

I. OBJECTIVE

Einstein Research Projects support excellent scientific and creative projects in Berlin that meet the highest international standards. These projects must be high-risk in the most positive sense of the word. The programme offers funding only for projects that are innovative in the context of the Berlin research community, and that are supported by several institutions in the city.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Only professors at the five eligible institutions (Charité, FU, HU, TU, UdK) are entitled to submit individual or joint applications to the Einstein Foundation Berlin. One or more of these institutions or one of these institutions and at least one collaborative partner (in accordance with the funding guidelines) must support the research project. The application must be designed in a way to exclude the option of being alternatively funded (e.g. through the DFG Research Grants).

The applications may also be submitted together with other publicly financed research institutions in Berlin, as well as with the Hebrew University.

The application must be endorsed by the university or the Charité-Universitätsmedizin as well as the non-university collaborative partner. These statements must confirm that the proposal has the support and approval of the universities' leadership as well as that of the non-university institutes, particularly with regard to the outstanding quality of the proposal and its added value for Berlin as a research location. The amount of financial support provided by each of the institutions involved should also be presented.

III. FUNDING

Funding will be provided for personnel and material resources. Individual grants may be awarded if there are several applicants. Participants in Einstein Research Projects who are not employed by one of the eligible institutions will receive the funding through the applicants' institutions.

IV. FUNDING PERIOD

The maximum funding period is three years.

The Einstein Foundation must be represented in the title of the funded research project.

V. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are required to use the application forms provided by the Einstein Foundation on its website. Please also take a look at the additional information remarks for applicants to be found there (FAQ). Applications may be submitted in any discipline by the dates posted on the Foundation's website. If individual host

institutions have internal deadlines for applications to the Einstein Foundation, applicants should liaise with the contact person at their institution (a list is included below) well in advance.

The application for funding must include:

- A description of the project and its objectives
- A detailed project plan
- A cost plan according to year
- Evidence of the outstanding quality and originality of the project
- Outline of the high-risk aspects of the proposed project
- An explanation of how the proposal fits into the current research context and the point reached in preliminary work
- Nomination of one or more collaborative partners from other academic institutions in Berlin, and a statement on the partners' role in the project

Apart from the overarching criterion of academic excellence, the project's importance for Berlin as a centre of research excellence plays a crucial role in the evaluation of all applications. The endorsement by the management of the eligible institution enclosed with the application should therefore include a paragraph on the impact the project is expected to have on strategic profile building.

VI. USE OF FUNDS

The approved funds may only be drawn through the universities or the Charité-Universitätsmedizin in accordance with the regulations on third party funding. No less than 50 % of the requested grants must be drawn by the eligible institution. These institutions will also become the employers of the individuals who receive support from the Einstein Foundation Berlin. If a partner institution is involved in the project, the funding recipient will forward the funds allocated to this institution on a pro rata temporis basis.

The individuals remunerated from these funds will be employed by the partner institution.

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