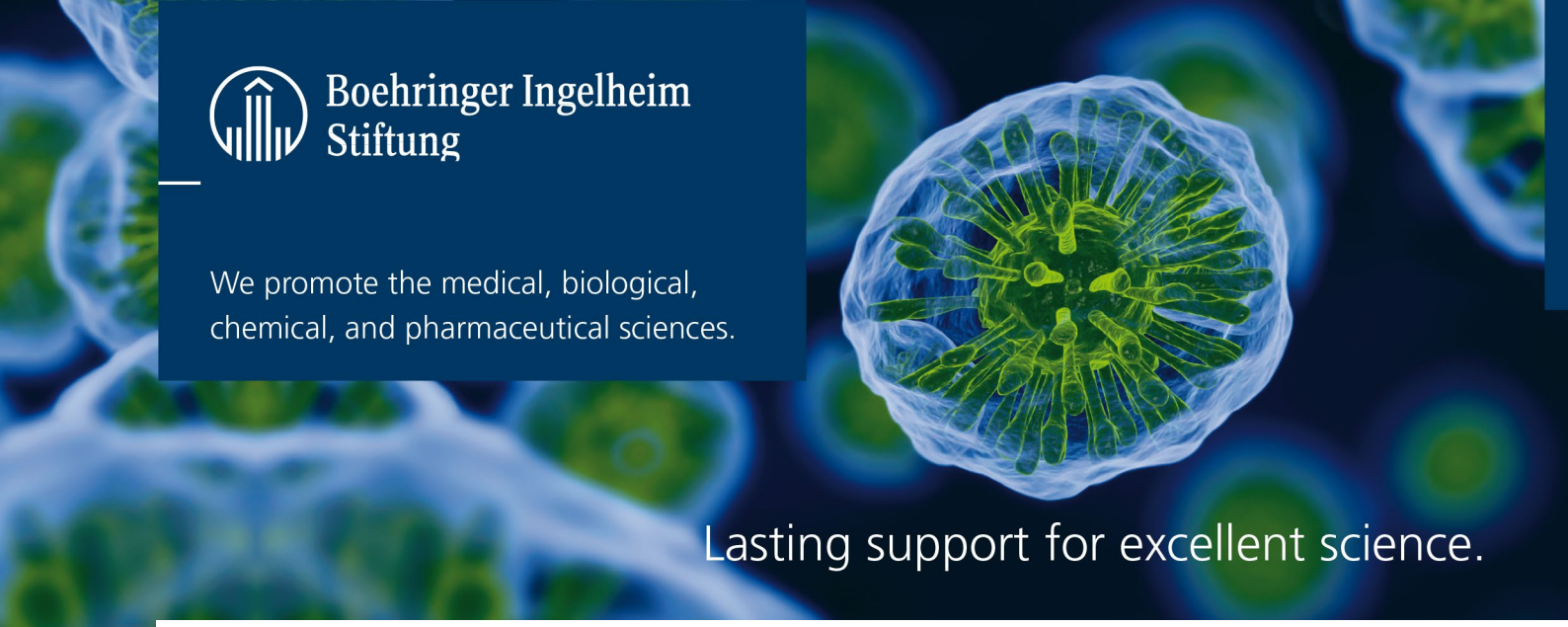


CoMove Programme for Dual Career Scientists

Programme objectives

The CoMove programme supports outstanding scientists in dual career constellations who are relocating to the region where their partner accepted or is negotiating an academic appointment at an institution in Germany or Austria. The programme is specifically designed for the accompanying partner who seeks to establish a new research group or relocate an existing one.

Eligible applicants are basic researchers in the biological, chemical, or medical sciences with a strong scientific track record. CoMove offers flexible funding to develop an internationally competitive research programme at a host institution that is prepared to offer a long-term appointment and institutional support. In doing so, CoMove enables exceptional dual career scientists to accompany their partners to a new location without compromising their own career prospects.

