



## Guidelines

Status: June 2016

The objective of the Elite Network of Bavaria is to strengthen the support Bavaria offers to outstanding scientific talents.

With regard to the ongoing development of the concept of the Elite Network of Bavaria, new **International Junior Research Groups** were first established in 2013. The Bavarian state universities and the Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt qualify as host universities of these International Junior Research Groups.

The 2016/2017 call for proposals for Junior Research Groups in the life sciences/medicine and the natural sciences, engineering and computer sciences has just been announced.

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## **I. International Junior Research Groups within the Elite Network of Bavaria**

The goal of establishing International Junior Research Groups as the fifth funding line of the Elite Network of Bavaria is to attract excellently qualified junior researchers to Bavarian universities. Their research projects are to be established within the framework of the current Elite Graduate Programs or International Doctorate Programs of the Elite Network of Bavaria. In this way, the Elite Graduate Programs and the International Doctorate Programs expand or complement their scientific program while the International Junior Research Group are integrated into a scientifically highly-attractive environment. The new funding line rounds off the program of the Elite Network of Bavaria, which now provides funding for university students, doctorate students as well as young researchers who carry out research independently.

Following an international call for proposals it is possible to apply for an International Junior Research group, but only after previously consulting with a participating scientist of one of the above mentioned two lines of funding. The initiative can also be taken by a scientist of one of the Elite Graduate Programs or International Doctorate Programs. The application requires the drafting of an innovative, creative and scientifically challenging project proposal at the frontiers of knowledge in the respective subject fields. The host institution is expected to provide suitable premises and standard facilities that allow access to the necessary infrastructure and equipment as well as contribute one fourth of the non-personnel costs. A further funding of the candidates by the host institution in a later phase remains to be decided at a later date.

The endowment for the International Junior Research Groups can easily compete with other first-class international research groups. This funding within the framework of the Elite Network of Bavaria is limited to junior researchers who have not been working at the host institution in the two years before the start of the Junior Research Groups. The Junior Research Group needs to be embedded in the topics of the Elite Graduate Programs or the International Doctorate Programs in the Elite Network of Bavaria and complement them. Only one International Junior Research Group can be established per Elite Graduate Program or International Doctorate Program.

The program will allow Junior Research Group leaders to enter a phase of scientific independence directly after a period of gaining post-doctoral experience. Eligible applicants are therefore suitably qualified persons who completed their doctoral studies two

to five years before (by successfully passing the final oral exam).<sup>1</sup> Junior Research Group leaders may freely dispose of their research funds and decide on the acquisition of third-party funds. They publish as responsible authors and decide on the recruitment of staff within the project budget. They are expected to participate in the supervision of scientific work, such as Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral theses with relevance to the respective Elite Graduate Program or International Doctorate Program; furthermore, they are expected to participate in teaching at the host university if this has been agreed upon previously.

The funding of the International Junior Research Groups by the Elite Network of Bavaria is limited to a period of five years. Development and results of the International Junior Research Group must be documented. For the selection process, the International Expert Commission of the Elite Network of Bavaria convenes an expert review panel.

## **II. Selection process, application for and responsibilities of International Junior Research Groups**

The selection process consists of two stages. The draft proposals, which are submitted in the first stage, must explain how the Junior Research Group is going to ensure the high quality of their work. After a positive assessment of the draft proposals, the coordination office of the Elite Network of Bavaria will ask for full proposals. The assessment is carried out by the members of the International Expert Commission of the Elite Network of Bavaria as well as by an expert committee. The Bavarian State Ministry of Education, Science and the Arts decides on the basis of the final recommendations of the International Expert Commission.

Similar to an executive summary, the application should in particular include the following information:

- junior researcher responsible for the Junior Research Group (name, address), scientific excellence as shown in publications (quality, quantity, originality), awards and prizes, international experience, acquisition of third-party funds and existing co-operations, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> In order to calculate the maximum duration of 5 years, the date of the oral exam (start) and the date of the submission of the draft proposals (October 14, 2016) are used; thus, the relevant date is October 14, 2011. Time spent on parental leave or on taking care of relatives can be taken into account if they are documented in the application (CV).

