

iDiv – Call for Sabbatical Project Proposals

All funding is subject to approval of further DFG funding of iDiv (decision due March 2021)

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1 General information

Please thoroughly read about the **general mission and ideas behind iDiv** [here](#) as they are important and helpful for framing a successful proposal.

Interactions and scientific involvement of iDiv visiting scientists are central mechanisms, which contribute to iDiv's mission to be a leading biodiversity research center. iDiv sabbatical researchers play an important role in contributing to the iDiv mission through their intellectual and social interactions, in which they share their vision, experience and passion for biodiversity research. The sabbatical programme is designed to attract leading scientists in biodiversity research for a period lasting between **four months and one year**. Shorter visits can be considered when well justified.

Senior researchers of any nationality holding a position in an academic institution, free-standing research institution, scientific society, governmental or policy agency, or non-governmental organization are generally eligible and highly welcome to submit a proposal.

Sabbatical researchers need to have at least one iDiv member as a scientific collaborator involved in their project(s). The list of current **iDiv members** is provided on the [iDiv website](#). Sabbatical researchers are expected to spend the majority of time in residence at iDiv during their fellowship. All topics in biodiversity research are welcome, ranging from biology to social or computer sciences, and should be tightly linked to the [key research areas](#) of iDiv and/or [iDiv's scientific mission](#). Sabbatical projects may include a reasonable amount of lab or fieldwork. It is also possible to organize small working group meetings under sDiv support as part of the project.

To ensure mutual benefits and efficient communication between iDiv scientists and sDiv sabbatical researchers, sabbaticals are expected to **be an integral part of the iDiv community**. This could include, for example, giving formal and informal presentations on their research, initiating new projects, and participating in the mentorship of PhDs and postdocs (see [iDiv's Early Career Researcher Program](#)).

2 Proposal preparation

Generally, iDiv's sabbatical programme is quite flexible in terms of timing, project topics, and ideas on how to integrate into the iDiv community. Funding should reflect the additional costs needed to come to Leipzig or offset salary losses (up to 4000 EUR per month). Expenses for the journey to Leipzig and back (from/to residence) will be covered for the sabbatical fellow, accompanying spouse and children. Additionally a monthly child

iDiv is a central facility of Leipzig University within the meaning of Section 92 (1) of the Act on Academic Freedom in Higher Education in Saxony (Sächsisches Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz, SächsHSFG). It is run together with the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, as well as in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ. The following non-university research institutions are involved as cooperation partners: the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry (MPI BGC), the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology (MPI CE), the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPI EVA), the Leibniz Institute DSMZ–German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB), the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and the Leibniz Institute Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz (SMNG).

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allowance (400 € for the first, 100 € for each additional child) will be provided. In order to assess your expenses during your stay in Leipzig, find more information on living costs in Germany [here](#) and [here](#). Contact administrative assistant Luise Dietel via luise.dietel@idiv.de about any funding and organizational questions. Sabbatical visitors are expected to spend the majority of time during their fellowship in residence at iDiv. Leipzig University, as the formal institution behind iDiv, will sign a fellowship agreement with the sabbatical scientist for the time being at iDiv.

Please submit your pre-proposal **via the [iDiv application portal](#) by 28 March 2021**. Pre-proposal decisions will be made at the beginning of April 2021. Pre-Proposals without an already identified and agreed [iDiv member](#) will not be evaluated. You will then have 6 weeks time to submit your full proposal (template and further information will be provided). Final decisions will be made by the end of May 2021.

3 Research data management

Upon invitation to submit a full proposal and submission of the resulting application, it is required that the data owners agree to make the data and code that result from iDiv funding publicly available. This should be achieved within 3 years after the end of the project. The sabbatical fellow will therefore be required to read and accept the iDiv Data Sharing and Data Portal Usage policies. These are currently undergoing revision, but in general follow widely accepted Open Science principles. Funded projects will receive intensive support in any needed code and data management demands by iDiv's Integrative Biodiversity Data and Code Support Unit.

4 Proposal evaluation

Sabbatical researchers are selected from applications made directly to this programme, or are invited by iDiv members. The iDiv sabbatical board currently consists of 6 members of leading biodiversity scientists from each of the four iDiv founding institutions (Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Leipzig University, Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research GmbH – UFZ).

5 Reporting

Upon completion of their sabbatical stay, the iDiv sabbatical researcher is obliged to provide a final report. Sabbatical researchers are encouraged to have regular meetings with their iDiv collaborators and to take part in the lab meetings. The main objective of the sabbatical researcher, however, will be to produce publications (ideally high-impact) or other high-impact products. After finishing the sabbatical project iDiv will ask if the former sabbatical researcher can be included in the iDiv Alumni network and may also ask to support iDiv when e.g. reviewers are needed for sDiv proposals.