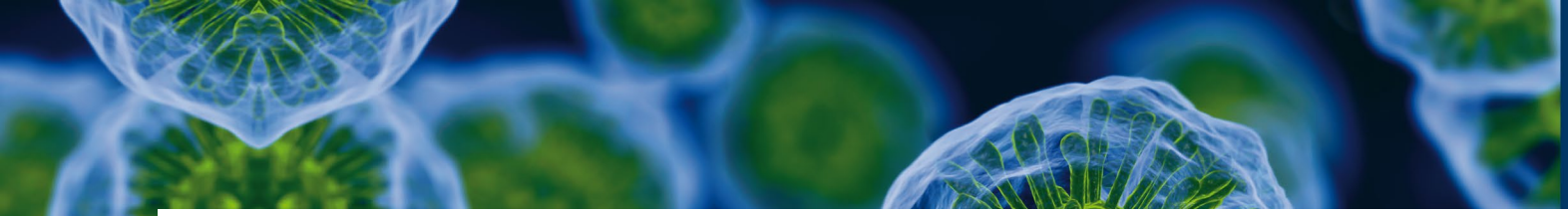
Extent of funding

You can apply for up to 1,500,000 EUR for a maximal duration of 5 years to advance a defined research programme. The funding can be used towards scientific personnel, consumables and project-related equipment, as well as travel and publications.

Conditions for applying

If you wish to apply, the following criteria must be met:

- Your research focuses on fundamental questions in the biological, medical, and chemical sciences. The foundation accepts only proposals that focus on research of broader relevance to the biosciences, for instance, studies in basic biology, biophysics, computational biology, medicine, biochemistry, and chemical biology. The foundation particularly encourages applications with the potential to yield novel insights into fundamental processes. It does not support research in classical zoology or botany, or pure organic or inorganic chemistry.
- You propose an original and creative research programme that will significantly advance your field of research.
- You should have substantial international experience.
- You have a proven track record and can demonstrate international visibility of your scientific achievements.
- You have been offered a research position (R3 Established Researcher level as defined by the European Commission, i.e. researchers who have developed a level of independence) by your host organization, have accepted such a position, or have already started such a position at your host organization no more than 6 months prior to the date of application.



- Your host organization guarantees your position (R3 Established Researcher level) and access to laboratory and office space, infrastructure, as well as administrative support for your research team for the duration of the proposed CoMove funding period.
- Your host organization offers you a transparent career path beyond the proposed CoMove funding period. This could be, for instance, the conversion of your position to a permanent contract or a tenure-track option, right from the start or contingent on positive evaluation of your research group by your host institution (including external scientists and with the possibility to include a representative of the foundation as an observing guest) during the CoMove funding period.
- Your dual career partner has been appointed or has been offered an appointment for an R3 (see above) or R4 (Leading Researcher as defined by the European Commission, i.e. researchers leading their research area or field) researcher level position at an academic institution in Germany or in Austria that is located in the same region as your host organization of this application. Your host organization may or may not be identical to the institution that appointed your scientific dual career partner. In any case, the institution appointing the first partner (R3 or R4 level) must provide a statement of confirmation.
- You must not receive or expect to receive funding for the proposed research programme, or funding that has a similar purpose as the CoMove programme by any other organization.

What cannot be funded by the CoMove programme?

- The applicant's position cannot be funded by the CoMove programme. This is an essential contribution by the host organization.
- Scientists who belong to the research team of their dual career partner cannot be supported.
- Scientists who relocated more than six months ago or whose dual career partner moved more than six months ago cannot be funded.
- If the host organisation has already established a career path for scientists accompanying their dual-career partner — including a group leader position and core funding for a research group with long-term prospects — please contact the foundation before submitting your application, as this may affect your eligibility.

