

BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM PRIZE

Guidelines for applicants

Objectives

The Boehringer Ingelheim Prize honours outstanding scientists in the Rhine-Main region who pursue basic research in the biological, chemical or medical sciences and have already taken initial steps towards scientific independence. The award recognises both past publication achievements and future potential, aiming to provide new impetus for a successful independent career in basic academic research.

The prize

Three finalists will receive a personal prize of 5,000 EUR each and a professional training in scientific presentation skills, in recognition of their outstanding publication achievements. One finalist will win the main prize of 55,000 EUR in flexible funding to support an original and creative research project of up to 2 years designed to strengthen their independent research profile.

Conditions for applying

To be eligible for the award, the following criteria must be met:

- You have published an original article with prominent authorship (as first, last, or corresponding author) within the 12 months prior to the application deadline. The article must have undergone peer review and should demonstrate significant impact and relevance in your field of research. The majority of the scientific work must have been carried out at an institution in the Rhine-Main region.
- You propose an original and creative research project of up to 2 years that will substantially advance your independent research profile.
- Your research focuses on fundamental questions in the biological, medical, and chemical sciences. The foundation accepts only applications from scientists who work on topics 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 are a postdoctoral researcher, lead your first independent research group, or hold a junior professorship, and your employment contract is fixed term.
- You are affiliated with one of the participating universities or research institutions in the Rhine-Main region (see Guidelines for applicants).
- You received your doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification less than 8 years before the application deadline (exemptions may apply, see FAQ).
- Your scientific achievements have already attracted international attention.
- You have gained international research experience.
- The head of your department or institute supports your application and guarantees access to the infrastructure required for your proposed project throughout its entire duration (template available via the online application portal).

- You can name two experienced scientists who are willing to provide confidential letters of recommendation. At least one of them must be based outside the Rhine-Main region and must not be, or have been, in a direct supervisory relationship with you.

What cannot be funded by the award?

The award does not cover the applicant's own salary. Employment is considered an essential contribution by the host institution.

Selection procedure

The office of the Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung first verifies that a submitted application meets all formal criteria. The Boehringer Ingelheim Prize Selection Board will evaluate the applications and nominate up to three finalists and one main prize winner, based on scientific merit, originality, and future potential. The finalists will be invited to present their research at a public award event and to receive the finalists' prizes.

The Boehringer Ingelheim Prize Selection Board will announce the winner of the main prize at the public award event.

List of the participating universities and research institutions

Darmstadt: Technical University of Darmstadt, GSI Helmholtz Centre for Heavy Ion Research

Frankfurt: Goethe University Frankfurt, University Hospital of Frankfurt, Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies (FIAS), Fraunhofer Institute for Translational Medicine and Pharmacology (ITMP), Georg-Speyer-Haus Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Max Planck Institute of Biophysics, Max Planck Institute for Brain Research

Mainz: Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, University Medical Center Mainz, Helmholtz Institute for Translational Oncology Mainz (HI-TRON Mainz), Institute of Molecular Biology gGmbH (IMB), Leibniz Institute for Resilience Research (LIR), Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research, Translational Oncology at the University Medical Center of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz gGmbH (TRON)

Questions about the prize?

Please contact Dr Friederike Keggenhoff,
tel: +49 (0) 6131 27 508-12, email: biprize@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 CoMove, Exploration Grants, and Rise up!, the foundation supports excellent scientists during critical stages of their careers. It also endows awards for junior scientists in Germany. Additionally, it funds institutional projects combining AI and biomedicine, such as the AITHYRA institute in Vienna and a new research department (BioAI) at the Center for Systems Biology in Dresden. Other supported institutions include the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB) in Mainz and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, both in Germany.

