

Appointment Accelerator – FAQs

Who is eligible?

Which universities and higher education institutions are eligible to apply?

German universities, educational colleges (Pädagogische Hochschulen) that hold university status as well as private German universities that are members of the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (the German Rectors' Conference) are eligible to apply. The Foundation will also accept applications from other private universities and higher education institutions if they are accredited in Germany, recognized by the German government, and are leading research bodies. If this concerns your institution, please contact the Foundation.

Is it possible to apply for funding for an appointment arranged jointly by a university and a non-university institution?

Only German universities, educational colleges (Pädagogische Hochschulen) that hold university status as well as private universities are eligible to apply. A joint appointment will only be accepted if such an institution submits the application and shares no more than 49.9% of the entire funding amount with their non-university partner.

Can a single university submit multiple applications?

No. A single university may only submit one application for each program and for each call.

Candidates

What are the eligibility criteria for researchers?

Universities can submit an application for an international scholar whom they want to appoint to a tenure track professorship. The applying university runs a formal check to assess the candidate's eligibility for a tenure track professorship in accordance with the provisions of federal state law.

An offer must have already been made. It is also possible to obtain funding for researchers who hold a German passport; however, all candidates must have been living and working outside of Germany for at least three years at the time of application. Candidates must not return to the institution where they obtained their doctorate.

Can I submit an application for candidates who are currently head of a Starting Group or non-permanent professors with tenure track eligibility?

Yes, if their position is comparable to a tenure track phase, i.e. if the candidate is offered a permanent professorship at the start of their contract. As in tenure track procedures, their appointment to a permanent post may depend on a positive evaluation. Please contact our head office should you have any queries regarding a candidate's eligibility.

Can I apply if the candidate has already accepted a professorship?

No. At the time of application, an offer must have been made but not yet accepted.

Funding application and use of funding

How much funding can I apply for?

The maximum funding amount is €400,000. A university can apply for the full amount if it can demonstrate in its application that it will match these funds. The professorship's salary or overheads do **not** count towards the university's contribution.

Must the university's financial contribution towards the post be drawn from its regular budget?

No. Universities may access third-party funding to match the financial support provided by Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft.

How can the funding provided by the program be used?

You can apply for funding to cover staff and equipment expenses associated with the professorship as well as dual career and onboarding measures. Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft understands "onboarding" to mean all measures that are specifically designed to meet the needs of researchers and to help scholars quickly and easily settle into their new place of work.

Such funding can therefore be used to cover expenses such as the candidate and their family's relocation costs and to help them settle into life in Germany. This can include costs to cover temporary accommodation or realtor services, one-on-one language courses or services such as accompanying individuals to appointments or helping with other administrative tasks, childcare expenses or dual career measures for the researcher's partner. Equally, these funds can be used to integrate the researcher into their new professional setting, covering expenses such as one-on-one coaching, mentoring programs, or further training.

For which dual career measures can the funding be used?

Funding can be used to cover expenses for career coaching sessions, candidate screenings, recruitment agencies, or costs for staff based at the university or other research institutions.

Can funding be used to cover staff expenses?

Funding can be used to create posts that benefit the research project or to cover costs associated with dual career measures. Please note that staff indirectly funded by Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft must be employed in full-time positions. If the university applies for funding for a part-time position, it must either ensure that it has access to top-up funding to create a full-time position, or it must show that the employee in question does not wish to be employed full time.

Am I eligible to apply for/continue to receive other funding if I'm already being funded as a tenure track professor?

Yes, you may apply for or continue to receive funding from additional sources.

What isn't covered by the funding?

Funds **cannot** be used to cover the cost of basic equipment or overheads. The candidate's salary must be fully funded by the university submitting the application. Costs for investments will only be fully awarded if the application clearly states that the investments in question are required solely for the professorship stated on the application.

Submission and application procedure

How many funding rounds does Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft have per calendar year?

Calls for applications will be made twice a year. The current deadline can be found on the Foundation's website.

Can I also submit applications in German?

No. Applications may be submitted in English only.

Who should take the lead in preparing and submitting the application – the president's office, the rectors, the faculty or the institute?

This is up to the applying university to decide. Please ensure that the contact person named in the application has the authority to provide Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft with further information and speak on behalf of your institution.

Can we redact personal data contained in the reviews submitted as part of the appointment process?

Yes, if this is necessary to protect sensitive data. Please use the comment function to provide context when redacting names, for instance by replacing the reviewer's name with a generic designation such as "Reviewer 1" or "Candidate 1".

How is a funding decision reached?

The candidate's scientific quality is ensured by reviews obtained as part of the appointment process and submitted with the application. Following a check to ensure applications meet all formal requirements, Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft will request a group of experts on international mobility to assess the submitted onboarding measures and rank all submissions. The Foundation reaches a decision based on the submitted reviews, the application's ranking, and the availability of funds.

How long will it take for a decision to be made?

The Foundation's funding decision will be announced two to three months after the closing date.

Are there funding quotas for certain disciplines, subjects, universities, federal states, etc.?

No.

Will I receive feedback if my application is unsuccessful?

If the experts on international mobility have provided feedback that could be useful for future submissions, the Foundation will pass on this information to the applying university.

When is the deadline to accept funding or begin the professorship?

The appointment must be accepted no later than three months after funding has been approved and the professorship must begin within the subsequent nine months.

Uncategorized**Can you offer me advice as a researcher on how to negotiate with the applying university?**

Wübben Stiftung Wissenschaft can only provide guidance on joint applications with a university as part of this program. If you wish to contact us, please do so either by telephone or email. We suggest contacting organizations such as the [Deutscher Hochschulverband](#) or the [German Scholars Organization](#) for advice on negotiating with universities.