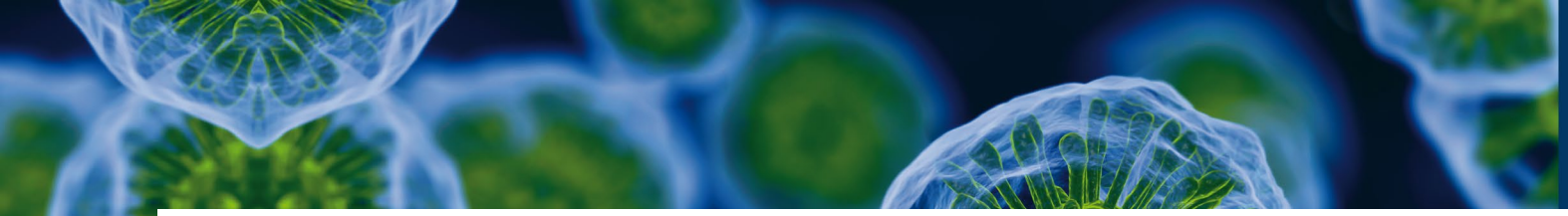
Selection procedure

The selection procedure is a multi-step process:

1. Pre-selection: The foundation's office will check all applications for formal eligibility and, in agreement with the foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, select applications that will move to step 2 of the selection procedure.
2. External peer review: Applications that have successfully passed step 1 will be sent to external scientists who are experts in an applicant's field of research. Based on the results of written reviews, selected applications will be moved to step 3.
3. Personal interview with a Selection Board: Applicants whose proposals have successfully passed step 2 will be invited to a personal interview via videoconference by a Selection Board. The Selection Board consists of members of the foundation's Scientific Advisory Board and external peer reviewers who are experts in an applicant's field of research.

The decision to grant funds is made by the Executive Committee of the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung based on the recommendations made by the Selection Board.

Applicants may suggest potential reviewers in their cover letter. Additionally, applicants may name any scientists (giving reasons) to whom their proposal should not be presented for evaluation.



Questions about the programme?
Please contact Dr Friederike Keggenhoff or Dr Sabine Loewer,
tel: +49 (0) 6131 27 508-12, email: funding@bistiftung.de

The Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung
The Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung is an independent, non-profit foundation that is committed to promoting the medical, biological, chemical, and pharmaceutical sciences. It was established in 1977 by Hubertus Liebrecht (1931–1991), a member of the shareholder family of the Boehringer Ingelheim company. Through its funding programmes, the foundation enables outstanding scientists to pursue original and potentially high-risk ideas, providing them with the freedom and resources to explore new avenues of research. It also endows the international Heinrich Wieland Prize, as well as awards for up-and-coming scientists in Germany. Additionally, it funds institutional projects, such as the AITHYRA Institute in Vienna and a new research department (BioAI) at the Center for Systems Biology in Dresden. Both combine AI and biomedicine. Other supported institutions include the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB) in Mainz and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, both in Germany.

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Entrepreneur, Ingelheim

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Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried

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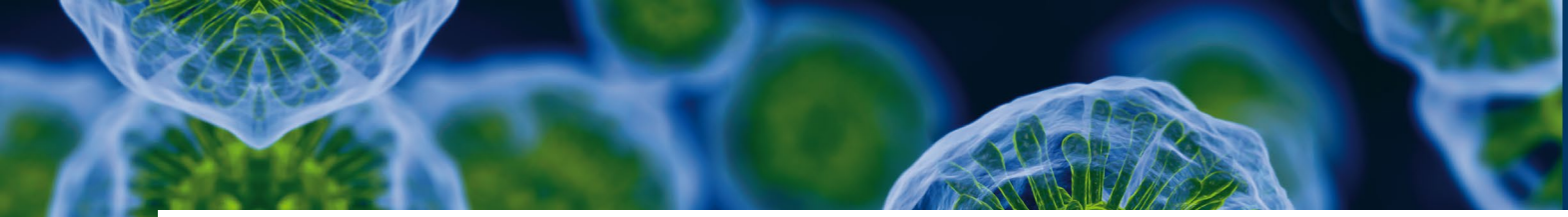


CoMove application guidelines

Applications for funding by the CoMove programme can be submitted via the foundation's online application tool accessible via this link. The following information needs to be provided:

A: Information to be entered in the online application form

B: Required PDF documents to be uploaded

C: Project proposal – detailed guidelines

A: Information to be entered in the online application form

1. General information

1.1. Personal details

- Surname, first name, academic title
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Degrees

1.2 Address of current place of work (may or may not be identical with the host organization of this application)

- Institution and department/faculty (full name)
- Work address
- Phone number for contact
- Email address for contact
- Alternative email address for contact

1.3 Position at host organization

- Official name of position (offered / accepted position, or current position)
- Type of contract / duration: permanent/tenure-track/fixed-term (please specify incl. dates)
- Please state which contribution your host organization or a third party has committed to you in writing for the period covered by your proposal to the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung, as well as their respective durations.

