener-Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research AWI Am Handelshafen 12 27570 Bremerhaven</p> <p>Dr. Corinna Kanzog Tel.: +49 471 4831-1302 corinna.kanzog@awi.de</p> <p>www.awi.de</p>	<p>Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY Notkestraße 85 22607 Hamburg</p> <p>Barbara Wittmann Tel.: +49 40-8998-1634 barbara.wittmann@desy.de</p> <p>www.desy.de</p>	<p>Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum DKFZ / German Cancer Research Centre Im Neuenheimer Feld 280 69120 Heidelberg</p> <p>Dr. Angelika Michel Tel.: +49 6221 42-1666 a.michel@dkfz.de</p> <p>www.dkfz.de</p>	<p>Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt DLR / German Aerospace Centre DLR Linder Höhe 51147 Köln</p> <p>Dr. Roswitha Grümman Tel.: +49 2203 601 3127 roswitha.gruemann@dlr.de</p> <p>Michael Conrady Tel.: 02203 601 3910 michael.conrady@dlr.de</p> <p>www.dlr.de</p>
<p>Deutsches Zentrum für neurodegenerative Erkrankungen DZNE / German Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases DZNE Sigmund-Freud-Str. 27 53127 Bonn</p> <p>Annette Schwarzenburg Tel: 0228-43302 125 Annette.schwarzenburg@dzne.de</p> <p>Dr. Alexander Migdoll Tel.: +49 (0)228 43302-155 alexander.migdoll@dzne.de</p> <p>www.dzne.de</p>	<p>Forschungszentrum Jülich FZJ 52425 Jülich</p> <p>Dr. Christine Haunhorst Tel.: +49 2461 61-96930 c.haunhorst@fz-juelich.de</p> <p>www.fz-juelich.de</p>	<p>GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung / GSI Helmholtz Centre for Heavy Ion Research Planck-Straße 1 64291 Darmstadt</p> <p>Dr. Karin Füssel Tel.: +49 6159 71-1441 k.fuessel@gsi.de</p> <p>www.gsi.de</p>	<p>GEOMAR Helmholtz-Zentrum für Ozeanforschung Kiel / GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel Wischhofstrasse 1-3 24148 Kiel</p> <p>Dr. Jan Helmke Tel: +49 431 600-2818 jhelmke@geomar.de</p> <p>www.geomar.de</p>
<p>Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie HZB Hahn-Meitner-Platz 1 14109 Berlin</p> <p>Dr. Antje Hasselberg Tel.: +49 30 8062 42340 antje.hasselberg@helmholtz-berlin.de</p> <p>Dr. Cécile Dufloux Tel: +49 30 8062 43833, +49 30 8062 12956 cecile.dufloux@helmholtz-berlin.de</p> <p>www.helmholtz-berlin.de</p>	<p>Helmholtz-Zentrum-Dresden Rossendorf HZDR Bautzner Landstraße 400 01328 Dresden</p> <p>Dr. Birgit Gross Tel.: +49 351 2603486 b.gross@hzdr.de</p> <p>www.hzdr.de</p>	<p>Helmholtz-Zentrum für Infektionsforschung HZI / Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research Inhoffenstraße 7 38124 Braunschweig</p> <p>Katrin MacLeod Tel.+49 531 6181 1001 katrin.macLeod@helmholtz-hzi.de</p> <p>www.helmholtz-hzi.de</p>	<p>Helmholtz-Zentrum für Informationssicherheit – CISPA / Helmholtz Center for Information Security – CISPA Stuhlsatzenhaus 5 66123 Saarbrücken</p> <p>Dr. Sandra Strohbach Tel: +49 681 302 57436 strohbach@cispa.saarland</p> <p>www.cispa.saarland</p>

Helmholtz-Nachwuchsgruppen / Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups

Ansprechpersonen in den Helmholtz-Zentren / Contact persons at the Helmholtz Centers

(as of January 2019)

