The ZiF – what's the mission?

The ZiF was established in 1968 as the first Institute for Advanced Study in Germany and a nucleus of the new Bielefeld University. It houses and funds interdisciplinary research projects from the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences.

Five issues are crucial to all ZiF projects:
- Interdisciplinarity
- Internationality
- Topic-orientation in the choice of projects and fellows
- Bottom-up generation of projects by open application procedures
- Excellence of the projects, ensured by external peer reviewing of all proposals

The ZiF – what can I apply for?

Research Groups
For several months up to one year, fellows reside at the ZiF and work together on a broader research theme.

Cooperation Groups
Small-size interdisciplinary coop-erations doing research at the ZiF for a couple of weeks up to six months.

Workshops
Interdisciplinary exchanges of ideas on a short-term basis ranging from colloquia on specific questions to larger-scale conferences.

The Young ZiF
Network of young scholars, start-up funding for research projects managed by postdocs and participation for outstanding students in research projects at the ZiF.

The ZiF – who has already been here?

To name but a few, Nobel prize laureates Reinhard Selten, Elinor Ostrom, Roger Myerson, and John C. Harsanyi attended ZiF Research Groups. Norbert Elias chose to be a permanent fellow for six years. About 1000 scholars—many of them from abroad—participate annually in ZiF workshops.

The ZiF – what else goes on?

In order to present itself as a place of research and culture, the ZiF regularly opens its doors for the interested public.

Public Lectures
Well-known scholars with international reputation give public evening lectures to a wide audience at the ZiF plenary hall.

Art Events
Complementing its research activities, the ZiF hosts six art exhibitions per year. In many cases, exhibitions are directly connected to research groups or workshops.

ZiF-Conferences
Outstanding scholars are invited to discuss contemporary political and social challenges.
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and how to apply:

Applications may be submitted by any scholar from Germany or abroad who has obtained his/her doctorate. Support by the ZiF comprises financial assistance as well as use of its infrastructure. Languages of communication and correspondence at the ZiF are German and English.

For details of application procedures and organization see www.uni-bielefeld.de/ZIF

THE ZIF – what can we do for you?

About 20 members of staff provide services such as the organization of 25 workshops per year, maintenance of the ZiF apartments and operation of the cafeteria as well as multimedia and IT support. Secretarial staff and research assistants support the projects. The ZiF also houses a reference library; fellows are welcome, however, to use all facilities of the university’s central library, too.

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SPECIAL EVENTS individual initiatives such as the „Einstein-Berg“ project, an annual event with invited Einstein experts

ZiF-CONFERENCES interdisciplinary conferences and workshops with national and international cooperation

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THE ZIF – what is it like?

The campus is situated on the edge of the Teutoburg Forest and comprises conference and meeting rooms as well as apartments of different sizes and an indoor swimming pool with sauna for the fellows and their families. The proximity to the university creates excellent working conditions and facilitates contacts to other scholars in a variety of fields.
The ZiF entrance invites informal discussions.
The ZiF plenary hall seats up to 200 persons.
The ZiF swimming pool ‘Wellness after Work’.
The ZiF upper foyer ‘Art meets Sciences’.
ZiF apartments offer ideal working conditions.