1.4 Top 5 publications and manuscripts

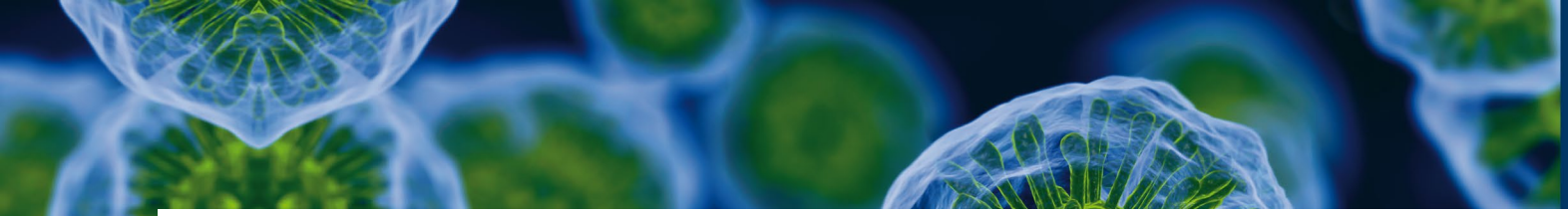
- Please list the five most important papers of your career to date (including full list of authors, year, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, page range of article, and DOI) and add a short description of the main findings and their impact on the respective field of research (max. 500 characters, incl. spaces).
- You may list up to two submitted manuscripts, manuscripts in revision or papers currently accepted / in print.
- Please submit each paper as a separate PDF file, each not larger than 5 MB, and in the same order as they appear in the full list of publications.

2. Information about the project

2.1. Title of project

2.2. Subject and area of research

- Subject (e.g., molecular biology, immunology)
- Area of research (e.g., DNA repair)



2.3. Proposed beginning and duration of funding

2.4. Summary

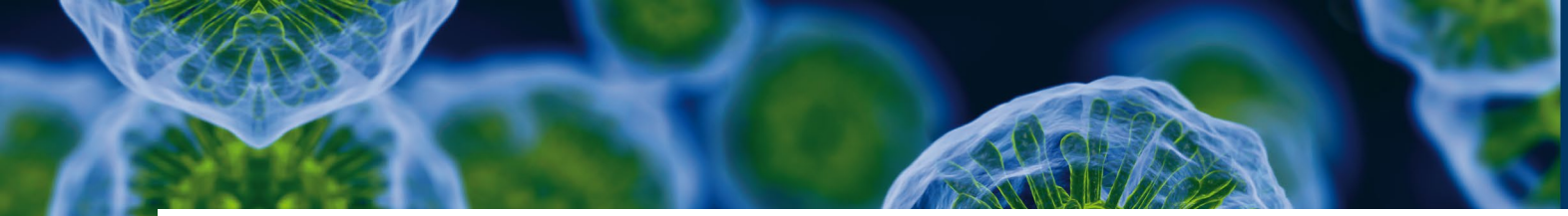
Please summarise the hypotheses and the main objectives of your proposed project in generally accessible language and in no more than 2,600 characters (incl. spaces).

2.5. Total funds requested

B: Required PDF documents to be uploaded

Please upload separate PDF files (each not larger than 5 MB) for each of the following sections:

