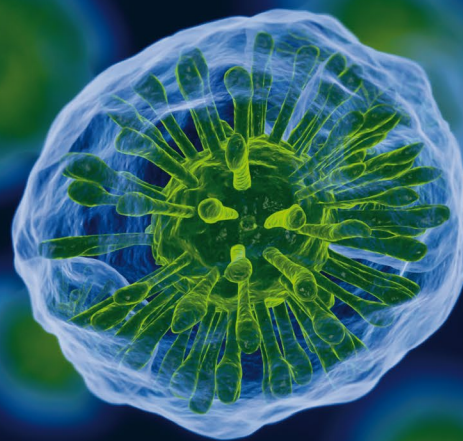




We promote the medical, biological,  
chemical, and pharmaceutical sciences.



Lasting support for excellent science.

## ***Exploration Grants for Independent Research Group Leaders***

### ***Programme objectives***

With its Exploration Grants, the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung 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 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 210,000 EUR. 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 criteria:

- 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. The foundation accepts only proposals that focus on research of broader relevance to the biosciences, for instance, studies in basic biology, biophysics, computational biology, medicine, biochemistry, and chemical biology. The foundation particularly encourages applications with the potential to yield novel insights into fundamental processes. It does not support research in classical zoology or botany, or pure organic or inorganic chemistry.
- 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 cannot be 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 Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

### **Selection procedure**

The decision on whether to grant funds is made by the Executive Committee of the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung on the basis of recommendations by the foundation's Scientific Advisory Board and external peer-reviews. You may recommend potential reviewers in your cover letter. Additionally, you may name (giving reasons) any 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)

### **Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung**

The Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung is an independent, non-profit foundation that is committed to promoting 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 Exploration Grants, Plus 3, and Rise up!, the foundation supports excellent scientists during critical stages of their careers. It also endows awards for junior scientists in Germany. Additionally, it funds institutional projects in the life sciences, such as the AITHYRA Institute in Vienna and a new research department (BioAI) at the Center for Systems Biology in Dresden, which combine biomedicine with AI. Other supported institutions include the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB) in Mainz and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, both in Germany.

#### **Executive Committee of the foundation**

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*Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried*

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[www.boehringer-ingelheim-stiftung.de](http://www.boehringer-ingelheim-stiftung.de)

## ***Exploration Grants application guidelines***

Applications for funding by the Exploration Grants programme can be submitted via the foundation's online application tool accessible via this [link](#).

The following information needs to be provided:

***A: Information for the online application form***

***B: Required PDF documents to be uploaded***

***C: Project proposal – detailed guidelines***

### ***A: Information for the online application form***

#### ***1. General information***

##### ***1.1. Personal details***

- Surname, first name, academic title
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Degrees

##### ***1.2 Address of current place of work***

- Institution and department/faculty (full name)
- Work address
- Phone number for contact
- Email address for contact

##### ***1.3 Current position and funding of your research group***

- Official position
- Since when have you been leading your first independent research group (mm/yyyy)?
- Type of contract /duration: permanent/tenure-track/fixed-term (please specify incl. dates)
- 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.
- 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.

##### ***1.4 Top 5 publications and manuscripts***

- Please list the five most important papers of your career to date (including full list of authors, year, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, page range of article, and DOI), indicate shared first authorship with \* and co-corresponding authorship with #. Add a short description of the main findings and their impact on the respective field of research (max. 500 characters, incl. spaces).
- You may list up to two submitted manuscripts, manuscripts in revision or papers currently accepted / in print.
- Please submit each paper as a separate PDF file, each no larger than 3 MB, and all labelled according to the full list of publications.



## **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 (incl. spaces).

### **2.5. Total funds requested**

## **B: Required PDF documents to be uploaded**

Please upload separate PDF files (each no larger than 3 MB) for each of the following sections:

1. Cover letter
2. Academic CV
  - a. including previously received awards, fellowships and research grants (do not list posters or oral presentations at scientific conferences)
3. Certificates (if not in English or German, include translation)
  - a. Certificates of appointment (if applicable)
  - b. Doctoral degree(s)
  - c. University degree(s) (MSc, Diploma or equivalent)
  - d. Additional degrees or certificates (if applicable)
4. Full list of publications
  - a. List all your publications numbered and in the eLife format (including full list of authors, year, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, page range of article, and DOI), indicate shared first authorship with \* and co-corresponding authorship with #, and highlight the five most important papers of your career to date (in yellow).
  - b. 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)
5. Five most important publications and manuscripts
  - a. Please submit each paper as a separate PDF file, each no larger than 3 MB, and all labelled according to the full list of publications (find more information under section A 1.4).
6. Project proposal for up to 2 years ([detailed guidelines below](#))
7. Employer's statement of the kind expected by the DFG for Emmy Noether group leaders assuring your independence
8. Cooperation agreements
9. Other documents (e.g., quotes of items of equipment exceeding 10,000 EUR)

## **C: Project proposal – detailed guidelines**

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

### **1. Information about the project**

#### **1.1. Title of project**

#### **1.2. Subject and area of research**

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

#### **1.3. Proposed beginning and duration of funding**

#### **1.4. 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 (incl. spaces).

#### **1.5. Project outline**

**1.5.1.** Please describe the proposed project in no more than 3 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.

**1.5.2.** 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.

**1.5.3.** Please explain why it cannot be undertaken as part of your ongoing work and/or with other means of support.

### **2. Funds requested**

#### **2.1. Total funds requested**

Please state the total amount of funds requested.

#### **2.2. Breakdown of costs**

Please list the costs according to the funding period in a table.

##### **2.2.1. Personnel expenses**

Please specify:

- The number and types of positions (e.g., 1 PhD position, 65 % TVöD E13)
- The proposed periods of employment
- The requested amount of funding per position

Please provide justification of any substantial deviation from DFG's standard rates.

##### **2.2.2. Consumables**

Please state the amount of funding you expect to need annually for consumables and provide justification of any substantial deviations from DFG's standard rates.

### **3. References**

Numbered and in the eLife format (including full list of authors, year, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, page range of article, and DOI).



#### **4. Other information**

##### **4.1. Composition of the research group**

Please list all members of your research group (names, academic titles, official positions, and funding sources including fellowship holders) and highlight those who are to participate in the planned project (other than those named in section 2.2.1).

##### **4.2. Conflicts of interest due to commercial 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. Applications submitted to others**

Please list any other bodies to which you have submitted a funding application for the present research programme or any part thereof, stating the amount of funding requested.