

Aims of the programme

The Leibniz Association recruits promising postdoctoral candidates from Germany and abroad by offering them attractive working conditions: early independence, a first-rate research environment and excellent networking opportunities.

As a leader of a Leibniz Junior Research Group, postdoctoral researchers are given the opportunity to pursue their own research projects and establish themselves in their respective fields on their way to a full professorship or tenured position.

Scope of the programme

Successful candidates will receive funding of up to 1.7 million euros to set up a Junior Research Group over a period of five years. This may include personnel costs for the group leader, doctoral researchers and, in some cases, postdoctoral staff, as well as funds for equipment and facilities.

Eligibility and assessment criteria

Applicants must have a track record of outstanding academic work in their field. They will be assessed on their academic performance, career status and future career prospects. The proposed scientific project will be judged according to its academic and methodological quality, prospects of success, originality and relevance.

The hosting Leibniz Institute must guarantee that the proposed Junior Research Group will be granted scientific independence.

In general, candidates should have obtained their doctorate no more than five years ago.¹

The Leibniz Association explicitly encourages applications from international candidates. German language skills are not required.

¹ Child-raising adjustment: add two years per child under the age of 12.



Through our Leibniz Junior Research Groups we strive to attract the best minds from all over the world and help them to realise their full potential at a Leibniz Institute.



MATTHIAS KLEINER,
PRESIDENT OF THE LEIBNIZ ASSOCIATION

How to apply

Candidates need the support of the Leibniz Institute of their choice in the application process. Applications are submitted to the Leibniz Headquarters by the director of the Leibniz Institute in question.

The applications undergo an external peer-review process and are evaluated by an academic panel. The annual application deadline for the Leibniz Junior Research Groups programme is the end of March. Funding can start after 1 January of the following year.

Please get in touch with the respective Leibniz Institute early enough to allow sufficient time for application procedures. For a list of all Leibniz Institutes and contact persons, please visit www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en/research/leibniz-competition/leibniz_best_minds.html

Further information on the call for applications and application procedure can be found at: www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en/research/leibniz-competition.html

Please also check our FAQs: www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en/research/leibniz-competition/faq.html



By providing the resources that empower an entire team to conduct in-depth research and develop and foster international collaborative partnerships, the Leibniz Junior Research Group offers tremendous support for my academic development. The grant allows me to grow as an independent researcher, to gain leadership skills and guide and support the next generation of researchers.



JANA MARIA KLEIBERT,
HEAD OF THE LEIBNIZ
JUNIOR RESEARCH GROUP
"CONSTRUCTING TRANSNATIONAL
SPACES OF HIGHER EDUCATION"
AT THE LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE
FOR RESEARCH ON SOCIETY
AND SPACE (IRS)

The Leibniz Association

The Leibniz Association connects 95 independent research institutions that range in focus from natural, engineering and environmental sciences to economics, spatial and social sciences and the humanities. Leibniz Institutes address issues of social, economic and ecological relevance.

They conduct basic and applied research, including in the interdisciplinary Leibniz Research Alliances, maintain scientific infrastructure, and provide research-based services. The Leibniz Association identifies focus areas for knowledge transfer, particularly with the Leibniz research museums. It advises and informs policymakers, science, industry and the general public.

Leibniz institutions collaborate intensively with universities – including in the form of Leibniz ScienceCampi – as well as with industry and other partners at home and abroad. They are subject to a transparent, independent evaluation procedure. Because of their importance for the country as a whole, the Leibniz Association Institutes are funded jointly by Germany's central and regional governments. The Leibniz Institutes employ around 20,000 people, including 10,000 researchers. The total budget for all the institutes is approximately 2.1 billion euros.

COVER PHOTO: MEMBERS OF THE LEIBNIZ JUNIOR RESEARCH GROUP LED BY LISA OESTEREICH AT THE BERNHARD NOCHT INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE (BNITM)

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS
AND APPLICATION ADVICE

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Division Leibniz Competition

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Leibniz Junior Research Groups



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Gain leadership experience
at a Leibniz Institute