- central research topic and the correlating research orientation as well as the profile of the International Junior Research Group
- summary of the main intentions of the International Junior Research Group
- preliminary work directly related to the central research topic
- relevant international co-operation of the International Junior Research Group proposed
- integration into the profile of the university and ties to its existing research institutions, presentation of the scientific environment
- co-operations with other universities and other non-university institutions
- integration into existing networks (research associations, federal and EU programs, Collaborative Research Centres, graduate schools, etc.)
- name of the participating scientist or researcher of the Elite Network of Bavaria (plus name of the Elite Graduate Program / International Doctorate Program, university)<sup>2</sup> and description of intended cooperation<sup>3</sup>
- if possible: potential of the research results for future dissemination and use
- financial framework (annual financial requirements) / co-payment of the university

The junior researcher applies independently as the leader of the International Junior Research Group and is responsible for the draft proposal and the full proposal.

### **III. Financing**

By supporting the application of an International Junior Research Group, the university commits itself to providing the infrastructure, its share of resources and – if necessary – the technical equipment and to continuously foster the International Junior Research Group.

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<sup>2</sup> For the submission of the draft proposal it is only necessary for the applicant to get in touch with a participating scientist or researcher of the Elite Network of Bavaria, who needs to ensure his or her further support. A Letter of Support needs to be handed in only after the submission of a proposal has been requested.

<sup>3</sup> The intended joint activities between the existing programs of the Elite Network of Bavaria and the Junior Research Group ought to be outlined briefly. The proposal will then have to contain and state the exact scope and contents of the teaching load as agreed upon with the university.

a) *Financial framework*

From 2017 onwards up to six Junior Research Groups may be established at Bavarian universities. The new Junior Research Groups need to be related to one of the following Elite Graduate Programs or International Doctorate Programs in the life sciences/medicine and the natural sciences, engineering and computer sciences.

(See <https://www.elitenetzwerk.bayern.de/elitestudiengaenge/elite-graduate-programs-according-to-fields-of-study/?L=2> and <https://www.elitenetzwerk.bayern.de/doktorandenkollegs/doctorate-programs-according-to-fields-of-study/?L=2>):

- Elite Graduate Program **Advanced Materials and Processes** ([www.elite-map.tf.uni-erlangen.de/](http://www.elite-map.tf.uni-erlangen.de/))
- Elite Graduate Program **Advanced Optical Technologies** ([www.aot.uni-erlangen.de/](http://www.aot.uni-erlangen.de/))
- Elite Graduate Program **Advanced Signal Processing and Communications Engineering** ([www.asc.studium.fau.de/](http://www.asc.studium.fau.de/))
- Elite Graduate Program **Advanced Synthesis and Catalysis** ([www.syncat.ur.de/](http://www.syncat.ur.de/))
- Elite Graduate Program **Bavarian Graduate School of Computational Engineering** ([www.bgce.de/](http://www.bgce.de/))
- Elite Graduate Program **Biological Physics** (<http://biophys.enb.uni-bayreuth.de/>)
- Elite Graduate Program **Data Science** (<http://datascience-munich.de/>)
- Elite Graduate Program **FOKUS Physik** ([www.fokus.physik.uni-wuerzburg.de/](http://www.fokus.physik.uni-wuerzburg.de/))
- Elite Graduate Program **Global Change Ecology** ([www.global-change-ecology.de/](http://www.global-change-ecology.de/))
- Elite Graduate Program **MINT-Lehramt PLUS** ([www.mint-lehramt-plus.bayern/](http://www.mint-lehramt-plus.bayern/))
- Elite Graduate Program **Neuro-Cognitive Psychology** ([www.psy.lmu.de/ncp](http://www.psy.lmu.de/ncp))
- Elite Graduate Program **Neuroengineering** ([www.msne.ei.tum.de/](http://www.msne.ei.tum.de/))
- Elite Graduate Program **Physik mit integriertem Doktorandenkolleg** ([www.enb.physik.uni-erlangen.de/](http://www.enb.physik.uni-erlangen.de/))
- Elite Graduate Program **Software Engineering** ([www.uni-augsburg.de/elite/se/](http://www.uni-augsburg.de/elite/se/))
- Elite Graduate Program **Technology Management** ([www.cdtm.de/](http://www.cdtm.de/))
- Elite Graduate Program **TopMath – Mathematik mit Promotion** ([www.ma.tum.de/TopMath](http://www.ma.tum.de/TopMath))
- International Doctorate Program **Exploring Quantum Matter** ([www.exqm.de/](http://www.exqm.de/))
- International Doctorate Program **i-Target: Immunotargeting of cancer** ([www.immunotarget.de/](http://www.immunotarget.de/))
- International Doctorate Program **Topologische Isolatoren** (<https://www.elitenetzwerk.bayern.de/doktorandenkollegs/doctorate-programs-according-to-fields-of-study/topological-insulators/?L=2>)

