

Advanced Professorship FAQs

Eligibility

Which universities and higher education institutions are eligible to apply?

German universities and educational colleges (*Pädagogische Hochschulen*) that hold university status are eligible to apply.

Is it possible to apply for funding for an appointment arranged jointly by a university and a non-university institution?

Only German universities and educational colleges (*Pädagogische Hochschulen*) that hold university status are eligible to apply. A joint appointment will only be accepted if the application is submitted by an institution of this kind and if this institution shares no more than 49.9% of the funding amount with its non-university partner.

Can a university alliance/network submit an application?

Yes, but a single university – the one that will employ the professor – needs to submit the application on behalf of the alliance. The “Relevance for the university” section in the application portal can be used to describe how the candidate will be integrated in the university network.

Can a single university submit multiple applications?

No. Each university may submit only one application per call per program.

Candidates

What are the eligibility criteria for researchers?

Universities can submit an application for an international scholar whom they want to appoint to a W2 or W3 professorship. The applying university runs a formal check to assess the candidate's eligibility for the professorship in accordance with the provisions of the relevant federal state law.

Universities can also apply if they plan to offer the candidate a visiting professorship to start with. For instance, universities can apply for funds for a visiting professorship as a temporary solution until a regular appointment can be made; these plans must then be presented in the application.

Applications can also be submitted for visiting professorships for researchers at the end of their academic careers, for whom a regular appointment is no longer planned. Please contact the Foundation office early on for advice if you are planning to apply for a visiting professorship.

It is also possible to obtain funding for researchers who hold a German passport; however, all candidates must have been living and working outside of Germany for at least three years at the time of application.

When can an application be submitted?

An application can be submitted as soon as a candidate has been selected through the university's processes. This could be as soon as a department, faculty, or senate has approved the selection. Universities that have already made an offer of a professorship may still apply, provided the offer has not yet been accepted.

If a direct appointment (*Direktberufung*) is planned, an application can be submitted as soon as the candidate has been selected.

Please contact the Foundation office if you are unsure whether a candidate is eligible.

Can applications be submitted for candidates who are currently Visiting Fellows in Germany?

Yes, provided they are still formally employed at a research institution abroad (even if this post has been put on hold for the term of the fellowship) and provided they had been living and working abroad for at least three years before starting the Fellowship in Germany.

Funding application and use of funds**How much funding can I apply for?**

The maximum funding amount is €1.6 million. If applying for this full amount, the university's own contribution will be €1,440,000. As the applying university, you can count the professor's salary as part of your contribution. Please note that university overheads do not count towards the university's contribution.

Example: If the university applies for €1 million from Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft, the university will have to match this with a contribution of €1 million. In addition, Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft will make available €100,000 to the researcher in the form of unrestricted research funds.

The university's contribution can only be less than 50% if the application concerns a visiting professorship for a researcher at the end of their academic career. In these cases, please contact the Foundation office early on.

When does the university have to make its own funds available?

In the case of a regular professorship appointment, the Foundation and the university should release their funding simultaneously.

In the case of a mid-career visiting professorship, the university can start making its funds available when the Foundation funding period ends. The university commits to spending the same amount from its own funds on the professorship in the four years following the appointment as it received from the Foundation in the four years of the visiting professorship.

In the case of an end-of-career visiting professorship, the university should show how much it will contribute towards the visiting professorship during the funding period.

Must the university's financial contribution come from internal funds?

No. The university's contribution can include third-party funding.

By when must the funds from the Foundation be used?

The maximum funding period is four years.

How can the funds be used?

You can apply for funding to cover staff and material expenses associated with the professorship as well as dual career and onboarding measures. Investments will only be covered if the application clearly states that they are required solely for the professorship that is the subject of the application.

What is covered by onboarding and which measures can be applied for?

Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft understands “onboarding” to mean all measures that are specifically designed to meet the needs of researchers and to help them settle into their new working and living environment quickly.