Selection Board of the Boehringer Ingelheim Prize

Professor Dr Peter Becker
Ludwig Maximilians University Munich

Professor Dr Christian Hackenberger
*Leibniz Research Institute for Molecular
Pharmacology (FMP), Berlin*

Professor Dr Blanche Schwappach-Pignataro
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf

Professor Dr Franziska Traube
University of Stuttgart

Dr Traugott Gruppe
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG

Professor Dr Matthias Schwab
*Dr. Margarete Fischer-Bosch Institute of Clinical
Pharmacology (IKP), Stuttgart and University Hospital
Tübingen*

Professor Dr Esther von Stebut-Borschitz
University Hospital Cologne

Managing Directors

Dr Stephan Formella (Science & Research), Marc Wittstock (Finance & Administration)
Schusterstrasse 46–48, 55116 Mainz, Germany, tel. +49 (0) 6131 27508-12, funding@bistiftung.de
www.boehringer-ingelheim-stiftung.de



Applications for the Boehringer Ingelheim Prize 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(s)
- Nationality
- Degrees, date of doctorate

1.2 Address of current place of work

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

1.3 Position at current place of work

- Official name of position
- Duration of current position
- Please state the resources and funding amounts (including personnel and non-personnel resources) that are available from the institution's annual budget or from a third party for the period covered by your proposal.

1.4 Original scientific article to be considered by the Boehringer Ingelheim Prize

- Please name the original scientific article published or accepted within the last 12 months prior to the application deadline (including full list of authors, year, full paper title, journal title, volume, issue details, page range of article, and DOI). The article must have undergone peer review, and most of the scientific work must have been carried out at an institution in the Rhine-Main region.
- Please add a short description of the main findings and their impact on the respective field of research. Did the publication gain international attendance via poster or oral presentations at international conferences (max. 500 characters, incl. spaces)?
- Please submit the paper as a separate PDF file, no larger than 3 MB, and labelled according to the full list of publications.

2. Information about the proposed 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. Summary

Please summarise the hypotheses and the main objectives of your proposed project in generally accessible language and in no more than 2,000 characters (incl. spaces).

B: Required PDF documents to be uploaded

Please upload separate PDF files (each no larger than 3 MB) for each of the following sections:

1. Cover letter (max. one page)
 - a. Please explain the relevance of the Boehringer Ingelheim Prize for your career and your independent research profile, highlighting how it will support your scientific development and future research opportunities.
 - b. The letter should also contain names and contact details of experienced scientists willing to provide confidential letters of recommendation. At least one of them must be based outside the Rhine-Main region and must not be, or have been, in a direct supervisory relationship with you.
2. Academic CV
 - a. Including previously received awards, fellowships and research grants.
3. Certificates (if not in English or German, include translation)
 - a. Certificates of appointment (only applicable for junior professors)
 - b. Doctoral degree(s)
 - c. University degree(s) (MSc, Diploma or equivalent)
 - d. Additional degrees or certificates (if applicable)
4. Full list of publications
 - a. List all your publications numbered and 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 original article to be considered for the Boehringer Ingelheim Prize 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. Original scientific article to be considered by the Boehringer Ingelheim Prize
6. Project proposal for up to two years ([detailed guidelines below](#)).

7. Support letter by the head of your department/institute (template available via the application portal).
8. Documentation if exemption from the 8-year post-doctorate regulation is applicable (for more information see FAQ).

C: Project proposal – detailed guidelines

The proposal – written in English – 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. Summary

Please summarise the hypotheses and the main objectives of your proposed project in generally accessible language and in no more than 2,000 characters (incl. spaces).

1.4. Project outline

Please describe the proposed project in no more than 3 pages of DIN A4 paper.

- Briefly describe the current state of knowledge in your field, focusing on your own research and referencing the most relevant work by other scientists. Clearly explain how your previous work and preliminary studies (if applicable) fit into this context, citing the pertinent literature.
- Specify how your proposed project integrates with or differs from ongoing research in your current group or department. If your previous work was closely aligned with your supervisor's ideas, highlight how this project will allow you to develop your own research niche and take a step towards scientific independence.
- Identify the open questions in your field that your project will address and explain the anticipated impact and importance of your contribution.
- In the main section of your outline, describe your experimental programme and strategy for the funding period, as well as its research objective(s) and possible risks. planned project.
- Outline what can be achieved immediately with the seed funding and discuss the project's potential for long-term development. If applicable, explain how the project or budget could be integrated into a larger research initiative, possibly supported by additional funding sources.

2. Funds requested

2.1. Total funds requested

Please state the total amount of the funds requested (55,000 EUR).

2.2. Breakdown of costs

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

2.2.1. Consumables

Please state the amount of funding you expect to need annually for consumables and provide justification of any substantial deviations from DFG's standard rates.

2.2.2. 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

Please list all members of your research group (names, academic titles, official positions, and funding source including fellowship holders) and highlight those who are to participate in the planned project.

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.