

Advanced Professorship

Objective

Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft's *Advanced Professorship* program supports German universities in appointing and onboarding international researchers **in the R4 career stage**. The grant offers researchers the opportunity to conduct research supported by excellent material and personnel resources, and provides funds for onboarding and dual career measures.

Funding

Universities can apply for **up to €1.6 million** for up to four years, provided they guarantee to finance the professorship to a comparable level. The funds can be used to pay for the salary, personnel, material expenses and investments, as well as onboarding and dual career measures. The Foundation will make 10 % of its share of the funding available to the researcher as unrestricted research funds.

Eligibility

All German universities are eligible to apply. The professorship appointment can be for an existing professorship (to fill a vacancy or in anticipation of an upcoming vacancy), or for a new W2 or W3 professorship. Universities can also apply if they plan to offer the candidate a visiting professorship to start with. In this case, the university must present its plans for the subsequent appointment to a permanent professorship. Applications can also be submitted for visiting professorships for researchers at the end of their academic careers.

Candidates must have been **working outside of Germany for at least three years** at the time of application. To be eligible to apply, the university must have completed an internal selection procedure or be planning a direct appointment. In the case of a visiting professorship for a candidate at the end of their academic career, there must be a direct scientific link to one of the university's research focus areas. Universities that have already made an offer of a professorship may still apply, provided the offer has not yet been accepted.

Application

University leadership teams can submit applications in English via the Foundation's application portal. The application consists of three sections (**Sections A-C**) and a budget plan (**Section D**).

Section A consists of the following:

- A statement explaining the **candidate's relevance for the institution's strategy**. Here, the university should outline how it expects the candidate's appointment to align with the university's research focus, teaching, and internationalization strategy. This section sets out how the university plans to integrate the candidate into the relevant institute, faculty, and any collaborative research programs, during and after the funding period. The staff and material resources, premises, other resources, and research infrastructure provided are also mentioned in this section.

- In the case of a **visiting professorship**, the plans for a permanent appointment after the funding ends should be presented here. If the application concerns a visiting professorship for a candidate at the end of their academic career, the university must also present the candidate's academic performance and any plans to secure additional third-party funding and supervise colleagues in early career stages.

Section B, to be completed by the candidate, consists of:

- A **CV**.
- A description of the **research topic** that the candidate will be working on during the funding period.
- A statement in which the candidate presents their **motivation** for switching to the German research system, with reference to the university making the application.
- An outline of the candidate's own **onboarding and dual career requirements**.

In **Section C**, the university explains the measures for **onboarding** the candidate. This section comprises:

- A presentation of the **existing onboarding program** for international researchers and an explanation of how this program will be used to integrate the candidate into the university, city, and German society. The additional set of **ad personam measures** and **dual career offers** are also described in this section.

Section D of the application consists of a **budget plan** with explanations of the individual budget items.

Deadlines

Applications can be submitted by the deadlines announced on the Foundation's website.

Selection process

The applications are assessed in a **multi-stage peer review process**. The scientific sections (Sections A and B) and the onboarding section (Section C) are evaluated separately. **Sections A and B** are evaluated by **external expert reviewers** from the relevant research field. The **Foundation's Research Board** conducts a comparative assessment of all applications, taking into account these written reviews, and issues funding recommendations. **Section C** is evaluated by experts with experience in onboarding international researchers.

The Research Board's vote is given an 80 % weighting, and the international mobility experts' vote is given a 20 % weighting in the final funding ranking. The Foundation allocates funding in line with the final funding ranking and its financial capability.

Start of the professorship

Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft will announce its funding decision five to six months after the application deadline published on its website. It expects the candidate to take up the professorship within 12 months of funding being approved.