

Preamble

The charter of the Einstein Foundation Berlin (ESB) defines the Foundation's objective as supporting science, scholarship, and research of the highest international level in and for Berlin. It is therefore a particular honor for individuals and university institutions to be granted funding by the ESB. And this honor goes hand in hand with a particular obligation.

The ESB is committed to promoting scientific quality and sees quality as a multidimensional concept that includes scientific integrity and responsibility for ensuring a non-discriminatory work environment.

Through these guidelines, the ESB intends to play its part in embedding a committed culture of scientific quality and integrity at the universities and in the partner institutions involved in its funding activities. The guidelines are aimed primarily at individuals who receive funding through the ESB's funding programs. In submitting an application to the ESB, the universities and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin undertake as a matter of principle to comply with the standards set out in the German Research Foundation's Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice, the fundamental principles of which are shared unreservedly by the ESB.

The ESB stipulates the following guidelines for itself and its funding recipients:

1. Complying with the standards of good scientific practice

The ESB has embraced the issue of research quality in a unique way – through the *Einstein Foundation Award for Promoting Quality in Research*, which it has been presenting in collaboration with the BIH Quest Center since 2021. Compliance with the standards of good research practice is fundamental to the research projects and research associations funded by the ESB. All research is based on three pillars: the incontestability of the methods used, strict honesty when dealing with third-party research findings, and a commitment to submit one's own results to critical review.

2. Non-discrimination

The ESB funds researchers at different career stages. It expects its funding recipients to advocate for respectful, non-discriminatory cooperation and to oppose all forms of abuse of power, discrimination, and violence. Especially in situations where they take on leadership responsibilities – at whatever point in their scientific career – funding recipients can and should model respect and mutual esteem.

3. Promoting international scientific exchange

The ESB advocates for international scientific exchange, for refugee researchers, and for a research environment free from persecution and attacks – aspects that are particularly characteristic of Berlin. In view of this, the ESB requires its funding recipients to treat partners from other research systems and cultures with respect, in a spirit of openness and mutual exchange. At the same time, it calls on its funding recipients to act with an awareness of the ever-present political context of their research and their social responsibility.

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The ESB's contractual partners in all funding programs are the universities or Charité – Universitätsmedizin. As employers of the Foundation's funding recipients, they are therefore also responsible for putting in place the structural preconditions that make it possible to guarantee the principles described here. They are likewise responsible for any inquiries and sanctions in the event of noncompliance. The ESB agrees with its contractual partners to inform them of the results of investigation procedures affecting active funding activities, in accordance with the relevant university statutes. In cases where the Foundation's funding activity is already affected by measures in ongoing investigations, the Foundation will be informed in line with the relevant agreements between the universities/Charité – Universitätsmedizin and the DFG. Once the procedure is concluded, the Einstein Foundation Berlin will evaluate potential implications for its funding activities.

As well as having access to the ombudsperson, advice, and complaints services of the Berlin universities and Charité – Universitätsmedizin, funding recipients affected by these issues are free to approach the ESB Head Office or Executive Board in confidence. The Einstein Foundation Berlin will support the individuals as far as it is legally able, in particular by providing information about procedures and competent authorities at the institutions in question.