

CALL FOR PROPOSALS LONG-TERM GROUPS AT ZIF

Deadline for Application: 28 November 2024

The **Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF)** is Bielefeld University's Institute for Advanced Study. It offers opportunities—with respect to time, space, and funding—for outstanding interdisciplinary research. ZiF is open to scholarly applicants from all disciplines post-PhD, based in Germany and abroad. Applicants may propose a research project to be conducted with a curated group of (preferably) international colleagues.

In support of the work of groups *on-site* in Bielefeld, ZiF allocates financial resources and provides infrastructure as well as organisational support. If a collaborative application is successful, ZiF then hosts these groups on its campus, offering ideal working conditions.

Long-Term Groups offer great organisational **freedom and flexibility** to meet the needs of long-term projects; the set-up of the group work is based on the needs of the individual project idea. An overarching project design and coherent approach to planning the group are essential for a successful application.

A Long-Term Group **must not consist of a series of individual events**. Questions or topics should be addressed in a series of coherent, interrelated meetings. A substantial share of the members of a Long-Term Group should participate in all events; varying experts can be invited if required for the discussion.

Please note: Research projects funded by ZiF are primarily dedicated to theoretical reflection and aim at generating new insights in the disciplines involved, very much in the sense of basic research. Projects with an essential fieldwork component cannot be supported by ZiF.

WHAT ZIF OFFERS

- **Duration:** several visits to ZiF over a period of up to three years; these recurring visits may add up to a total of ten months
- **Funding Amount:** up to EUR 200,000 to cover costs for travel, accommodation, workshops and/or conferences (to be held at ZiF); personnel expenses (e.g. buy-outs) cannot be covered
- **Timing:** Projects can commence in the spring of 2026.

Group Requirements

- **Size:** the minimum participant size for each group is three persons
- **Composition:** different disciplines must be involved; international participation is encouraged
- We expect convenors and the majority of a group to be present at ZiF for their collaboration phases. Additional virtual participants may be involved.
- The need for interdisciplinary collaboration must stem from the research at hand and must be explained in the proposal. The mere involvement of different disciplines does not suffice to meet this criterion.
- The stage of preparation of the proposed project should clearly show its feasibility within the timeframe suggested.
- A gender balance appropriate to the disciplines involved is expected.

Important Selection Criteria

- Interdisciplinarity
- Academic quality
- Originality on an international level

Selection Process and Timing

Proposals will be selected competitively. Complete submissions will be reviewed externally. Upon positive assessment, applicants will be invited to an interview by ZiF's Academic Advisory Board in May/June 2025. The final decisions will be made by the Board of Directors in June/July 2025.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted by a team of **two to four** persons who also act as convenors of the group they propose. All convenors must have completed a doctorate, one of whom acts as the main contact person (and clearly labelled). The team of applicants has to represent different disciplines.

Please consider the following criteria for an application to be formally adequate:

1. Cover Sheet

- Title of the project
- Name, affiliation, discipline and address of all applicants; clear indication of a main contact
- Intended timeframe

2. Summary of the project (up to 1,500 char., incl. spaces, approx. 1/2 a page).

3. Project description (max. 25,000 char., incl. spaces, approx. 10 pages)

- Research topic and questions
- Current state of research
- Methods
- Objectives and anticipated output
- Justification for the interdisciplinary collaboration
- Timing of the project and work plan (overview, e.g. as a table)
- If applicable: information on workshops and/or conferences to be held during the project
- Not part of the character count:
 - List of participants stating their discipline, affiliation & specific expertise for the project
 - Status of invitation/participation of the potential fellows
 - Reference list

4. Preliminary budget (in case a grant is made, the budget will be checked by ZiF)

5. Short CV of all applicants, including latest publications relevant to the project (up to 3 pages per applicant, incl. publications). CV of participants are not part of the application.

ANSWERS TO BUDGET-SPECIFIC AND GENERAL QUESTIONS CAN ALSO BE FOUND IN OUR [FAQ](#).

Please contact us with any questions;
we are happy to assist!

Dr. Daniela Noll-Opitz
Dr. Nadine Suttmöller
Email: zif-proposalsupport@uni-bielefeld.de

**Send your application
IN ONE PDF FILE to:**

Executive Director
Prof. Dr. Jens Stoye
Email: zif-proposals@uni-bielefeld.de