1. Cover letter
2. Academic CV
   a. including previously received awards, fellowships and research grants (do not list posters or oral presentations at scientific conferences)
3. Certificates (if not in English or German, include translation)
   a. Doctoral degree(s)
   b. University degree(s) (MSc, Diploma or equivalent)
   c. Additional degrees or certificates (if applicable)
4. Full list of publications
   a. List all your publications numbered and in the following format: including full list of authors, year, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, page range of article, and DOI, indicate shared first authorship with * and co-corresponding authorship with #, and highlight the five most important papers of your career to date (in yellow).
   b. Use separate sections for
      i. original articles (published or accepted/in press)
      ii. reviews
      iii. manuscripts submitted or in revision (do not include manuscripts in preparation)
5. Five most important publications and manuscripts
   a. Please submit each paper as a separate PDF file, each not larger than 5 MB, and in the same order as they appear in the full list of publications (find more information under section A 1.4).
6. Project proposal for up to five years (detailed guidelines below)
7. Binding commitment of the host organization to finance the position of the applicant for the duration of the CoMove funding period, and to provide access to laboratory and office space, infrastructure, and administrative support.
8. Binding commitment of the host organization offering transparent career prospects for the applicant beyond the CoMove funding period. This is a critical element of the application. The foundation will only consider applications that include a commitment by the host organization to support the applicant's career in the long-term.
9. Written confirmation by the organization that has appointed / offered an appointment to (R3 or R4 researcher level) the dual career partner of the applicant.
10. Cooperation agreements.
11. Other documents (e.g., quotes of items of equipment exceeding 10,000 EUR)



C: Project proposal – detailed guidelines

The proposal – written in English – should consist of no more than 20 pages and should be comprehensible without reading the cited or appended literature. The proposal should be uploaded as PDF file. Please adhere to the following order to facilitate the review process:

1. Information about the project

1.1. Title of project

1.2. Subject and area of research

- Subject (e.g., molecular biology, immunology)
- Area of research (e.g., DNA repair)

1.3. Proposed beginning and duration of funding

1.4. Summary

Please summarise the hypotheses and the main objectives of your proposed project in generally accessible language and in no more than 2,600 characters (incl. spaces).

1.5. State of research

Please describe the current state of knowledge concisely and exclusively in relation to your own research, mentioning the most significant work by other scientists. Make clear how your own work fits into this context, and to which of the open questions in the field you are making a new contribution, and what importance, in your view, it will have in the field.

1.6. Your own preliminary studies

Please describe your preliminary work and results obtained so far, citing the relevant literature. If you have not started your position at the host organization yet or intend to develop a new research programme deviating from your previous work, extensive preliminary results directly linked to the proposed research programme may not exist. In this case, describe the major results of your previous work, including unpublished results.

1.7. Overall objective and specific aims

A brief description of your proposed research programme for the funding period, as well as its overarching goal and specific aims. State which aspects of your proposal are especially innovative and how they may impact on your field of research (and beyond, if applicable).

1.8. Research design and methods

Detailed research plan including milestones, risks, and mitigation strategies.

1.9. Cooperation agreements

Please list the scientists (other than those named in sections 2.2.1 and 4.1.) with whom you are currently cooperating or coordinating your work, or have agreed to do so in the future, as well as the projects or project components concerned in each case.

