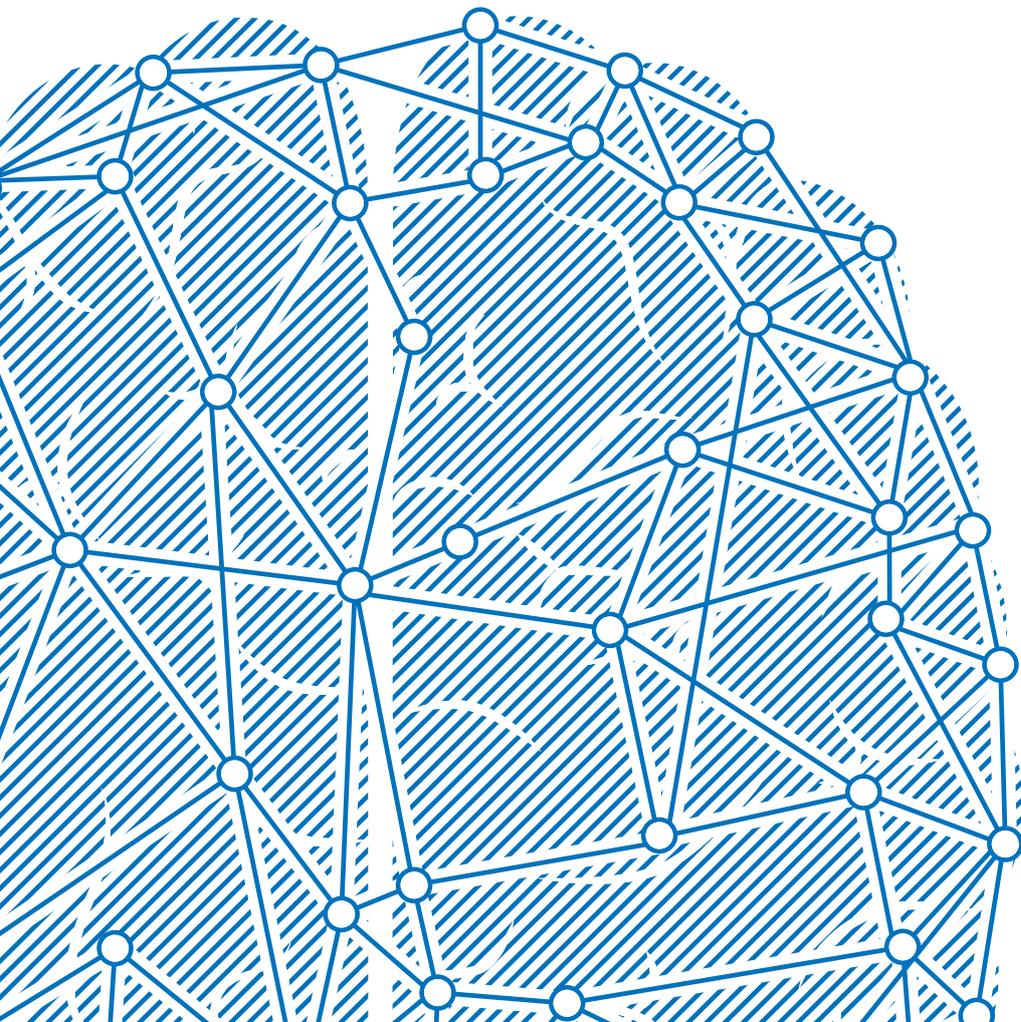


FAQ - Application for RWTH Junior Principal Investigator Fellowships 2023



The RWTH Junior Principal Investigator Fellowships

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 an annual budget for consumables of 20,000 EUR
- 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 respective 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 before application deadline and international research experience at least two years outside Germany after graduation. The track record considered can be extended for subject-specific exceptions e.g. for candidates with clinical specialisation. The research experience of the applicant is not only 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, thirteen fellowships have already been granted. Six will be awarded in this third 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 an annual budget for consumables of 20,000 EUR.

Application and submission

How do I apply?

As an applicant for the 2023 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 institute or Profile Area at RWTH and explanations, why this Profile Area and the institute/professor is relevant (preferably on a separate page); a letter of intent is not necessary
- 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)
- A copy of your 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 2023

The deadline for applications is February 21, 2023 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 15, 2022 - February 21, 2023: Applications must be submitted via the ERS online portal at: <https://portal.ers.rwth-aachen.de>
Call: Junior Principal Investigator Fellowships 2023
- June 2023: Decisions on the next stage of interviews will be sent out
- August 2023: Interviews are expected to take place
- October 2023: Final decisions are made
- January 2024: Start of fellowships

Eligibility and selection

Eligibility criteria

- Completed doctoral degree within the last 3 years before application deadline (subject-specific exceptions e.g. for candidates with clinical specialisation)
- Strong academic record including publications in peer-reviewed journals, invited lectures, conference presentations and research awards
- At least two years of research experience outside Germany after graduation
- Identification of 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. We recommend to contact the possible host/Profile Area, but this is not mandatory.

Contact information for the Profile Areas can be found at <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 interviews and to give a presentation in August 2023.

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. For maternity, the track record considered can be extended by 18 months for each child, or if longer by the amount of leave actually taken until the call deadline. For paternity leave, the track record considered can be extended by the amount of paternity leave actually taken for each child until the call deadline.

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.