

Annex 1

Further information on Junior Research Groups within the “Graduate programme for vocational education and training research” and on the call for proposals

In its capacity as a departmental research institution of the Federal Government, the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) plays a major role in the further development of the vocational education and training system. Research makes a crucial contribution in this regard and is established as one of BIBB’s central tasks in the Vocational Training Act (BBiG). In order to foster the development of highly qualified researchers and to encourage up-and-coming academic talent, BIBB is establishing a programme entitled “Graduate programme for vocational education and training research” with assistance from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF). The establishment of Junior Researcher Groups is one of the main pillars of this programme. The graduate programme is integrated into the institute’s existing philosophy. In its capacity as a national and international centre of excellence in vocational education and training, BIBB is committed to the concept that there should be communication between the fields of scientific research, policy and practice. Vocational education and training research is the bedrock of policy and practice guidance. The aim of the doctoral programme is to provide young academic researchers with a well-founded introduction to approaching scientific work in an interdisciplinary way and thus prepare them for professional life either within or outside departmental research institutions.

Selection process, dates and deadlines

A two-stage procedure has been put in place.

Stage 1)

- Submission of an **application draft (outline of application), deadline 10.05.2020**
- Appraisal and pre-selection by BIBB with the involvement of the BIBB Research Council
- Invitation to chosen candidates to submit a full application by **08.06.2020**

Stage 2)

- Submission of a **full application, deadline 09.08.2020**
- Appraisal (may involve external experts)
- Invitation to chosen candidates to present their project and attend an interview
- Project presentations are expected to take place in **september/october 2020**
- **Funding decision**

Requirements for the application

Outline of the application (application draft)

- I. *Letter of motivation*
- II. *Research proposal (between three and a maximum of five pages)*
 Relevance and aims of the project, thematic reference of the project to BIBB's topic cluster of "Vocational orientation and transitions – integration into vocational education and work", brief description of the work programme including methods and exploitation plan (publication strategy).
- III. *Brief CV*
- IV. *List of relevant publications*
- V. *List containing at least two independent experts*
 Proposals including full contact details and e-mail addresses are submitted on a separate sheet. Candidates append their signature to confirm that they are not aware of any instances of partiality and also ensure that any possible interrelationships are disclosed.
 Partiality criteria are as follows:
 - Close academic research cooperation currently taking place or being planned
 - Degree of kinship
 - Employment dependency or supervisory relationship ending within the past five years
 - Joint publication activity during the past three years
- VI. *Proposals for a partner institute of university*
 Proposal for one (or more) university (universities) with which the Junior Research Group could establish a research cooperation

Full application

- I. *Table of contents*
- II. *Technical component*
 The research proposal extends over a **maximum of 15 pages (exclusion criterion)**.
 The application contains a research programme based on a schedule. The schedule defines work packages and states milestones.
 The application clearly sets out which cooperation arrangements are planned and which cooperation concept the Junior Research Group wishes to pursue (including in relation to the partner universities). BIBB welcomes/supports the establishment of a junior professorship.
 The application also includes a publication concept.
- III. *Curriculum vitae*
 The CV must be submitted in the Europass format.
- IV. *Full list of publications*
- V. *Planned expenditure*
 Initial substantiated statements are made regarding costs that need to be planned for (services from third parties).
- VI. *Letter of intent from the university*
 The *letter of intent* should (wherever possible) contain information on the following points:
 - Nature of connection with the institute of higher education (e.g. junior professorship), integration into teaching (ideally two semester periods per week), thematic link, link with the specialist department, assurance of the right of the Junior Research Group Leader to supervise doctoral candidates

Evaluation criteria

- Expectation that findings will be achieved
- Discernible relevance to vocational education and training research, policy and practice
- Clarity, structure, coherence and feasibility of the research proposal
- Productive methodological approach
- Synergy effects through cooperation with the partner university
- Innovative content, originality and relevance of work with regard to the potential for development of research activities that will be of future significance
- National and international networking

Evaluation of the Junior Research Group

Presentation and discussion of (interim) results in BIBB committees (e.g. Research Council).

In the event of a positive evaluation, BIBB and the partner university will use the results available thus far as the basis for arriving at a joint decision regarding extension of the position of Junior Research Group Leader for a further year/three years (in the case of appointment to a junior professorship).