

March 2025

Early-Career Women in Science Fund

Background

Within the iDiv funds, the DFG has allocated specific budget to promote the careers of all women researchers as part of the [DFG's Equity and Diversity programme](#).

We want to support especially early career women researchers who want to stay in academia or just started as a group leader. Thus, doctoral researchers (PhD students), postdocs or early-career professors, who are located at iDiv or working in an iDiv member groups at any partner institution, are encouraged to apply.

The primary aim of the **Early-Career Women in Science Fund** should be to promote the careers of women by increasing their scientific network and national or international visibility in their field of research. Besides, they should be supported in gaining qualifications for their further professional development.

The funding shall be used to sponsor specific activities that are actually improving the visibility of early career women scientists in the scientific community, for example:

- Research visits to a woman role model
- Chairing and organizing sessions or workshops at an (inter)national conference
- Joining targeted workshops at important conferences in the field of research field to improve scientific networking
- Activities to enhance visibility of the applicant's research to the scientific community or society
- Organization of specific networking activities for woman scientists at iDiv
- Attending/organizing specific courses that teach you how to network/increase your visibility

Regular conference participation as part of the research project cannot be financed by via this funding. They should be covered by the group leader independent of gender of the researcher. In addition, there are often specific programs to support conference participation of early-career scientists

Additional conference visits with the aim of establishing further beneficial collaborations or skills that will support women researchers' careers, thereby increasing their visibility and career development, can be applied for.

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iDiv is a central facility of Leipzig University within the meaning of Section 98 (1) of the SächsHSG (Sächsisches Hochschulgesetz). 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).



Submission of proposals

The applicants shall write a short proposal in which it is explicitly mentioned how the proposed activity will positively contribute to their career.

There is no maximal amount of money that can be applied for. However, the committee can decide to only partially fund the application depending on the justification of the budget and the number of other applicants in the same round.

All woman scientists located at iDiv or working in an iDiv member group can apply irrespective of which organization/university funds their research. Please note that your formal relationship with iDiv member group (e.g. work contract, granting period) must still be in place when deploying the activity for which you would use the grant.

Please use the template for submission. Proposals shall be submitted as a single PDF-file to fscf@idiv.de by **30 April 2025**.

Evaluation

Submitted proposals will be assessed by an appointed evaluation committee based on the following criteria:

- To which extent will the activity contribute to the visibility or the network of the applicant?
- To which extent will the activity enhance the career of the applicant?
- Is the sum of money applied for reasonable in relation to the activity?
- Have other sources of funding been applied for? If not, has it been sufficiently explained why?
- Is the proposal eligible according to the [DFG Career development measures](#)?

The appointed committee will take decisions and write a short, confidential report on each decision that will be sent to the applicant personally.

In case of conflict of interest of an applicant with a particular committee member (e.g. being supervisor of an applicant), the committee member will refrain from commenting or deciding on this proposal.

The proposals, all discussions on the proposals among the committee members, as well as the comments sent to the candidates, will be kept confidential by the committee and the committee administrative assistant. The applicant is free to share information.

Questions or complaints about the decisions or procedures can be sent directly to Céline Bonnamy as contact person for this funding. In case of severe conflicts, please approach one of the Counsellors of iDiv (see website) for support.

**Reporting**

Successful applicants might be asked to report back on their experience via a short presentation on a get-together at iDiv organized by the combined group of successful applicants. In this way, more woman scientists at iDiv will benefit from the experience gained by the successful applicants and the fund will be brought to the attention of newcomers.

Contact**Early-Career Women in Science Fund**

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