

# internal Call for iDiv Senior Scientists and iNnovation Labs

The German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig is committed to foster postdoctoral careers.

This call is directed to iDiv **research scientists**, who work at the iDiv Core Centre, who already have a minimum of four years of postdoctoral research experience and who are not currently serving as professors or junior group leaders.

## A) *What are iDiv Senior Scientists and iNnovation Labs?*

For these research scientists, iDiv will facilitate two non-exclusive options of career development: (1) a Senior Scientist status, and (2) the lead of an iNnovation Lab.

The **Senior Scientist** status enhances the recognition of advanced career stages among postdoctoral researchers. Senior Scientists form a distinct group within iDiv, independently represented on the representation board and visible on iDiv's website. This acknowledges their role in shaping iDiv's strategic development and strengthens their influence within the research center.

The newly introduced **iNnovation Labs** are research groups led by research scientists, whether senior scientists or not, each focused on a distinct research agenda within integrative biodiversity science. These labs complement existing research groups, enriching iDiv's scientific landscape. Leading an iNnovation Lab increases the scientist's internal and external visibility by establishing an independent research and teaching profile on the iDiv website. This profile highlights their unique research focus, supervised PhD students and postdocs, teaching curriculum, and third-party funding.

## B) *Who can apply?*

Research scientists with a minimum of four years of postdoctoral research experience can apply to become Senior Scientists and/or lead an iNnovation Lab if they fulfil the following criteria:

1. They have funding for their position at the iDiv Core Centre (e.g., external grant, university position, etc.), and
2. pursue their independent research agenda, as documented by first- and senior-authored publications, and
3. have experience in successful establishment and lead of research projects, demonstrated by successful acquisition of

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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).



funding or successful supervision of young scientists (PhD or master students).

### *C) How is this program organized?*

Senior Scientists and iNnovation Lab leaders receive **individual resource endowments** consisting of desk and lab space, consumables of 5k euros per year, and administrative support by central management for the duration of their appointment. iNnovation Lab leaders have the **responsibilities** to supervise the master and PhD students, mentor the postdocs, organize and teach the courses, and manage the third-party funding for their labs. iDiv is offering courses in supervision and group management.

Both iNnovation Lab leaders and Senior Scientists can have either independent third-party funding for their positions (e.g., DFG own position) or be employed at iDiv (e.g. postdoctoral positions of the iDiv research groups). The proportion of self-funding is evaluated positively. Applications without self-funding require **explicit support** from the research scientist's supervisor (e.g., the head of their research group or department), and the supervisor retains the formal supervisory role.

Both the Senior Scientist status and the iNnovation Labs conclude upon the end of the research scientist's iDiv working contract or by decisions of iDiv's Extended Executive Board (EEB) or the research scientist's supervisor.

### *D) How to apply?*

Applications by iDiv research scientists can be submitted any time via email to [senior.scientist@idiv.de](mailto:senior.scientist@idiv.de). When applying, please specify if you apply for the Senior Scientist status, the establishment of an iNnovation Lab or for both. Your application should contain:

1. a CV containing a publication list with first- and senior-authored publications clearly marked, and documentation of experience in leading externally funded research projects and/or successfully supervising early-career researchers;
2. information on the length of funding for the current position at iDiv (e.g., external grant, university position, etc.);
3. a short letter of recommendation by the current supervisor of the iDiv position, if the position is not self-funded, which should include a statement on the support of office and laboratory resources;
4. a 2-page description of the iNnovation Lab and/or Senior scientist topic/denomination (to be used internally and externally) and research plan including the office and laboratory resources needed.



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*E) What happens after an application?*

The applications will be reviewed by iDiv's Extended Executive Board (EEB) based on the criteria listed in section C of this call.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact us by email ([senior.scientist@idiv.de](mailto:senior.scientist@idiv.de)).