UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD

ZiF

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

LONG-TERM GROUPS AT ZIF

Deadline for Application: tba

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 at a university/research institute in Germany or 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 assistance. If an 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 various types of long-term projects in several stays; 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. ZiF cannot support projects that require essential fieldwork, nor can it provide laboratory facilities.

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 approximately **18 months past the deadline**. Dates for visits to ZiF will be finalized once a grant was made, depending on availability.

Group Requirements

- **Size**: The minimum number of participants required for a group is three.
- **Composition**: Different disciplines must be involved; international participation is encouraged.

Decisions to not include international fellows must be well justified.
- We expect convenors and the majority of a group to be present at ZiF for their collaboration
- phases. Additional remote participants may be involved.
- The need for interdisciplinary collaboration must originate 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.
- Participation by researchers from Bielefeld University is welcome; however, it is not a mandatory requirement for application.

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 approximately 6 to 8 months past the deadline. The final decisions will be made shortly thereafter.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICATIONS

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 and must be affiliated with a research institute/university. One of them acts as the main contact person. Moreover, applications must be submitted in English.

Complete submissions must take the following aspects and structure into account:

Cover Sheet
- Title of the project
- Name, affiliation, discipline and address of all applicants; clear indication of a main contact
- Intended timeframe (Reminder: 18 months past the deadline, at the earliest.)

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

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2. **Project description** (max. 25,000 char., incl. spaces, approx. 10 pages, please insert page numbers)
   - 2.1 Research topic and questions
   - 2.2 Current state of research (including preliminary research)

2.3 Methods
2.4 Justification for the interdisciplinary collaboration
2.5 Objectives and anticipated outcome
2.6 Timing of the project and work plan (overview, e.g. as a table)
2.7 If applicable: information on workshops and/or conferences to be held during the project

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3. List of potential participants

- Name, title and affiliation
- Discipline
- Status of invitation/participation

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4. List of referenced literature

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5. Short CVs of all applicants

- max. 3 pages per person incl. publications (indicate recent publications relevant to the project)
- Please note: CVs of participants are not part of the application.

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6. Preliminary budget

- The calculation can be based on the following costs:
  - Accommodation costs (You can calculate an average of EUR 750 per month for renting an apartment at ZiF. If you plan shorter stays or to invite guests for shorter stays, please include EUR 100 per night for accommodation).
  - Allowance of EUR 50 per day for fellows who do not merely attend a fully-catered workshop
  - Travel costs (Economy flights, 2nd class train)
  - Costs for academic events (travel and accommodation costs for additional participants, catering costs (EUR 40 per day/person))
- Please note: ZiF cannot reimburse accommodation and travel costs for anyone employed at Bielefeld University.
- In case a grant is made, the budget will be checked and amended by ZiF.
- In the case of support from third parties, information on this must also be provided.

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 Sutmöller

Email: zif-proposalsupport@uni-bielefeld.de

Please address your application to:

Executive Director
Prof. Dr. Eleonora Rohland

Upload your application IN ONE PDF FILE (including CVs) here.