

Begegnungszonen

Promoting Interdisciplinary Events in the Natural Sciences

The Joachim Herz Foundation supports doctoral candidates and postdocs with interdisciplinary and international cooperations in the area of natural sciences. In summer 2022, the Foundation will award funding to support interdisciplinary networking events within the natural sciences by means of a nationwide request for proposals.

1 Objective

The aim of the request for proposals is to promote networking events and event formats for interdisciplinary cooperation that actively engage up-and-coming scientists and facilitate dialog with senior scientists. The events should allow young scientists to get to know other areas of natural science and learn new ways and methods of working. The event format is also to serve as a platform for embarking on partnerships for interdisciplinary research and for networking at the national and international levels.

In addition, since 2020, there will be increased promotion of bilateral events that support cooperation between German and American research institutes (and their up-and-coming scientists).

2 Funding opportunities and prerequisites

In terms of subject matter, the request for proposals will focus on interdisciplinary events within the natural sciences. The event format could be a conference together with a networking platform, a workshop, a symposium, or a summer school for doctoral candidates and/or postdocs. The funding will also support the trialing of new event formats. The supported formats should particularly focus on interdisciplinary communication and interaction between early career and experienced researchers. Support will therefore only be given to events that last at least three days and which are designed to be attended by 30 to 150 participants (including the speakers).

The following costs can be covered:

- ▶ Subsidization of the participants', speakers', and organizers' catering, overnight accommodation, and travel expenses
- ▶ Rental costs for premises and technology, including event software licenses
- ▶ Costs relating to preparation and execution of the event, including the cost of producing the materials
- ▶ Funds to cover childcare during the event

Partial funding is also possible, for example in partnership with research associations, expert associations, or other institutes (including abroad), or alongside the German Research Foundation (DFG) or the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

The earliest starting date for the events is December 1, 2022, and the latest date is November 30, 2023.

No costs incurred prior to approval of the funding will be reimbursed.

3 Application eligibility

Scientists who work at a research institute in the Federal Republic of Germany and who have completed their academic training – in general, with a doctorate – are eligible to apply. Scientists who work at an establishment that is not eligible for tax relief or nonprofit are not eligible for the funding.

4 Application

The funding is advertised on the Joachim Herz Foundation web pages, by means of publication on appropriate platforms, and with fliers being sent to suitable institutes by email. Applications are to be submitted directly to the Joachim Herz Foundation. All applications must include the following documents:

- ▶ Completed application form
- ▶ Project outline including a detailed cost projection and a (provisional) event program
- ▶ Academic careers of the main applicants (each max. 3,600 characters incl. blanks)
- ▶ Proof of the charitable status of the applying institute, as long as it is not an institute of a public entity

The application documents are to be submitted in full and on time. The deadline for applications is Monday, May 16, 2022.

5 Assessment

The applicants are selected by means of a written process: the applications are given preliminary consideration by representatives of the Joachim Herz Foundation and are subsequently passed on to external experts if necessary. The criteria for selection of the events to be funded are:

- ▶ A clear presentation of the interdisciplinary topic of the event
- ▶ Feasibility and suitable planning regarding use of the funds
- ▶ Event format: boosting communication, dialog, and networking – in particular with early career scientists

The applicants have no claim to justification of the reasons for an application being either approved or rejected.

6 Information regarding approvals

By accepting the funding, the applicant undertakes to notify the Foundation without undue delay of any changes in their circumstances which are relevant to the awarding of the funding. For the purposes of approval of the funding, the Joachim Herz Foundation either concludes a funding agreement with the applicant's institute governing use of the funds, their obligation to provide supporting documents, and the submission deadlines, or makes a funding commitment.

The Joachim Herz Foundation reserves the right to revoke funding approval 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 applicants to being funded by the Joachim Herz Foundation.