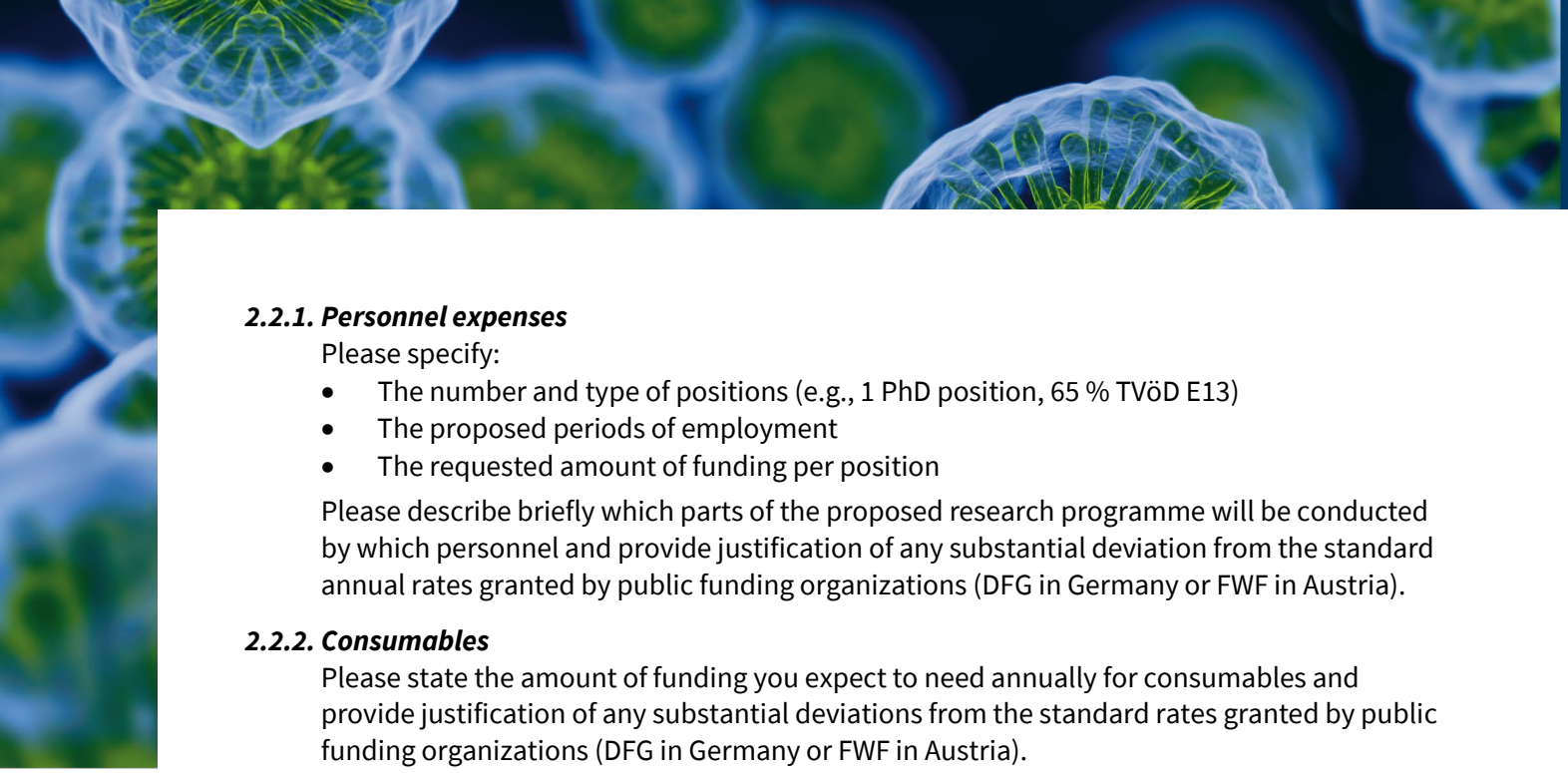
2. Funds requested

2.1. Total funds requested

Please state the total amount of the funds requested.

2.2. Breakdown of costs

Please list the costs according to the funding period in a table.



2.2.1. Personnel expenses

Please specify:

- The number and type of positions (e.g., 1 PhD position, 65 % TVöD E13)
- The proposed periods of employment
- The requested amount of funding per position

Please describe briefly which parts of the proposed research programme will be conducted by which personnel and provide justification of any substantial deviation from the standard annual rates granted by public funding organizations (DFG in Germany or FWF in Austria).

2.2.2. Consumables

Please state the amount of funding you expect to need annually for consumables and provide justification of any substantial deviations from the standard rates granted by public funding organizations (DFG in Germany or FWF in Austria).

2.2.3. Other resources

Please specify the purpose and amount of any additional funds that you need. If you are requesting funds exceeding 10,000 EUR for individual items of equipment, please provide written justification and recent price quotes.

3. References

Numbered and including full list of authors, year, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, page range of article, and DOI.

4. Other information

4.1. Composition of the research group

If you are already leading a research group, list all members of it (names, academic titles, official positions, and funding sources including fellowship holders) and highlight those who are to participate in the planned research programme (other than those named in section 2.2.1).

4.2. Conflicts of interest due to commercial activities

Please inform us of any conflicts of interest e.g., if you are the owner of a commercial enterprise or own a stake in one. In each case, explain how your research project relates to the commercial enterprise's activities.

4.3. Applications submitted to others

Please list any other bodies to which you have submitted a funding application for the present research programme or any part thereof, stating the amount of funding requested.