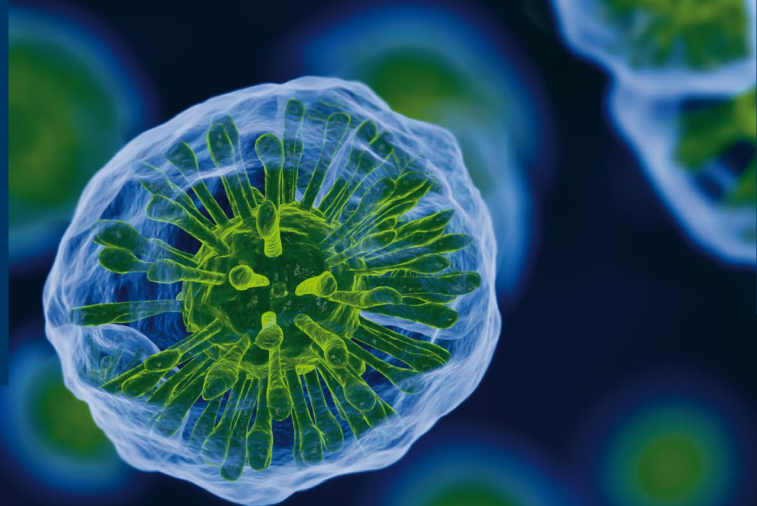




We promote the medical, biological,  
chemical, and pharmaceutical sciences.



Lasting support for excellent science.

## ***Plus 3 Perspectives Programme for Independent Junior Research Group Leaders***

### ***Programme objectives***

With its Plus 3 funding programme, Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung aims to support outstanding junior group leaders in Germany conducting basic research in biology, chemistry, and medicine. It is intended to give independent junior group leaders the opportunity to raise their research profiles and become eligible for professorial appointments in an excellent research environment.

### ***Extent of funding***

You can apply for up to 900,000 EUR of core funding for your research team for up to 3 years, i.e. 200,000 to 300,000 EUR annually. This funding includes remuneration for your position as group leader, for further personnel expenses, e.g., one postdoc and/or two graduate students, a laboratory technician, as well as funds for consumables, equipment, and travel expenses.

### ***Conditions for applying***

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

- You must have been awarded your PhD less than 12 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 your first independent research group at an academic institution in Germany for at least 3 years, but no longer than 5 years.
- You were selected for this position through a competitive process (e.g., DFG Emmy Noether Programme) with external scientists participating in the decision process.
- Funding of your group is limited to a period of 6 years without the possibility of an extension and does not include any tenure-track options or similar. Likewise, you are not receiving and are not expecting to receive any institutional or third-party funding that could be applied to the core funding of your group beyond the first 6 years of its existence (e.g., ERC grants).
- You have an outstanding publishing record as a PhD student and post-doctoral researcher. You can demonstrate your scientific independence by being the last and/or corresponding author of at least two published original scientific articles originating from your independent research group.
- You should be able to provide evidence that your research group has already been positively evaluated.

- Your research institution bindingly pledges to offer you a permanent position and must be contributing substantially to equipping your group. In exceptional cases and based on a statement of reasons, this permanent position requirement may be waived.

#### **What cannot be funded by Plus 3?**

- The Plus 3 programme is not a supplement to insufficient research grants or core funding but rather is intended as a structural programme and bridge during the key phase on the way to obtaining a professorship in an optimal research environment.
- Plus 3 is 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 as to whether to grant funds is made by the Executive Committee of Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung on the basis of recommendations made 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**

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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## Plus 3 application guidelines

Applications for funding by the Plus 3 programme can be submitted via the foundation's online application tool accessible via this [link](#). The following information needs to be provided:

**A: Information to be entered in the online application form**

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

**C: Project proposal – detailed guidelines**

### A: Information to be entered in 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 (or accepted position, if not yet started)
- 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)
- How long is your current core funding expected to continue?
- Please state the resources and funding amounts (including personnel and non-personnel resources) that your university/institution or a third party has committed to you in writing for the period covered by your proposal to Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung.
- 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 2,600 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. Doctoral degree
  - b. University degree(s) (MSc, Diploma or equivalent)
  - c. 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 three years ([detailed guidelines below](#))
7. Employer's statement of the kind expected by the DFG for Emmy Noether group leaders assuring your independence
8. Binding commitment by the university/institution regarding your permanent position
9. Binding commitment by the university/institution regarding the amount of its own annual financial contribution and the staff positions that it will fund for the proposed period of the project

10. Cooperation agreements

11. Other documents (e.g., quotes of items of equipment exceeding 10,000 EUR)

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

The proposal – written in English – should consist of no more than 20 pages and 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 2,600 characters (incl. spaces).

##### **1.5. State of research**

Please describe the current state of knowledge concisely and exclusively in relation to your own research, mentioning the most significant work by other scientists. Make clear how your own work fits into this context, and to which of the open questions in the field you are making a new contribution, and what importance, in your view, it will have for the field.