<p>Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung - UFZ / Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ Permoserstraße 15 04318 Leipzig</p> <p>Dr. Martina Kunz-Pirrung Tel.: +49 341 235 1272 martina.kunz-pirrung@ufz.de</p> <p>www.ufz.de</p>	<p>Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht Zentrum für Material- und Küstentforschung HZG / Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht Centre for Materials and Coastal Research Max Planck-Straße 1 21502 Geesthacht</p> <p>Dr. Iris Ulrich Tel.: +49 4152 87-1633 iris.ulrich@hzg.de</p> <p>Dr. Katharina Jantzen Tel.: +49 (0)4152 87-1622 katharina.jantzen@hzg.de</p> <p>www.hzg.de</p>	<p>Helmholtz-Zentrum München – Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Gesundheit und Umwelt HMGU / Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Centre for Environmental Health Ingolstädter Landstraße 1 85764 Neuherberg</p> <p>Dr. Sophie Rothhämel Tel.: +49 89 3187-2170 sophie.rothhaemel@helmholtz-muenchen.de</p> <p>www.helmholtz-muenchen.de</p>	<p>Helmholtz-Zentrum Potsdam Deutsches GeoForschungs-Zentrum – GFZ / Helmholtz Centre Potsdam - GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences Telegrafenberg 14473 Potsdam</p> <p>Dr. Knut Kaiser Tel.: +49 331 288-2830 kaiser@gfz-potsdam.de</p> <p>www.gfz-potsdam.de</p>
<p>Karlsruher Insitut für Technologie KIT / Karlsruhe Institute of Technology KIT Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen</p> <p>Dr. Roswitha Marioth Tel.: +49 721 608 48357 roswitha.marioth@kit.edu</p> <p>Dr. Frank Bode Tel.: +49 721 608 41866 frank.bode@kit.edu</p> <p>www.kit.edu</p>	<p>Max-Delbrück-Centrum für Molekulare Medizin in der Helmholtz Gemeinschaft MDC / Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association Robert-Rössle-Straße 10 13125 Berlin</p> <p>Dr. Gesa Schäfer Tel.: +49 30 9406 4268 gesa.schaefer@mdc-berlin.de</p> <p>Dr. Cornelia Maurer Tel.: +49 (30)-9406-3141 maurer@mdc-berlin.de</p> <p>www.mdc-berlin.de</p>	<p>Max-Planck-Institut für Plasmaphysik IPP / Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics Boltzmannstraße 2 85748 Garching</p> <p>Dr. Werner Dyckhoff Tel.: +49 89 3299-2231 werner.dyckhoff@ipp.mpg.de personalabteilung@ipp.mpg.de</p> <p>www.ipp.mpg.de</p>	<p>Contact person at the Helmholtz Head Office</p> <p>Dr. Johannes Freudenreich Tel.: +49 30 206 329 16 johannes.freudenreich@helmholtz.de</p> <p>www.helmholtz.de</p>



Annex 5

Fact Sheet for Universities

The Helmholtz Young Investigator Group program

The Helmholtz Young Investigator Group program gives the best young scientists in Germany and abroad the opportunity to set up and lead their own research group. The program fosters early scientific independence of researchers and offers excellent working conditions in a research-intensive environment with secure career prospects based on proven scientific achievement. Since the start of the program in 2003, more than 200 recipients have benefited from it.

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 Young Investigator Group program. This cooperation allows group leaders, at an early stage of their careers, 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 to become professors. The President of the Helmholtz Association supports all efforts to jointly appoint the selected Helmholtz Young Investigator Group leaders to professorships at the partner universities.

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

As important partners, the universities are included in the selection process from the very beginning. The Helmholtz Centers confer with the universities when nominating candidates. These nominations are forwarded to the Helmholtz Head Office in Bonn for the final selection round. This means that the universities and Helmholtz Centers jointly decide which candidates are suited to setting up a successful Young Investigator Group.

To strengthen cooperation in young talent promotion, the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and the Helmholtz Association published a joint white paper in 2004. It identified the Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups as being particularly well suited to promoting scientific excellence and to enhancing the reputation of both partner institutions. The points set out in the white paper on the Young Investigator Groups form the basis for the statement submitted with each application.

Selection procedure quality assurance

In 2007, the Helmholtz Young Investigator Group program was thoroughly evaluated by iFQ, the Institute for Research Information and Quality Assurance (see iFQ Working Paper No. 6, December 2009, Postdocs in Germany: A comparative study of the Young Investigator Groups program). The study confirmed that the selection process is comparable to the processes used by other programs (the Emmy Noether Program of the German Research Foundation (DFG), for example) in terms of quality and transparency standards.

The first call for applications to the Young Investigator Group program was issued in 2003, and has since established itself as a highly competitive procedure. The last round saw the Helmholtz Centers receive about 220 applications for the 15 available places. The applications are assessed in a multi-stage selection process that meets the highest quality standards. In the first stage, the Helmholtz Centers and the universities jointly make a pre-selection. The nominated candidates' applications are then forwarded to the Helmholtz Head Office in Bonn. Here, at least two appraisals by national or international experts are commissioned to evaluate each application. On the basis of these assessments, up to 30 candidates are invited to Berlin to present their projects to an interdisciplinary panel.

The application – required documents

The complete application should include a written statement by the university management and the department covering the following points:

- rights and responsibilities (staff and budget responsibilities, doctoral candidate supervision, teaching responsibilities not exceeding four hours per semester week, access to all necessary resources/infrastructure), in accordance with the higher education laws applicable in the relevant federal state;
- planned joint appointment to a professorship;
- career prospects should the Young Investigator Group leader wish to continue his or her career at the university after the funding period ends.

A sample university statement on the rights and responsibilities of a Young Investigator Group leader is provided in Appendix 8.

This statement is to be submitted to the Helmholtz Head Office in Bonn **by September 30, 2019**.

