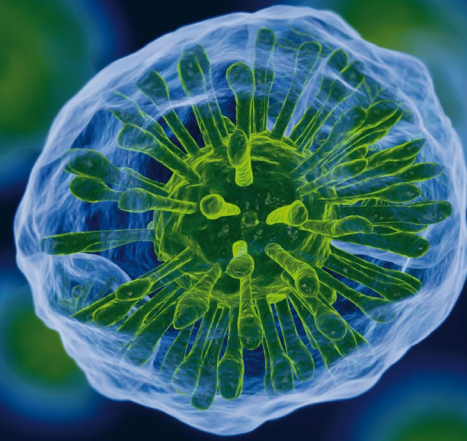




We promote the medical, biological,  
chemical, and pharmaceutical sciences.



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 180,000 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.
- Your research focuses on fundamental questions in the biological, medical, and chemical sciences. A clear link to the life sciences is required. The Foundation encourages applications which have the potential to provide novel important insights into fundamental processes. The Foundation does not, however, fund zoological research or systematic botany, for example.
- 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](mailto: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.

Through its funding programmes Plus 3 and its Exploration Grants, as well as Rise up!, the Foundation supports excellent scientists during critical stages of their independent careers. It also endows the internationally renowned Heinrich Wieland Prize as well as awards for up-and-coming scientists in Germany. In addition, the Foundation funds institutional projects in Germany, such as the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB), the department of life sciences at the University of Mainz, and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg.

#### **Executive Committee of the Foundation**

Christoph Boehringer (Chairman)  
*Entrepreneur, Ingelheim*

Prof. Dr Michael P. Manns  
*Hannover Medical School, President and Board Member responsible for the Division of Research and Education, Hannover*

Prof. Dr Jan-Michael Peters  
*Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP), Scientific Director, Vienna, Austria*

Otto Boehringer (Honorary Chairman)  
*Mainz*

#### **Scientific Advisory Board**

Prof. Dr Ivan Dikic  
*Institute of Biochemistry II, Medical Faculty of Goethe University Frankfurt*

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### **Managing Directors**

Dr Stephan Formella (Science & Research), Marc Wittstock (Finance & Administration)  
Schusterstrasse 46–48, 55116 Mainz, Germany, tel. +49 (0) 6131 27508-12, [funding@bistiftung.de](mailto:funding@bistiftung.de)  
[www.boehringer-ingelheim-stiftung.de](http://www.boehringer-ingelheim-stiftung.de)

## **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)
- Certificates (if not in English or German, include translation)
  - Doctoral degree
  - Graduation (MSc, Diploma or equivalent)
- Project proposal (detailed guidelines below)
- Data consent and declarations (see page 5)
- 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 not 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 no 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:

“No grant application for this project has 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 declare that all the information given in the entire application is true and accurate.”

## Data consent and declarations of applicants

Please note that your application cannot be processed unless you grant your consent.

I agree that

1. Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation (BIS) processes and stores electronically and in paper form data provided in conjunction with this grant proposal for processing and deciding on the grant application. The data is also forwarded to peer reviewers and foundation committees as part of the evaluation and decision-making process;
2. BIS processes and stores my personal data and other data given in the application(s) electronically and in paper form for statistical, internal and scientific evaluations to monitor the quality of the Foundation's selection processes and of its funding programmes and their effects and to monitor the history of its funding and activities. In case external cooperating partners, e.g., scientists, might be involved in such evaluations or studies, it will be ensured that they also comply with all legal requirements;
3. information about successful grant applications, including the name of the applicant, the institutions involved and their locations, the amount of funding, the field of activity, general title and a general summary of the research project can be published e.g., for transparency reasons by BIS on its website, in printed materials or other contexts.

I agree that the foregoing consent also includes processing of special categories of personal data referred to in Art. 9 Paragraph 1 GDPR.

I am aware that my personal data may be transmitted to external peer reviewers and/or board members who live in a so-called third country (Art. 44 GDPR), i. e. Australia and USA. In case of absence of an adequacy decision referred to in Art. 45 (3) GDPR or of appropriate safeguards pursuant to Art. 46 GDPR, I however agree that my personal data can be transferred to the above-mentioned third countries. I am aware that – in case of absence of an adequacy decision and appropriate safeguards – such transfers may pose a risk to the security of my personal data (e.g., lower level of security of processing in these third countries).

I am aware that I can revoke or partly revoke the agreement in written form (at least email) with future effect and that in case of revocation processing that has already taken place until the date of my revocation remains unaffected.

I confirm that I have read the common privacy policy for the Plus 3, Exploration Grant, and Rise up! programmes (see following pages).

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**Printed name**

---

**Place, date, signature**

I obligate myself

- to notify Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation immediately about significant changes to the data given in the application;
- to comply with all laws and regulations relevant to the project and in particular, to obtain any required approvals in due time;
- to use the approved financing solely in the interest of efficiently pursuing the project as described in the application;
- to comply with the rules of good scientific practice according to the DFG's "Proposals for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice" ([https://www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/principles\\_dfg\\_funding/good\\_scientific\\_practice/](https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/principles_dfg_funding/good_scientific_practice/))

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**Printed name**

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**Place, date, signature**

## **Privacy policy for the funding programmes Plus 3, Exploration Grants, and Rise up!**

The Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation (Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung - BIS) welcomes your interest in the Plus 3, Exploration Grants, and Rise up! funding programmes. Below, we would like to inform you on how we process your personal data in conjunction with your grant proposal for these funding programmes.