The host university and the participating academic institutions are expected to provide adequate infrastructure and technical equipment.

The Bavarian State Ministry of Education, Science and the Arts is going to fund the post of the leader of the International Junior Research Group with an A 14-position (Akademischer Oberrat auf Zeit) or TV-L E 14-position or TV-L E 15-position, and up to two PhD positions as A 13-positions (Akademischer Rat auf Zeit) or TV-L E 13-positions. If need be, there will be half an administrative position available. Depending on the requirements of the discipline, part-time positions for doctorates might be appropriate in individual cases. The International Junior Research Group leader and the doctoral students have to provide services with regard to teaching, research and project management but make sure that this does not affect their own research projects. This is why the full proposal is the latest stage of the selection process at which the intended scope of the teaching load of the leader and the doctorate students of the Junior Research Group will have to be stated.

On top of the money provided for positions, additional funds will be provided to some extent; the host institutions will have to bear a quarter of these. The amount of these additional funds depends on the specific requirements - including adequate equipment - of the individual subject and the subject matter of the International Junior Research Group in question; they are not handed out according to a fixed scheme. Group leaders can apply for any kind of project-related funds, a rough categorization of which can be found in the annex "Financing plan (additional funds)"<sup>4</sup>.

An annual amount of € 60.000 (plus co-payment of the host institution) is a rough guideline for adequate additional funds. The actual amount depends strongly on the justified and substantiated requirements of the specific subject and on standards that are internationally considered to be necessary.

#### *b) Use of funds*

The funds provided have to be used to implement the research project. The International Junior Research Group leader decides independently on the use of funds, hiring of staff and the raising of further third-party funds.

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<sup>4</sup> The category "Miscellaneous" allows for the application of funds that do not fit into any other category, such as salaries for test persons or the use of documentation services. Leaders of Junior Research Groups can apply for financial resources related to operational costs for the use of large-scale equipment and equipment centers, if these are additionally required for project-related purposes.

## IV. Formalities

Draft proposals should have the following form:

- a maximum of 10 pages (without title page), font size 12, single line spacing
- an appendix of a maximum of 10 pages can be attached
- DIN A4, printed on one side, not punched and not stapled
- Financing plan in tabular form (Excel) can be downloaded here [https://www.elitenetzwerk.bayern.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/FinancingPlansNFG\\_deutsch\\_english.zip](https://www.elitenetzwerk.bayern.de/fileadmin/user_upload/FinancingPlansNFG_deutsch_english.zip) or is available as e-mail if requested.
- The proposal can be submitted in German or English.
- Additional copy of the draft as PDF or Word-document as e-mail. Send to: [Thorsten.Lenz@stmbw.bayern.de](mailto:Thorsten.Lenz@stmbw.bayern.de)
- Send to:  
 Frau Ministerialrätin Beate Lindner  
 Geschäftsstelle des Elitenetzwerks Bayern  
 Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Bildung und Kultus, Wissenschaft und Kunst  
 Jungfernturmstraße 1  
 80333 München
- Thorsten Lenz (Tel.: 089/2186-2269; [Thorsten.Lenz@stmbw.bayern.de](mailto:Thorsten.Lenz@stmbw.bayern.de)) at the coordination office of the Elite Network of Bavaria can help you with any questions concerning the submission of draft proposals.

## V. Schedule

- Submission of draft proposals by October 14, 2016 (deadline)
- Selection by the International Expert Commission and request for a further proposal in winter 2016
- Submission of proposals by February 28, 2017 (deadline)
- Evaluation by expert committees expected for spring 2017
- Decision of the International Expert Commission on a funding recommendation expected for June 2017
- Beginning of the International Junior Research Groups expected for autumn 2017 onwards