EINSTEIN
Foundation.de
My scientific work is motivated by an irresistible longing to understand the secrets of nature, not by other feelings.

/// Albert Einstein. Letter to F. Lentz, 1949
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When I examine myself and my methods of thought, I come close to the conclusion that the gift of imagination has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing absolute knowledge.

/// Albert Einstein, quoted from memory by a friend in 1978
The Einstein Foundation Berlin:
Promoting leading-edge science and research
Visit www.einsteinfoundation.de for additional information.

/// Staircase at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities
The Einstein Foundation Berlin

Established in 2009 by the State of Berlin, the Einstein Foundation funds global-standard science and research in Berlin, helping to consolidate the city’s reputation as one of the world’s foremost research hotspots.

The projects to be funded are chosen by an independent commission composed of eminent academics.


The Einstein Foundation Berlin operates a competitive, science-driven procedure to identify and fund the best projects and people.

With its particular focus on inter-institutional collaborative research, the Foundation is a strategic partner for the Berlin universities.


Research funding is the Foundation’s primary task although it does run some projects of its own. Funding decisions are made autonomously, and the Foundation’s activities are exclusively science-driven.

Funds are awarded on the basis of a competitive, multi-step review and decision-making procedure. There are no quotas for subjects or institutions. What is crucial is the quality of the proposals and projects and their potential for enhancing the reputation of Berlin as a location for research.

For insight. For society. For the future.

The Einstein Foundation Berlin places great emphasis on communicating the contents of the projects it supports to the general public.
I have no special talent.
I am only passionately curious.

/// Albert Einstein. Letter to Carl Seelig, 1952
The Einstein Foundation Berlin funds exceptional scientists as well as excellent research projects. It promotes networking and enhances the visibility of Berlin as an attractive location for science and research.
The Einstein Professorship is the tool with which the Einstein Foundation supports the appointment of outstanding international researchers to a Berlin university or Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin by awarding a non-recurring grant to establish the professorship. The programme is also intended to prevent leading Berlin researchers from accepting offers from universities outside of the city.

“The dynamism and quality of science and culture in Berlin make it into one of the most exciting cities in the world.”

Claudia Draxl

The Foundation grants Einstein Junior Fellowships to promote excellent junior researchers working in Berlin. In addition to the position as a junior researcher, the funding also includes a grant for the respective research project.

“I am thrilled about the freedom to do research which the Einstein Junior Fellowship has given me.”

Anita Traninger
Einstein Visiting Fellow

Einstein Visiting Fellows are leading scientists and scholars from abroad who lend their expertise to existing areas of academic excellence in Berlin and promote international collaborations. To achieve this, they set up a working group in Berlin.

Einstein International Postdoctoral Fellow

This programme is open to high-achieving young researchers at universities in Berlin who wish to include a postdoctoral researcher from abroad in their junior research group. Fellows are eligible to receive funding for a maximum of five years for the duration of the project.

“Networks determine the future. This is true for body cells, for science itself, and for the Einstein Foundation.”

Michiel Remme

“I am researching into random motion in space, but the reason why I am in Berlin is not random at all.”

Wendelin Werner
As Einstein Research Fellows, professors at Berlin universities and Charité Universitätsmedizin are able to spend up to two years conducting research at a non-university research institute.

“The Einstein Fellowship is a great scientific honour. I can dedicate myself to my research.”

/// Professor Stefan Rinke
Freie Universität Berlin

Einstein Research Projects fund outstanding international collaborative projects at Berlin universities or Charité Universitätsmedizin. These projects should be exceptionally innovative and high-risk – in the most positive sense of the word.

“You can’t programme a research project to be successful. You have to take risks and have trust.”

/// Professor Markus Schülke-Gerstenfeld
Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin
The objective of this programme is to increase the international visibility of Berlin as a location for science and research, to strengthen cooperation with foreign institutions and to spark the enthusiasm of young scientists for research in Berlin.

The programme offers postdoctoral researchers in Berlin the opportunity to participate in theme-based collaborations across the city. The Einstein Circle should be organised independently and involve several institutions.

“An Einstein Circle offers young scientists ideal conditions for independent collaboration.”

Dr. Anne Baillot
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

“We want to make leading-edge research findings accessible to the broadest possible audience.”

Professor Heribert Hofer, Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research Berlin
Einstein Centres contribute to the long-term sustainability of major, top-level collaborative research clusters in Berlin, which already receive external grants, by providing funding to establish cross-institutional networks of research and teaching and consolidate cooperation between eminent researchers.

“The Einstein Centre is an important step towards securing a place for Berlin as a world leader in mathematics.”

Professor Volker Mehrmann
Technische Universität Berlin

Visit www.einsteinfoundation.de for additional information on the Einstein Foundation’s funding programmes, initiatives and events. We will be pleased to send you our detailed programme information and application forms. Please do not hesitate to contact us.
The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. He, to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead and his eyes are closed.

/// Albert Einstein. The World As I See It, 1934
Our goal: To facilitate leading-edge research. Together with you. In Berlin!
/// Personal and project funding programmes

For excellent scientists, researchers and artists

In accordance with its statutes, the Einstein Foundation Berlin funds programmes promoting excellent inter-institutional research projects and exceptional scientists and artists in Berlin. Is your research project ideally suited to Berlin? Then apply now! Submit your application via a Berlin university or Charité Universitätmedizin.

/// Berlin Encounters

For emerging creative talents

Our network “Berlin Encounters” is an innovative platform for exchange between young leaders from science, business, art and culture. An annual workshop with prominent speakers from various fields of society launches interdisciplinary projects and generates a strong network for Berlin.

“Anyone producing knowledge should not withdraw from society. This is a conviction we share with the Einstein Foundation.”

/// Professor Olafur Eliasson, Institut für Raumexperimente at UdK Berlin

“The Einstein Foundation’s innovative event formats are a major benefit, especially for emerging talents.”

/// Dr. Matteo Valleriani
Berlin Encounters
science, research and Berlin belong together. That is why the Einstein Foundation Berlin has developed various event formats allowing exceptional scientists to present their results to a wide audience. Would you like to attend? Do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to welcome you to one of our next events.

/// Meeting Einstein Events

For curious minds

"Excellent research does not belong in the ivory tower, but at the very centre of our lives. This is what the Einstein Foundation stands for."

/// Professor Craig Calhoun, London School of Economics and Political Science

/// How to find us

For Berlin

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The eternal mystery of the world is its comprehensibility.

/// Albert Einstein. Out of my Later Years, 1952
For Research. For Berlin.