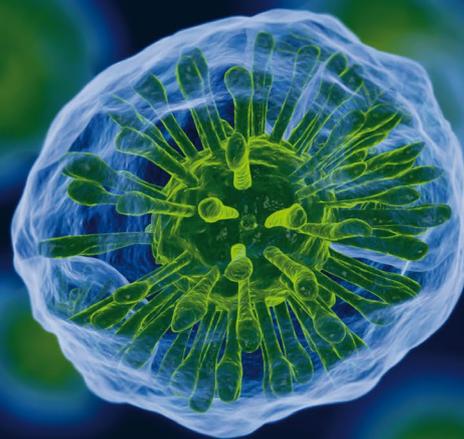




We promote the medical, biological,
chemical, and pharmaceutical sciences.



Lasting support for excellent science.

Exploration Grants for Independent Research Group Leaders

Programme objectives

With its Exploration Grants, the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation aims to provide outstanding scientists doing basic research in biology, chemistry, or medicine with the opportunity to pursue new ideas or follow-up surprising findings at an early stage of their careers. Exploration Grants thus offer the freedom to undertake preparatory work necessary for initiating new research directions and to successfully apply for research funding e.g. from the DFG or ERC. The grants are not for projects that constitute a logical next step of your research. They are also not available for projects that are planned or in progress under other funding arrangements.

Extent of funding

You may apply for a one-off grant of up to 90,000 euros. The grant may be used for personnel and direct project costs (e.g. consumables, minor equipment) as needed. Applications for funds to provide the group leader with a salary, as well as for funds solely for the purpose of procuring equipment and/or consumables will not be considered. Should funding be granted, you will be required to start the project within 6 months of the date of the approval letter.

Conditions for applying

If you wish to apply, you must fulfil the following prerequisites:

- You must have been awarded your PhD less than 10 years prior to the application deadline, and you should have substantial international experience.
- You must be doing basic research in medicine, chemistry, or biology. The Foundation does not, however, fund zoological research or, for example, systematic botany. In general, only research projects with a clear link to the life sciences may be funded.
- You have been leading an independent research group at an academic institution in Germany for at least 2 years.
- You have an outstanding publishing record and can demonstrate your scientific independence by being the last and/or corresponding author of at least one published original scientific article originating from your independent research group.
- Your proposed project offers the potential to initiate a new research direction in your laboratory.
- You must not have submitted, nor will you submit, an application for funding of this project to any other organization until the Foundation has made its decision.

What is not funded by Exploration Grants?

- Projects that merely represent a logical continuation or extension of your research programme.
- Exploration Grants are not aimed at scientists whose research groups are embedded in a department or a senior research group, and who are not independent of such entities. Instead, applicants must demonstrate scientific independence comparable to the status of group leaders in the Emmy Noether Programme of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

Selection procedure

The decision on whether to grant funds is made by the Executive Committee of the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation on the basis of recommendations by the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board and external peer-reviews. You can recommend potential reviewers and may also name (giving reasons) scientists to whom your proposal should not be presented for evaluation.

Questions about the programme?

Please contact Dr Sabine Löwer

tel: +49 (0) 6131 27 508-12, email: funding@bistiftung.de

The Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation

The Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization committed to the promotion of the medical, biological, chemical, and pharmaceutical sciences. It was established in 1977 by Hubertus Liebrecht (1931–1991), a member of the shareholder family of the Boehringer Ingelheim company.

With its Perspectives Programme Plus 3 and its Exploration Grants, the foundation supports independent junior group leaders. It also endows the internationally renowned Heinrich Wieland Prize as well as awards for up- and coming scientists. In addition, the Foundation is donating a total of 154 million euros from 2009 to 2027 to the University of Mainz to finance scientific operations at the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB). Since 2013, the Foundation has been providing a further 50 million euros for the development of the life sciences at the University of Mainz.