Anlage 6 / Appendix 6

Overview of the Application

Young Investigator Group leader (Name, <u>complete</u> current address, email and telephone number of the candidate)	
Application title	
Nominating Helmholtz Center	
Name and organizational unit of host scientist	
German university partner	
Helmholtz Research Field	
Helmholtz Program	

Candidate:

Current host institution	
Gender	
Nationality	
Date of doctorate	
Date of birth of children if applicable	
International research experience (please indicate durations)	
Short CV (max. 450 characters, in table form) (Please include working experience, PhD and academic studies; please indicate durations)	
Summary of publications (max. 300 characters) (Please include total number of publications, Hirsch-Index (please indicate citation database); first authorships (if applicable), please highlight three crucial contributions to your field).	
Summary of awards (max. 200 characters)	

Project:

5-6 keywords

Summary in English (max. 200 words). Please formulate this summary to be comprehensible to scientists without expertise in your field.

Summary in German (max. 200 words). Please formulate this summary to be comprehensible to scientists without expertise in your field.

In case of a resubmission of the application:

Please specify the project number of the initial application. Please describe the changes compared to the initial application (max. 300 words).

Appendix 7
Financial Plan

	Total financial budget of the Helmholtz Young Investigator Group						
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Sum
Own contribution Helmholtz Center							
personnel costs							
costs of materials and supplies							
investments							
Own contribution University							
personnel expenses							
expenses for materials and supplies							
investments							
Total budget Helmholtz Center + University							
Initiative and Networking Fund*							
personnel expenses							
expenses for materials and supplies							
investments							
Total budget of the YIG							

Please indicate only direct project-related costs/expenses. Overheads are not eligible for funding.

* A funding of max. 150,000 euros per full year (or 12,500 euros per full month) of the Initiative and Networking Fund will be provided evenly.

Annex 8

University statement

_____ (university) and the _____
department expressly welcome the application of Mr./Ms. _____
for a leadership position in a Helmholtz Young Investigators Group bearing the title of
_____ at _____ (institute/facility at which the group is to be based).

In order to grant Mr./Ms. _____ scientific independence early on and give him/her the opportunity to gain the relevant qualifications for an academic career, this university and department declare the following:

- As a Young Investigators Group leader, Mr./Ms. _____ will be integrated into research and teaching at the university. By mutual agreement, he/she will be entrusted with teaching responsibilities of not more than four weekly teaching hours per semester.
- Neither the university nor the department will issue official instructions that influence the group leader's independent work on the specified research project.
- Mr./Ms. _____ will be given responsibility for the Young Investigators Group personnel and budget and the authority to supervise doctoral candidates in completing their doctorates.
- The Young Investigators Group will have access to all necessary resources (specify if necessary) and will be able to use the infrastructure of the university (specify if necessary) and the department.

A (junior) professorship is planned yes no

University representative signature
Official stamp

Young Investigators Group leader signature

Department representative signature

Annex 9

Selection of unbiased reviewers

Impartiality issues and conflicts of interest may exist in relation to the research project, the candidate, or the current and future research institutes the candidate is associated with.

Impartiality issues/conflicts of interest may for example arise if the reviewer:

- is employed by or plays an active role at a Helmholtz Center.
- has a family relationship or close personal ties or contacts with a researcher involved in the application.
- is in close current or planned scientific cooperation with a researcher involved in the application.
- has been in a dependent employment or supervisory relationship (such as a teacher-student relationship at any level up to and including the postdoc phase) with a researcher involved in the application within the last six years.
- is preparing a proposal or carrying out a project closely related to the candidate's research topic (direct scientific competition).
- has had a joint publication or been actively engaged in cooperative research efforts with a researcher involved in the application within the last five years.
- has engaged in intensive use of the research center's facilities within the last five years.
- is currently or has been in an employment relationship within the last five years with the respective Helmholtz Center or the current employer.
- is or has been involved in an ongoing or failed appointment procedure with any of the university partners involved.
- has personal commercial interests of relevance to the application.

Please name **six potential reviewers** and make sure that at least two of them are female scientists. Please refrain from nominating only the most prominent scientists in your research field as it may be difficult to get an assessment.

Please attach the proposed reviewers to the application **as a separate sheet** with complete contact and address data including e-mail addresses.

Please **disclose possible points of contact** with the reviewers and sign to confirm that no potential bias is known.

If the bias criteria are not observed, we reserve the right to reject applications before the review process.

Annex 10

Selection Statistics Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups

16th Call for Applications of January 17, 2019

Center:

The Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups were invited to submit proposals on specific topics

Yes

No

(please mark as appropriate)

Description of the selection procedure

Selection statistics

	Number
I. Total applications received:	
of which women:	
of which external (Germany):	
of which external (abroad, returning candidates):	
→ please indicate countries:	
of which external (abroad, not returning candidates):	
→ please indicate countries:	

II. Total internally declined applications:	
of which women:	
of which external (Germany):	
of which external (abroad, returning candidates):	
→ please indicate countries:	
of which external (abroad, not returning candidates):	
→ please indicate countries:	

III. Total withdrawn applications:	
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