

I. OBJECTIVE

Einstein Strategic Professorships are recruitments of leading researchers from abroad who are of outstanding strategic importance to developing Berlin's research environment. The programme's aim is to help Berlin's universities and publicly funded non-university research institutions to implement pioneering research strategies, build their research profiles, explore and advance new research areas, as well as nurture their strengths and appeal to outstanding talents. Einstein Strategic Professorships are a decisive contribution to sustainably enhancing Berlin's international competitiveness. Since 2018, the Einstein Foundation has been able to fund Einstein Strategic Professorships through a generous donation from the Damp Foundation with a total of €36m until 2030. The State of Berlin provides additional resources which can be accessed after the end of the initial five-year funding period to create permanent positions for Strategic Professorships through the Einstein Foundation.

II. ELIGIBILITY

The following institutions are eligible to apply: Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, Universität der Künste Berlin, and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Applications may also be submitted jointly with publicly funded Berlin-based research institutions, e.g. the non-university institutes of the Max Planck Society, the Helmholtz Association, the Leibniz Association, and the Fraunhofer Society. In exceptional cases, the latter institutions, in particular the institutes of the Max Planck Society, the Helmholtz Association, the Leibniz Association, and the Fraunhofer Society, may submit independent applications, provided they are based in Berlin. Eligible institutions nominate outstanding scientists and researchers who have built a strong international reputation underlined by highly visible awards and prizes. Joint applications submitted by a university or Charité – Universitätsmedizin together with non-university institutions must provide information on the candidate's planned activities at each of the respective institutions.

III. FUNDING

The Einstein Foundation provides funding for positions and additional staff and equipment. The eligible institutions submit their applications requesting funding to establish a professorship for an internationally leading researcher. Once funding has been approved, the host institution is responsible for employing or appointing the candidate (for example, by issuing a search waiver and appointing the candidate directly). The applying institution initiates (appointment) negotiations with the candidate and creates the prerequisites for appointing or employing them. Faculty or employment contracts should be signed within nine months after funding has been approved.

Should the host institution fail to appoint a candidate after funding has been approved, the Einstein Foundation's Executive Board can choose to fund the candidate ranked next on its candidate list.¹

The number of funded professorships depends on the total volume of funding requested and the number of permanent professorships funded by the State of Berlin and appointed by the universities.

¹ If necessary, a temporary leave of absence during the transition phase can be issued.

IV. FUNDING PERIOD

Einstein Strategic Professorships are generally funded for five years. Cost-neutral extensions are only possible if the professorship is privately funded, or if all of the programme's professorships are secured via mixed funding. Selected Strategic Professorships may be funded permanently via the State of Berlin, and candidates thus be appointed for life, whereas non-university institutions with successful independent funding applications are responsible for specifying and arranging continued collaboration after the end of the funding period.

For the duration of their work in Berlin, the respective candidate will hold the title of "Einstein Professor".

V. APPLICATION

Application deadlines can be found on the Foundation's website. Besides detailing the reasons for supporting the proposed candidate, applications must:

- specify how the candidate will nurture the university's artistic/research profile and Berlin's appeal as a science and research hub;
- outline how the Einstein Strategic Professorship will shape the institution's medium-term strategic development, including future appointments and research foci;
- list the incentives the institution intends to offer the candidate – in addition to a lifetime position funded by the State of Berlin through the Einstein Foundation – to ensure they remain in Berlin once the initial funding has expired.

Please note that applications must be submitted in **English**.

VI. USE OF FUNDS

Grants can only be disbursed as third-party funding through the host university, Charité – Universitätsmedizin, or the publicly funded non-university institution.

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