

Hector Research Career Development Award 2020

Program Information for Applicants



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The [Hector Fellow Academy](#), founded in 2013, is a young academy of sciences in the fields of natural and engineering sciences as well as medicine and psychology. It offers a platform for networking, interdisciplinary exchange and mutual inspiration to the laureates of the Hector Science Award. In addition, the Academy supports promising young researchers.

The Hector Fellow Academy supports research in Germany and contributes to solving global challenges by raising awareness of socio-political issues, regularly hosting events like symposia, workshops, and conferences. Furthermore, the Hector Fellow Academy creates synergies to promote cutting-edge research and innovative projects.

By awarding the Hector Research Career Development Award, the Hector Fellow Academy (HFA) enables W1 assistant professors (with or without Tenure Track) and junior research group leaders at German research institutions to further strengthen their independent research and to include them as temporary members in the HFA.

The HFA pursues the following objectives with the Award:

Active promotion of researchers on their way to a professorship

Expansion of the scientific life in the HFA

Increasing the number of female scientists in the HFA – at least 50% of the Awardees of each year will be women

Building new opportunities for cooperation between Hector Fellows and the Awardees

Scope of the funding

Hector Research Career Development Award:

25.000 € in research funds once

Hector Fellow Academy doctoral researcher position for three years:

Funding of one doctoral position according to the DFG guidelines¹
Material expenses up to 9.500 € per year
Participation in three units of the HECTOR School of Engineering and Management's [MBA Fundamentals Program](#)
Coverage of travel costs for networking events and HFA training program

Opportunity to apply for HFA funding formats:

Funding for the organisation of joint conferences/workshops, which are (co-) organised by at least two Hector Fellows or HRCD Awardees (up to 25.000 €)
Funding of a Speaker Award for young researchers at conferences that are (co-) organized by a Hector Fellow or HRCD Awardee (up to 1.500 €)
Funding for the recruitment of renowned key note speakers for conferences that are (co-) organized by a Hector Fellow or HRCD Awardee (up to 5.000 €)

Five years membership in the Hector Fellow Academy and Alumni network

Application requirements

W1 assistant professors (with or without Tenure Track) or **own junior research group leaders** (e.g., funded by the Emmy-Noether Programme (DFG), an ERC Starting Grant (EU), a Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) junior research group, a Sofja Kovalevskaja Award (AvH), a Helmholtz-Nachwuchsgruppe (HGF), a Max-Planck Research Group (MPG), a university junior research group *via* the DFG-Excellence Strategy or equivalents thereof) in the natural or engineering sciences, medicine or psychology.

The list is not exhaustive; please contact us for other formats.

Doctorate or PhD-equivalent: completed less than seven years prior to the application with exceptional results. Exemptions may apply (p. 4).

Employment at a German research institution: non-permanent position at a German university, Fraunhofer-Institute, Helmholtz-Center, Leibniz-Institute or Max-Planck-Institute for the duration of the supervision of the HFA doctoral thesis project.

Formal or content-related right to supervise a doctorate: the W1 assistant professor (with or without Tenure Track) or the junior research group leader needs to be enabled by his/her institution to serve as the primary advisor of a doctoral researcher on the content level. Preferably, he/she is allowed to be the first advisor.

Support by head of institute: letter of support by head of institute guaranteeing access to the infrastructure required for the proposed project (e.g., lab space, office space for doctoral researcher). Please have the head of your institute fill in the template.

¹ Personnel funding DFG (according to TV-L 13): https://www.dfg.de/formulare/60_12/60_12_de.pdf, FTE based on subject area: <https://www.hector-fellow-academy.de/en/phd-students/conditions.html>

Application documents

Please send them until October 30, 2020 via our application portal: <https://hector-rcd-award.applicationportal.org>. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Documents can be in German or English.²

- **Motivation letter** (1 page)
- **Application form**
- **Project proposal for a doctoral thesis** that shall be pursued by a doctoral researcher in the 3 years of funding by the HFA (max. 3 pages). The doctoral project must not have started yet.
- **Timeline and work schedule for the proposed project for the doctoral thesis** (1 page)
- **CV** (max 5 pages, including teaching experience and experience in supervision of students and doctoral researchers)
- **List of key publications** (max. 10)
- **Doctoral certificate not older than 7 years** (translated into English or German)
- **Documentation if exemption from the 7 years post-doctorate regulation is applied for** (e.g., birth certificates of children, proof of parental leave)
- **Letter of support by the head of institute**

Selection procedure

1. **Pre-screening of applications by the HFA Office:** formal screening; early applications are encouraged.
2. **Interview with a Hector Fellow:** between November/December; afterwards recommendation if the candidate is invited to the final selection round.
3. **Final selection round:** personal presentation in front of a multidisciplinary panel of Hector Fellows at the end of January; final decision – at least 50% of the Awardees of each year shall be women.
4. **Award ceremony:** July

Selection criteria: scientific excellence, innovation & feasibility of the proposed project for doctoral thesis, connectivity to Hector Fellows and the aims of the Hector Fellow Academy

² HFA Privacy guidelines: <https://www.hector-fellow-academy.de/links/datenschutz.html>

Exemptions 7-year deadline ³

1. Clinical training: extension by the documented amount of clinical training received by the applicant after the award of the first eligible degree, up to a maximum of 4 years.
2. Maternity: 18 months extension for each child born before or after the PhD award. If the applicant can document a longer maternity leave, the eligibility period will be extended by the documented amount of actual leave taken until the call deadline.
3. Paternity leave: extension by the documented time of leave taken until the call deadline for each child born before or after the PhD award.
4. Long-term illness or national service: extension by the documented amount of leave taken after the PhD award.

³ Criteria based on p. 17: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/erc/h2020-wp20-erc_en.pdf

Degree in Medicine Following the ERC Guidelines

"[...] A first degree in medicine alone will not be accepted by itself as equivalent to a PhD/doctoral degree. To be considered eligible, applicants holding a degree in medicine need to provide the certificates of both the medical degree and a PhD or proof of an appointment that requires doctoral equivalency in life science research (e.g., post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment). Additionally, candidates must also provide information on their research experience (including peer reviewed publications) in order to further substantiate the equivalence of their overall training to a PhD.

In these cases, the certified date of the medical degree completion plus two years is the reference date of the actual PhD/doctoral degree, that will be applied for the calculation of the eligibility.

For applicants holding both a degree in medicine and a PhD, the date used for the calculation of the eligibility period (i.e. medical degree plus two years or PhD award date) is the date of the earliest degree that makes the applicant eligible. [...]" ⁴

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https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_policy_on_PhD_and_equivalent_doctoral_degrees_2016.pdf