

Call for postdoc proposals

Please note that the position is offered with reservation of possible budgetary restrictions and dependent upon final approval of funding.

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1 General information

This call is for two postdoc positions funded for 24 months (full-time employment by Leipzig University, salary TV-L E13, place of work: iDiv in Leipzig). Positions should commence on 1 January 2024 or at the earliest opportunity thereafter and are limited to 31 December 2025. The position is offered with reservation of possible budgetary restrictions and dependent upon final approval of funding.

This postdoc call is encouraging postdocs to apply either for **PD call A** with their own individual synthesis projects or for **PD call B** as sDiv project postdoc closely attached to already funded sDiv projects.

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. We explicitly encourage applicants from and topics relevant for research-wise underrepresented regions (see list [here](#)).

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

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 project's topics should fall within one of the five research areas of [iDiv's biodiversity research](#) and should have strong connections to iDiv's research mission in the field of [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. Examples of types of syntheses could be purely conceptual synthesis of different theoretical components, synthesis of different data sets, combination of knowledge from different disciplines or work fields (e.g. applied fields, policy). 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 Matching with iDiv researchers or funded sDiv projects

Each sDiv postdoc should have at least one full [iDiv member](#) as Co-PI. **Please note: [full iDiv members](#) and [associated members](#) are pre-defined terms and are not referring to every iDiv researcher (e.g. iDiv employee).** iDiv members (associated and full) are researchers from iDiv or collaborating institutes who have to apply for being iDiv members. It is a specific status.

PD call A - Individual sDiv Postdoc:

Any postdoc applying as an individual postdoc should suggest a list of two to five full [iDiv members](#) as potential Co-PIs. The list should be sorted by preferences. You can also suggest additionally associated members as Co-PIs. sDiv will seek out for the suggested members to match them to the funded postdoc projects based on enthusiasm of the suggested iDiv researchers. We will also ask the iDiv member for a collaboration and mentoring plan.

PD call B - Postdoc for funded sDiv Project:

All postdoc who apply as a postdoc for an already funded sDiv project (i.e. non sDiv postdoc project with agreement on sDiv funding = SynFlex project, ECR working group, "normal" sDiv working group) must contact the project PIs prior to application ([link to all sDiv projects](#)). Project tasks for postdocs that are closely related to already funded projects, should be closely linked to the aims and achievements of these projects. Contact the project PIs and discuss and develop your research plan together. Every sDiv project has at least one iDiv member being involved, which should serve as mentor and supervisor for the postdoc time at iDiv.

Contact [sDiv](#) in finding suitable and potential iDiv member(s) to serve as a Co-PI and mentor or to find funded sDiv projects which might need a dedicated postdoc.

4 Collaboration & mentoring in iDiv

Each sDiv postdoc has to be based in Leipzig at the iDiv core center. Extended or regular stays with the involved iDiv members (and if funding allows with external collaborators) is recommended.

We envision the postdoc being supervised and mentored by at least one of the involved iDiv members. Additional mentoring and supervision is provided by the head of sDiv. The mentoring program 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 counseling 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 program (e.g. family care fund, women's career fund).

5 Proposals

Proposals have to be submitted using the proposal template provided on the [sDiv website](#). Submit your proposal including all required **attachments in one PDF file via the online form in the [iDiv application portal](#) by 8 October 2023 (11:59 PM CET)**. **Check all regulations and the online form well before the submission deadline** - it contains a number of questions to be filled out in order to ease processing of the application data.

Decisions will be made on 25 October 2023 and will be communicated to you shortly after.

6 Research data management

General iDiv's data policies follow widely accepted Open Science principles. Funded projects will receive intensive support in any necessary code and data management demands by iDiv's Integrative Biodiversity Data and Code Support Unit. Therefore, the postdoc has to read and accept the [iDiv Data Sharing and Data Portal Usage policies](#) once the project gets funded.

Given the timing of the proposal of two years we strongly suggest having a feasible data management plan. Such a short period doesn't allow for significant times used for data harmonization.

If the proposed project gets funded, it is required that the data owners agree to make the data and code resulting from sDiv funding publicly available (if applicable). This should be achieved within three years of the final project activity, and under the least restrictive license possible.

7 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.

Any financial deviations from the proposed budget of funded proposals must be discussed with the head of sDiv. Due to the uncertain and rapidly changing financial situation, we will attempt to assist with budget discrepancies. Please note that we cannot save money in one year and shift it to other years!

Please also note that funding is subject to a successful approval of iDiv funding beyond DFG funding.

8 Evaluation procedure

8.1 Selection criteria

Generally, selection criteria are based on scientific excellence, the relevance and the novelty of the research questions, a strategic fit to iDiv research (please read carefully the [sDiv framework](#)), work plan, expertise and suitability of the postdoc and in case of Call B, the justification of a project postdoc given the work plan of the related sDiv project. The postdoc project's objectives have to be highly relevant to iDiv's central missions.

8.2 Proposal evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated on 25 October 2023 by the sDiv evaluation board exclusively. The feedback will be sent to you a few days after that.

9 Reporting

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

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. **sDiv support has to be acknowledged in any kind of sDiv project publication/outcome ([see guidelines](#)).** **Copies of published products should be sent to sDiv.**

Failure to follow the sDiv rules and regulations for unjustified reasons and non-compliance with iDiv's data policy can result in banning PIs from submitting future proposals to project calls.