



- Funding guideline -

1. Funding purpose

The aim of the DZHK Junior Research Groups is to recruit highly qualified and talented young scientists from Germany and abroad for the DZHK and support them on their way to early scientific independence. Excellent research projects are funded which are in line with the strategic direction of the DZHK.

Through the leadership of the Junior Research Group, as well as the fulfilment of teaching duties to a reasonable extent, the Junior Research Group leader is to be given the opportunity to attain tenure.

2. Type and scope of funding

2.1. Eligibility

The funding measure is targeted at young scientists. Eligible are scientists who are holding a doctoral degree (PhD degree or equivalent). Scientists can apply up to six years after obtaining their doctorate, applicants holding a degree in medicine can submit an application up to eight years after passing the state examination (third part of medical examination or an equivalent first-professional degree). Periods of family leave (child care or care of relatives) within the eligibility period are taken into account. When children are born in the eligibility period, women are credited with six months including maternity leave, men three months as a rule. Additional months are recognised according to submitted proof.

The applicant must fulfil the following eligibility requirements:

- Special scientific achievements, demonstrated through publications in high-ranking international journals
- At least two years of research experience outside Germany
- At least two years of working as a postdoctoral scientist at the start of funding

The junior research group should not be located at an institution where the scientist has been formerly employed.

Exceptions may be made to the above regulations and will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

2.2. Duration of funding

A DZHK Junior Research Group may be funded for up to five years (three years and following evaluation another two years). A review panel decides on the second period of funding on the basis of an interim report which is due 2.5 years after the commencement of funding. Upon successful evaluation the DZHK Junior Research Group will be funded for two further years. Otherwise, the fourth year serves as the completion and final funding phase.

2.3. Subject matter of the funding

Up to €250,000 per annum may be requested. The budget comprises personnel funds as well as consumables, investment funds and travel costs. Funding applications for DZHK Junior Research Groups must include financing of the own position. The employing DZHK partner institution decides on the salary group classification.

The DZHK Junior Research Group leader is responsible for personnel and budget, takes on teaching duties of generally four weekly lecturing hours per semester (SWS) and may, if approved by the partner institution, lead PhD students to their doctoral degree.

As a general rule, it is intended that the DZHK Junior Research Group leader works full-time in her/his group. In justified cases, licensed medical doctors may carry out their duties as DZHK Junior Research Group leaders on a part-time basis (max. reduction up to 50 per cent of the regular weekly working time). The possibility to reduce working time due to family work remains unaffected. The approved funds remain available to the DZHK Junior Research Group leader in the case of a reduction in her/his own working time (possible reallocations which become necessary are to be agreed with the funding management department).

If the DZHK Junior Research Group leader is appointed as a professor (W2/W3) at a German university during the period of funding, a completion funding is generally possible. This does not apply to the share of the funds that was granted for financing the group leader's own position. Funds cannot be taken to a new institution if offered a professorship abroad.

2.4. Linkage to a DZHK partner institution

DZHK Junior Research Groups can only be established at DZHK partner institutions. A complete application includes the commitment of a DZHK partner institution to accommodate and integrate the DZHK Junior Research Group at the partner institution. The members of the DZHK Junior Research Group are temporarily employed by the DZHK partner institution for the duration of funding.

The DZHK partner institution provides the necessary basic equipment such as laboratory and office space.



3. Process

3.1. Application process

Funding applications can be submitted via email at any time to the main office of the DZHK. There is one round of evaluation in 2019. All applications received by 30 September 2019 will be considered in the selection process.

The application must contain the following documents:

- Completed application form (EX.2-A)
- Research proposal including curriculum vitae and list of publications (EX.2a-A)
- Declarations (EX.4-A): Employer's agreement, declaration that funds for this grant have not additionally been raised elsewhere

It is strongly recommended to consult the respective [partner site manager](#) before submission of the funding application.

3.2. Selection and approval process

- a) The applicant submits the full and complete application documents to the DZHK main office, which formally reviews the documents.
- b) Applications that meet the formal eligibility criteria are forwarded to a selection panel, which evaluates and scores these in a written procedure. The selection panel consists of the DZHK Board of Directors, the partner site speakers and the speaker of the Young DZHK. An important selection criterion is the scientific potential of the project and the scientific excellence demonstrated in the past and to be expected in the future. Typically the funding applications should be reviewed within two weeks. Partner site speakers who are not able to personally perform the review within the anticipated timescale may assign a representative to serve as a member of the selection panel.
- c) On the basis of the written evaluation, a telephone/video-conference will be conducted to decide which funding applications shall be assessed by independent external reviewers. Positively rated applications will be sent out for external review, negatively rated applications will be rejected.
- d) The external reviewers provide an expert assessment of the project proposals. Based on the external reviews the selection panel decides which applicants should be invited to present their project proposal to the panel members.
- e) The selected applicants present their projects to the selection panel, which reaches a decision on the proposals to be funded.
- f) The main office notifies the applicants and relevant partner site managers of the DZHK's funding intention and invites submission of the project description together with the formal application (AZA/AZK form) to the funding management department.
- g) The funding management department reviews the project description and formal application with regard to compliance with public funding legislation and approves the project.
- h) The project must commence no later than six months after declaration of funding intent by the DZHK. The DZHK Publication Policy has to be considered.



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Contact partner

The application and approval process is coordinated by the DZHK main office.

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