Executive Committee of the Foundation

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Exploration Grants application guidelines

Required documents and information

Please submit a paper copy of your application (DIN-A4, not stapled or bound), as well as a digital version of it, employing separate PDF files for each of the following sections.

- Academic CV, including previously received awards, fellowships, and research grants (do not list posters or oral presentations at scientific conferences)
- List of publications
 - Numbered and in the eLife format (including full list of authors, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, and page range of article)
 - List all your publications, distinctively indicating first- and last-authorships, and highlighting your five most important papers to date
 - Use separate sections for
 - i. original articles (published or accepted/in press)
 - ii. reviews
 - iii. manuscripts submitted or in revision (do not include manuscripts in preparation)
- Diplomas
- Project proposal (detailed guidelines below)
- Data consent and declarations (see page 6)
- Employer's statement of the kind expected by the DFG for Emmy Noether group leaders assuring your independence
- One copy each of all papers currently in print or submitted for publication, as well as of your five most important published papers (please submit each paper as a separate PDF file, each no larger than 2.5 MB and, all labelled according to the publication list)

Project proposal – detailed guidelines

The proposal – written in English – should be comprehensible without reading the cited or appended literature. Please adhere to the following order to facilitate the review process:

1. General information

1.1. Applicant

- Surname, first name, academic title
- Official position
- Since when have you been leading your first independent research group (mm/yyyy)? If on a fixed-term contract, please state its duration.
- Institution and department/faculty (full name)
- Work address
- Phone number for contact
- Email address for contact
- Date of birth
- Nationality

1.2. Funding of your research group

- Please state how your research group has been funded since its start: List the (1) resources and (2) funding amounts (including personnel and material resources) that your university/institution or a third party has committed to you in writing, as well as (3) their respective durations.
- Please state the resources and funding amounts (including personnel and non-personnel resources) that are available from the institution's annual budget or from a third party (please list separately) for the period covered by your proposal.

2. Information about the project

2.1. Title of project

2.2. Subject and area of research

- Subject (e.g. molecular biology, immunology)
- Area of research (e.g. DNA repair)

2.3. Proposed beginning and duration of funding

2.4. Summary

Please summarise the hypotheses and the main objectives of your proposed project in generally accessible language and in not more than 2,000 characters.

2.5. Project outline

- 2.5.1.** Please describe the proposed project in no more than three pages of DIN A4 paper. Begin by describing the current state of knowledge concisely and exclusively in relation to your own research, mentioning the most significant work by other scientists. Please explain how your own work and preliminary studies to date fit into this context, citing the relevant literature. Indicate to which of the open issues in the field you will make a new contribution with the proposed project, and what importance, in your view, it will have for the field. Then, in the main section of your outline, describe the planned project.
- 2.5.2.** Make clear how this project represents, or might lead to a new line of research in your group and to what extent it differs from your previous and current work.
- 2.5.3.** Please explain why it cannot be undertaken as part of your ongoing work and/or with other means of support.

3. Funds requested

3.1. Total funds requested

Please state the total amount of funds requested.

3.2. Breakdown of costs

Please list the costs in a table and indicate the amounts requested for the two categories (personnel and consumables). For personnel costs, please indicate the number and type of positions requested (e.g. 1 postdoc position, 100 %), as well as the proposed period of employment.

4. Other information

4.1. Composition of the research group

Please list the members of your research group (names, academic titles, official positions, and funding source including fellowship holders) who are to participate in the planned project.

4.2. Conflicts of interest due to economic activities

Please inform us of any conflicts of interest e.g. if you are the owner of a commercial enterprise or own a stake in one. In each case, explain how your research project relates to the commercial enterprise's activities.

4.3. Declarations and signature

Please confirm with your signature:

“A grant application for this project has not been and will not be submitted elsewhere until the Foundation's decision. It is not possible to undertake the project outlined in this grant application on the basis of the resources already available or pending.”

“I hereby confirm that all the information given in the entire application is true and accurate.”