This website does not employ cookies.

### **1. Controller (GDPR, Article 4(7))**

The controller – i.e. the body responsible for the processing of your personal data – is the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung, (hereinafter referred to as the BIS or the controller). The controller's contact details are:

Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung  
Represented by the Executive Committee: Christoph Boehringer (Chairman),  
Professor Dr med. Michael P. Manns, Professor Dr Jan-Michael Peters

Schusterstr. 46-48  
55116 Mainz  
Germany  
Phone: +49 (0) 6131 / 27 50 8-12  
Email: [secretariat@bistiftung.de](mailto:secretariat@bistiftung.de)

### **2. Contact address for inquiries concerning data protection** [data-protection@bistiftung.de](mailto:data-protection@bistiftung.de)

### **3. Purpose, legal basis, and provision of data**

Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation processes and stores electronically and in paper form data provided in conjunction with your application to assess your eligibility for the respective funding programme and to perform the selection process (multi-level peer-review process). You can find further information on our peer-review process at:

<https://www.boehringer-ingelheim-stiftung.de/en/what-we-fund/nationwide-funding/selection-process.html>

In detail, we will process your data for the following purposes:

- a) Performing the selection process, management of applicants, documentation of the selection process;
- b) For statistical, internal and scientific evaluations to monitor the quality of BIS' selection processes and of its funding programmes and their effects and to monitor the history of BIS funding and activities. In case external cooperating partners, e.g. scientists, might be involved in such evaluations or studies, it will be ensured that they also comply with all legal requirements;
- c) In case of your acceptance into the programme, we will also process your data to administer the funding.
- d) Publishing information about successful grant applications, including the name of the applicant, the institutions involved and their locations, the amount of funding, the field of activity, general title and a general summary of the research project e.g. for transparency reasons on the BIS website, in printed materials or other contexts.
- e) Contacting fellows and alumni via email or letter to inform about new funding programmes and BIS' activities, to invite fellows and alumni to meetings and to network.

The admissibility of such data processing is primarily pursuant to Article 6(1)(a) of the GDPR, which states that data processing is lawful if you have given your consent to the processing of your personal data for one or several particular purposes. The consent also includes the processing of special categories of personal data (Article 9(1) of the GDPR).

Furthermore, processing of your personal data in conjunction with BIS funding programmes is pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) of the GDPR, which states that data processing is lawful if it is "necessary for the

performance of a contract to which the data subject is party or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract.” In particular, this concerns the processing purposes mentioned above under a) and c).

The admissibility of such processing is also governed by Article 6(1)(f) of the GDPR, according to which such processing is lawful if it is necessary to safeguard the legitimate interests of the data controller or a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data.

The provision of personal data is also required for the execution of the funding. You are therefore obligated to provide the personal data requested in this context. Without the provision of these data, we cannot decide about your acceptance into the funding programme.

#### **4. Recipients of personal data**

After receipt of your application, your data will be reviewed by BIS’ staff. Eligible applications will then be forwarded to external reviewers and to our Scientific Advisory Board and our Executive Committee. Generally, only those persons have access to your data, who require it for the processing of your application, the decision and the funding process itself.

In the context of the funding programme, your personal data will be forwarded to the following recipients:

- Public authorities, who receive the data on the basis of legal requirements
- Internal bodies, who are involved in the relevant processes (e.g. administrative staff, members of the Scientific Advisory Board)
- Contractors pursuant to Art. 28 of the GDPR
- Contractual and Cooperation partners (e.g. external peer reviewers)

Personal data may be transmitted to external peer reviewers and/or board members who live in a so-called third country (Art. 44 GDPR), i.e. Australia and USA. In case of absence of an adequacy decision referred to in Article 45 (3) of the GDPR or of appropriate safeguards pursuant to Article 46 of the GDPR, such transfers may involve a lower level of security of processing in these third countries.

#### **5. Information according to GDPR, Art. 13(2)**

##### **5.1 Duration of storage**

The initial storage of your data takes place upon receipt of your application. The duration of data storage is primarily determined by statutory data storage obligations and our legitimate interest in continuing to store the data. As soon as the data are no longer needed for the above stated purposes, they will be deleted.

##### **5.2 Data subject’s rights**

You have the following rights: the right to access (GDPR, Article 15), the right to rectification (GDPR, Article 16), the right to erasure (GDPR, Article 17), the right to restriction of processing (GDPR, Article 18), as well as the right to data portability (GDPR, Article 20).

If your personal data are processed on the basis of Article 6(1)(f) of the GDPR, you have the right to object at any time, on grounds relating to your particular circumstances.

##### **5.3 Withdrawal of consent**

If you have given the BIS your consent to process your personal data and subsequently withdraw this consent, the lawfulness of any processing of data that has already been performed prior to your withdrawal of consent shall not be affected.

##### **5.4 Right to lodge a complaint**

You have the right to lodge a complaint with a respective supervisory authority.