

# Call for individual postdoc research proposals

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## 1 General information and rules

sDiv is offering three postdoc positions funded for 24 months (full-time employment by Leipzig University, salary TV-L E13, place of work at iDiv in Leipzig *only*) with possible extension up to 36 months in total, following a positive evaluation in the 2nd year (work plan to be provided for 36 months). Positions should start as soon as possible from October 2021 onwards. **All financing is dependent upon successful renewal of DFG funding for iDiv (defense in March 2021). Financing after Sep 2024 is subject to approval of iDiv funding beyond DFG funding.**

Applications are open to scientists worldwide. sDiv, like iDiv, is committed to establishing and maintaining a diverse and inclusive community that collectively supports and implements our mission to do great science. We will welcome, recruit, develop, and advance talented staff from diverse genders and backgrounds.

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

To maximize the integration of sDiv into iDiv's research, every sDiv postdoc needs to have a minimum of one [iDiv member](#) as Co-PI.

## 2 Proposal topics

The aim of sDiv postdoc positions is to allow early-stage scientists to conduct synthesis projects in a stimulating and supportive international environment. The projects topics should fall into one of the five research areas of [iDiv's biodiversity research](#) and should have strong links to iDiv's research mission regarding [Integrative Biodiversity Research](#).

Applicants should address novel questions or examine known problems from an innovative synthesis perspective. All synthesis topics in biodiversity research are welcome, ranging from biology to social or computer sciences. Though the project may be risky, candidates should provide evidence that sufficient data and appropriate analytical tools are available or will be developed during their employment to tackle novel questions.

## 3 Collaboration & mentoring in iDiv

Any postdoc needs a minimum of one iDiv member as Co-PI (see list of [iDiv members](#)). The postdoc has to be situated in the core centre in Leipzig. The iDiv Co-PI(s) should develop a meaningful mentoring plan. It is strongly recommended that you contact and consult with all your designated Co-PI(s) early in the process of writing your proposal. We will consult with them about this process as part of the proposal evaluation.

The sDiv head will, upon request, provide support in finding a suitable iDiv member(s) to serve as a Co-PI and mentor.

The mentoring programme for postdocs at iDiv includes attendance in lab meetings, a general support for [career development](#) via the possibility of attending and leading courses of iDiv's graduate school [yDiv](#), co-supervision of PhD students (if applicable), and many other career counselling opportunities.

All sDiv postdocs are being fully integrated into iDiv and adhere to the general regulations. They are expected to contribute to synergistic activities within the center and they are entitled to make use of and receive support from iDiv facilities and participate in institutional programmes (e.g. family care fund, womens career fund).

### 3.1 Application process

#### Pre-Proposal

You are only eligible to submit a full sDiv proposal if you were invited to after a successfully reviewed pre-proposal. The mandatory pre-proposal should briefly describe the project and the aims. Pre-proposals have to be submitted via the [iDiv application portal](#) before **16 March 2021 (11:59 PM CET)**. Decisions whether you can submit a full proposal will be made within four weeks following the pre-proposal deadline.

The pre-proposal shall include:

1. Information about the PI and Co-PI(s), including the supporting iDiv member (a pre-proposal without an iDiv member agreeing being collaborator will not be further evaluated)
2. A brief description (750 words max.) of the novelty, the synthesis aspect and scientific objectives of the planned project, its approaches (methods, used data etc.). What is the relevance of your research particularly for biodiversity questions?
3. Letter of support by iDiv member using the template provided on the [sDiv website](#).

#### Full Proposal

After invitation to submit a full proposal, complete the **proposal template** provided on the [sDiv website](#). Submit your proposal including all attachments in **one PDF file** via the [iDiv application portal](#) by **8 June 2021 (11:59 PM CET)**.

### 3.2 Consumables budget

Financial resources can be requested for (i) travel costs (e.g. conferences, travel to collaborators), (ii) other costs, e.g. literature or software. No additional data generation or sampling e.g. field or lab work will be funded. Administration of the budget will be handled by sDiv staff. Any later financial deviations of funded proposals have to be discussed with the head of sDiv.

### 3.3 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 sDiv funding publicly available. This should be achieved within 3 years after the end of the project.

The postdoc 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 Evaluation procedure

### 4.1 Selection criteria

Generally, selection criteria are based on the scientific excellence of the postdocs' objectives, the relevance and novelty of the synthesis research questions, work plan (timeline, work plan, deliverables etc.), and expertise and fit of the postdoc and the collaborators to the project.

### 4.2 Proposal evaluation

Pre-proposals will be evaluated within 2 weeks after the submission deadline by the **sDiv executive board**.

Full proposals for individual postdocs are usually evaluated within 8 weeks after the submission deadline by the sDiv evaluation board and external expert reviewers.

## 5 Obligations

The postdoc will have regular meetings to report with his/her Co-PIs, collaborators, mentors and the sDiv head.

Within the 2nd year postdocs can internally apply for the 12 months extension, which is based on a midterm report and defense, evaluated by the sDiv executive board.

Demonstrating successful outcomes is part of the reporting process, and includes some of the following deliverable(s): either manuscript(s) of multi-author scientific publication(s), proposals for other funding sources, a written description of dissemination concepts (e.g. software, websites), databases etc.