FAQ - Application for RWTH Junior Principal Investigator Fellowships 2021
**The RWTH Junior Principal Investigator Fellowships**

**What is the RWTH Junior Principal Investigator Fellowship program? What are its goals?**

The fellowships offer early-in-career high-potential researchers an exceptional opportunity to sharpen their research profile. The experience is designed to prepare them for success in highly competitive grant programs as well as to enhance their career prospects of becoming a professor.

- JPIs will have the chance to develop a T-shaped profile, build strong networks, shape emerging fields and produce high-impact publications.
- JPIs are expected to take advantage of the unique opportunities provided by the University’s Profile Areas and strategic alliances.
- JPIs are expected to help foster new interdisciplinary collaborations.

Although the fellowships are awarded based on an open call for proposals, JPIs will be associated with a specific RWTH institute or Profile Area and are expected to establish a strong presence there.

**What does the program offer?**

- Successful candidates will be employed as junior research group leaders (full position, pay grade TV-L 14)
- Additional funding for one full-time doctoral candidate and a budget for consumables
- Opportunity to supervise doctoral candidates
- Mentoring and career development support through the University’s Advanced Talents program offered by the RWTH Center for Young Academics
- Access to the shared cutting-edge research infrastructure in the Profile Area
- General RWTH services including access to child care and other resources offered by the Family Services Center

**Which target group does the call address?**

The program is designed to attract and support stellar early career researchers with a completed doctoral degree in the last three years and international experience at least two years outside of Germany. The research experience of the applicant is not focused on the experience after the PhD. Applications from women as well as others whose background and experience enrich the culture of the university are particularly encouraged.

**How much will I earn?**

The salary corresponds to level TV-L 14 (German public service salary scale).

**How much is the research cost contribution?**

Funding will be provided for one full-time doctoral candidate and a budget for consumables.

**Application and submission**

**How do I apply?**

As an applicant for the 2021 JPI Fellowship Program, you need to submit the following:

- A cover letter, including a statement explaining what makes your research unique and stimulating (max. 1 page)
- An outline of your research proposal (max. 4 pages, excluding references). This should describe the main idea behind your research, the methods you intend to use, the potential impact of your research on both your field and others, as well as the importance and societal relevance of your research
- Identifying a host institute or Profile Area at RWTH and explain, why these Profile Area and the institute/professor is relevant
- CV (max. 4 pages)
- A copy of your doctoral degree certificate (and, for languages other than English or German, a certified translation of the doctoral certificate)
- University degrees before doctorate (e.g. BSc/MSc)
- A list of publications including copies of your top five academic papers
- Contact information for references

Please submit your application, preferably in the form of a single PDF file, to: https://portal.ers.rwth-aachen.de
Call: Junior Principal Investigator Fellowships 2021
The deadline for applications is February 09, 2021 at 11:59pm (CET).
Please read all requirements and instructions carefully before applying. Proposals that do not comply with the formal criteria as noted will be excluded from the reviewing process.
If you have applied before and were not selected, you are welcome to apply again.

**Is there a template for project applications?**

No. You can structure your project proposal according to the list of requirements given in the call for applications.

**Does the specified maximum number of pages include accompanying documents?**

Your application, including all accompanying documents (e.g. bibliography), is not to exceed the maximum number of pages as specified in the call. If this number is exceeded, the application will not be taken into account.

**Does the application have to be signed?**

No, a signature is not mandatory. An original paper document with a signature is not required.

**In which language(s) do I have to submit my application?**

English or German

**What is the timeline?**

- December 01, 2020 - February 09, 2021: Applications must be submitted via the ERS online portal at: https://portal.ers.rwth-aachen.de
Call: Junior Principal Investigator Fellowships 2021
- May 2021: Decisions on the next stage of interviews will be sent out
- June 2021: Interviews are expected to take place and final decisions made so that fellowships can begin in October 2021
- October 2021 - January 2022: Start of fellowships

**Eligibility and selection**

**Eligibility criteria**

- Completed doctoral degree within the last 3 years with subject-specific exceptions e.g. for candidates with clinical duties and education
- Strong academic record including publications in peer-reviewed journals, invited lectures, conference presentations and research awards
- At least two years of research experience outside of Germany
- Identified a host institute or Profile Area at RWTH

**Why is it required to identify a host institute or Profile Area at RWTH Aachen University?**

Although the fellowships are awarded based on an open call for proposals, JPIs will be associated with a specific RWTH institute or Profile Area. Applicants must identify a host institute or Profile Area at RWTH Aachen University. Contact information for the Profile Areas can be found under https://www.rwth-aachen.de/profileareas

**How does the selection procedure work?**

All proposals meeting the formal requirements will be evaluated by the Rectorate, selected RWTH faculty members and external reviewers. Short-listed candidates will be invited for on-site interviews and to give a presentation at a symposium hosted in June 2021 at RWTH Aachen University, Germany.

**Will child-rearing periods be considered in the application process?**

Yes, RWTH Aachen University as a certified “Family-Friendly University” considers child-rearing periods in the application process.

**Is it possible for applicants to exclude certain reviewers from the review process?**

Yes, please let us know via e-mail whether there are any potential reviewers that should not be selected, e.g. for competitive reasons.