Funding for onboarding measures can therefore be used to cover expenses such as relocation costs for the candidate and their family, and costs associated with helping them to settle into life in Germany. This can include the costs of temporary accommodation or realtor/estate agent services, one-on-one language courses, services such as personal assistance for dealing with government offices and with other administrative tasks, childcare expenses, or dual career measures for the researcher’s partner. Equally, these funds can also be used to integrate the researcher into their new professional setting, covering expenses such as one-on-one coaching, mentoring programs, or further training.

Please be aware that private funding provided by the Foundation can be used in a much more flexible manner than public funds. Please contact the Foundation office before starting an application to discuss the ways in which you want to support the candidate.

What do I need to keep in mind when applying for onboarding funds?

According to German fiscal law, funding to cover the cost of realtors/estate agents, temporary accommodation, tax advice, etc. could be regarded as non-cash monetary advantages for which tax has to be paid retrospectively, unless these benefits are paid as a “Berufungsleistungsbezug”. Please contact your university’s financial/controllers department early in the process and discuss possible solutions with the Foundation.

For which dual career measures can the funding be used?

Funding can be used to cover all relevant costs, including career coaching sessions, recruitment agency services, or costs for staff based at the university or at other research institutions.

Can funding be used to cover personnel expenses?

Funding can be used to finance posts that are necessary to strengthen the candidate’s area of work or to cover costs associated with dual career measures. Please note that staff funded by Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft must be employed in full-time positions.

The Foundation also expects newly hired PhD students to be offered contracts lasting at least four years and expects that postdoctoral contracts will run for at least two years.

These rules only apply to positions funded by the Foundation’s contributions. Exceptions are possible, with the Foundation’s prior agreement, if the university can show that the employee in question has asked for a shorter contract or does not wish to be employed full-time, or if additional sources are being used to fund their position.

Can I apply for or continue to receive third-party funds from elsewhere if my professorship is funded by Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft?

Yes, you may apply for and continue to receive funding from additional sources.

What cannot be covered by the funding?

Funds **cannot** be used to cover the cost of basic equipment or overheads. Investments will only be covered in full if the application clearly states that they are required solely for the professorship that is the subject of the application.

Submission and application procedure

How many application rounds are there each year?

There are two application rounds per year. The current deadline can be found on the Foundation's website.

Can I also submit applications in German?

No. Applications may be submitted in English only.

Who should take the lead in preparing and submitting the application – the board, the rector's office, the faculty, or the institute?

This is up to the applying university to decide. Please ensure that the key contact person named in the application has the authority to provide Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft with further information and to speak on behalf of your institution.

How is a funding decision reached?

The scientific sections and the onboarding and dual career measures are reviewed separately. The scientific evaluation is carried out by external reviewers. The parts of the application relating to onboarding and dual career measures will be assessed and ranked by a group of experts on international mobility. The Research Board assesses applications based on their external reviews and produces an interdisciplinary ranking of worthy submissions. The Research Board's vote is given an 80% weighting, and the international mobility experts' vote is given a 20% weighting. The Foundation bases its decision on the ranking and the availability of funds.

How long will it take for a decision to be made?

The Foundation will inform you of its funding decision no later than six months after the application deadline.

Are there funding quotas for certain disciplines, subjects, universities, federal states, etc.?

No. The Research Board's funding recommendations are science-driven and based on the expert reviews.

Will I receive feedback if my application is unsuccessful?

The Foundation office will pass on any feedback that could be useful for future submissions.

When is the deadline to accept the funding and begin the professorship?

The appointment must be accepted no later than three months after funding has been approved, and the professorship must begin within the following nine months.

Other

I am a researcher. Can you advise me on how to negotiate with the applying university?

Within the scope of this program, Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft can only provide guidance on joint applications submitted with a university. Please get in touch with us by telephone or email. For negotiations with the university, we suggest contacting organizations such as the **Deutscher Hochschulverband** or the **German Scholars Organization** for advice.