##### **1.6. Your own preliminary studies / Progress report**

Please describe your previous work and preliminary studies in this field, citing the relevant literature. This progress report should make clear the initial questions and the change in the state of knowledge in the field brought about by your own work and that of other scientists since you began leading your group.

##### **1.7. Specific aims**

A brief description of your programme of research for the funding period, as well as its research objective(s).

##### **1.8. Research design and methods**

Detailed information about the plan of work during the funding period (research design).

##### **1.9. Cooperation agreements**

Please list the scientists (other than those named in sections 2.2.1. and 4.1.) with whom you are currently cooperating or coordinating your work, or have agreed to do so in the future, as well as the projects or project components concerned in each case.

#### **2. Funds requested**

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

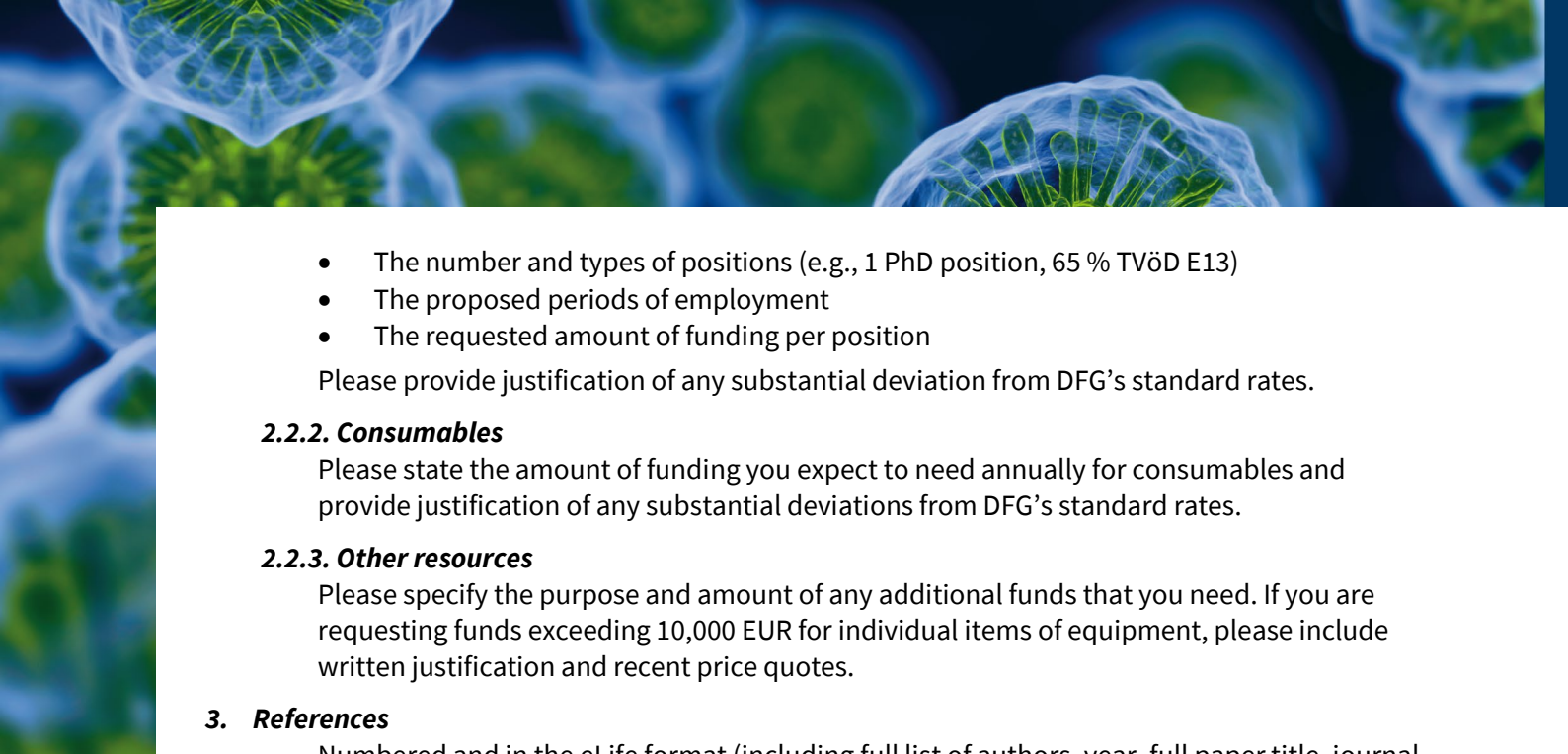
Please state the total amount of the funds requested.

##### **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.

#### **2.2.3. Other resources**

Please specify the purpose and amount of any additional funds that you need. If you are requesting funds exceeding 10,000 EUR for individual items of equipment, please include written justification and recent price quotes.

### **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.