

# Add-on Fellowships for Interdisciplinary Life Science

The Joachim Herz Foundation will be awarding 40 fellowships in the form of “Add-on Fellowships for Interdisciplinary Life Science”. The aim of the fellowships is to support the interdisciplinary work of young scientists (f/m/d) with a view to their obtaining a greater insight into a related discipline that is important to scientific research. The fellowship consists of funding that may be spent on conference attendance, research stays, further training, and the purchase of equipment and tools like hard- and software among other things, as well as up to two networking events a year organized by the Joachim Herz Foundation.

## 1 Target Group

The target group for the Add-on Fellowships is young scientists working on interdisciplinary research matters in the area of systems biology and related research fields. The fellowships promote a greater insight into related disciplines. Application for a fellowship is open to graduate and postdoc students (f/m/d) of various disciplines who are integrated within the German science system. A student may also make the transition between these two stages during the term of the fellowship.

The fellowship program does not cover living expenses – these must be covered by means of employment at a university or research institute, or with some other scholarship. It is the responsibility of the applicants themselves to ensure that any additional funding is permissible in accordance with the rules applicable to their basic financing.

It is also important to note that scientists who, in the role of project leader, have already obtained funding for research projects as part of peer review programs of the DFG, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the EU, or an institution that funds research projects, etc. are no longer eligible to apply for this fellowship program.

## 2 Fellowship Amount and Duration

The fellows will receive funding for a period of two years and three months. This funding comprises up to €12,500 per recipient for the purposes of individual research funding and recipient networking. These funds may, for example, be used for equipment (PC, software, etc.), student assistants, training, travel costs, attendance fees, data collection/acquisition, and other measures directly connected to research work. They may also be used to fund training and development programs that further the recipient’s own career.

Fellows with children will also have the option of applying for an extra €3,000 to help them combine family and career. These extra funds may be used by recipients for taking children with them when traveling to conferences and research stays (travel and accommodation costs) and for the purpose of childcare during conferences/research stays among other things. In respect of childcare, the funding will cover either the travel costs (airfare, train fare, accommodation – but these should not exceed childcare costs at the destination) of an accompanying caregiver (e.g. family member) or the cost of childcare at the destination. Furthermore, costs for the placement of children in kindergartens, day care centers, etc. can also be financed.

An application may be made to have the fellowship extended to enable further use of the funds, with no additional funds being awarded. The Joachim Herz Foundation will review and decide upon each application for extension of the funding period on a case-by-case basis.

### **3 Networking Meetings**

In addition to the fellows' individual funding, meetings are held up to twice a year with a view to facilitating and consolidating the fellows' networking as well as communication among the fellows and between the disciplines. The networking meetings are a mandatory part of the fellowship program. Travel to the networking meetings is covered by the funding.

### **4 Application Process**

The fellowships are advertised once a year, primarily by means of fliers sent to the appropriate institutes by e-mail and by mail. Precise details regarding applications can be found on the Joachim Herz Foundation website. The fellowships are also advertised on suitable platforms. Graduate and postdoc students apply directly to the Joachim Herz Foundation. The following documents must be submitted using the online form when applying:

- ▶ Completed application form
- ▶ Letter of motivation (max. 3,800 characters including blanks)
- ▶ Résumé
- ▶ Brief description of the research project (max. 3,800 characters including blanks)
- ▶ Supporting letter from the team leader/supervisor concerning the need for the fellowship and regarding support for interdisciplinary training
- ▶ Proof of qualifications (copies of university diploma/transcript of records and possibly also doctoral certificate)

The application documents are to be submitted in full and on time. The closing date for applications is in June, with funding commencing in November of the same year.

### **5 Selection Process**

The fellows are selected by means of a two-stage written process: following a preliminary examination of the applications by representatives of the Joachim Herz Foundation, the applications are forwarded to the selection committee comprising independent scientists and representatives of the Joachim Herz Foundation. The up to 40 fellows are subsequently selected in a jury meeting. The selection criteria are:

- ▶ Clear outlining of the interdisciplinary research
- ▶ Interest in, and a need for, interdisciplinary postgraduate training
- ▶ Feasibility and suitable planning regarding use of the funds
- ▶ Interest in the Foundation's interdisciplinary networking events

In addition to these selection criteria, the chosen fellows should represent different disciplines. The applicants have no claim to the jury justifying their reasons for approving or rejecting an application.

## **6 Fellowship Acceptance and Approvals**

By accepting the fellowship, the fellow undertakes to notify the Foundation without undue delay of any changes in their circumstances that are relevant to the awarding of the fellowship. Further, the fellow is obliged to produce an interim written report halfway through the fellowship and a final report upon termination of the fellowship. With an approved extension of the funding period, a further interim report must be submitted at the end of the second funding year. Upon entering the program, the fellows conclude a fellowship agreement with the Joachim Herz Foundation governing use of the funds, their obligation to provide supporting documents, and the submission deadlines.

## **7 Other**

The Joachim Herz Foundation reserves the right to revoke a fellowship and assert a reimbursement claim if incorrect or incomplete information was given in the application, if the approval conditions were not observed, or if there are other important reasons for such a revocation. There is no entitlement on the part of the fellows to being funded by the Joachim Herz Foundation.

Further, the Joachim Herz Foundation reserves the right to amend or supplement these guidelines.