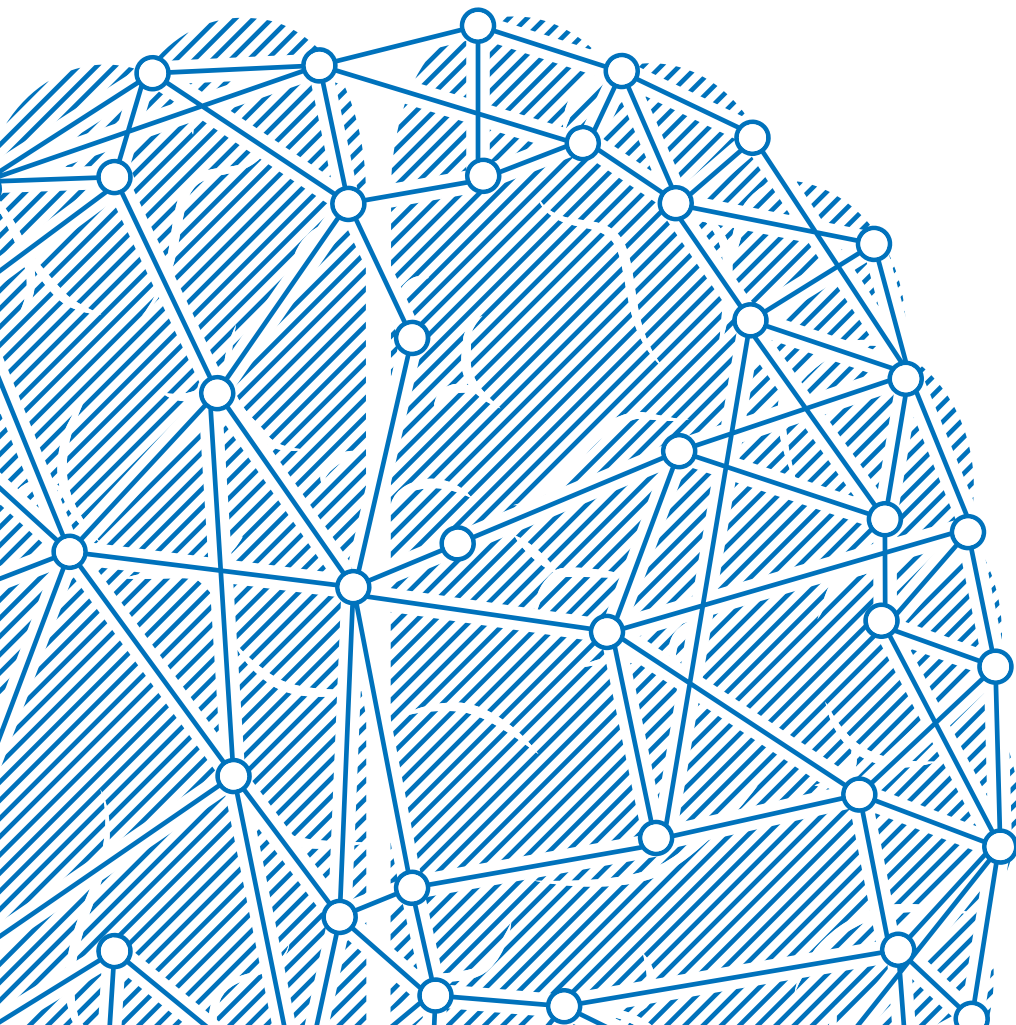


FAQ - Application for RWTH Junior Principal Investigator Fellowships 2020



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 institution 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 many fellowships are available?

In total, twelve fellowships are available. Six will be awarded in this first call and another six in a second call.

How long is the grant period?

The fellowship will be awarded for a period of four years, with an optional fifth year.

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 2020 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
- Identified host institution or Profile Area at RWTH and explain, why these Profile Area and the institution/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. BA/BSc/MA/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 2020

The deadline for applications is February 26, 2020 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.

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 16, 2019 - February 26, 2020: Applications can be submitted via the ERS online portal at: <https://portal.ers.rwth-aachen.de>
Call: Junior Principal Investigator fellowships2020.
- May 4, 2020: Decisions on the next stage of interviews will be sent out.
- End of May 2020: Interviews are expected to take place at the end of May and final decisions made so that fellowships can begin in July 2020.
- July 2020: Start of fellowship

Eligibility and selection

Eligible individuals

- must have completed their doctoral degree within the last three years
- must have a strong academic record including publications in peer-reviewed journals, invited lectures, conference presentations and research awards
- should have at least two years of research experience outside of Germany
- must have identified a host institution or Profile Area at RWTH

Why is it required to identify a host institution 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 institution or Profile Area. Applicants must identify a host institution 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 May 2020 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.