

DKFZ Clinician Scientist Program Application Guide

FROM BEDSIDE TO BENCH AND BACK
TRANSLATING RESEARCH CAREERS





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Translational Cancer Research at the DKFZ

The German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) is a prime location to pursue basic and translational oncology research in one of its six research programs. In order to ensure that novel results from the “lab bench” and newly developed methodologies can be put into practice more quickly for the benefit of future patient care, we draw on a wide range of knowhow and highly specialized, networked infrastructures. This is complemented by the close collaboration of DKFZ researchers and clinicians, such as the DKFZ Clinician Scientist Fellows, who are performing cutting-edge research on a plethora of key oncology topics. The pursuit of translation is, so to speak, embedded in our institutional DNA and we are constantly striving to further develop career options for the bright minds driving the innovative research projects DKFZ is known for.

DKFZ Clinician Scientist Fellowships

The DKFZ Clinician Scientist Program fosters innovative translational research by strengthening the research profile of clinician scientists. The program deepens the link between basic and clinical research, ensuring efficient transfer from bedside to bench and back.

We are offering fellowships to physicians who are at an early stage of their career, are currently performing their medical specialization training and who wish to gain basic and translational cancer research experience in a world-class scientific setting. Through the research groups in DKFZ's Research Programs we provide access to cutting-edge research facilities and state-of-the-art labs. Knowledge of the German language is not a prerequisite for the fellowship.

Upon successful completion of their fellowship the fellows will receive a certificate (no award of a specific degree).

Eligibility

We are looking for international clinical candidates who ...

- show enthusiasm for science and have a wish to link basic and clinical research
- have obtained a higher degree (equivalent to MD or MD-PhD)
- are at an early stage of their career (physicians in specialized medical training, Germany: *Facharztausbildung*)



Clinical Work

The German Cancer Research Center is a non-university research organization (basic and translational cancer research) and is not a clinic. Therefore, we can't offer regular clinical work. The DKFZ, in collaboration with university hospital partners, jointly operates the [National Center for Tumor Diseases \(NCT\)](#) in Heidelberg and Dresden, and the [Hopp Children's Cancer Center \(KiTZ\)](#) in Heidelberg. The idea of the Clinician Scientist Fellowships is to offer an outstanding research environment to clinicians including protected time for research (no obligations to do clinical work at the same time). We are asking our new Fellows to present a timeline in the beginning of their Fellowship illustrating how they are planning their Fellowship time, e.g. if they need to intersperse clinical work. In general, we envisage the Fellows to plan (together with their mentors) to reserve 100% of their time for research in the initial phase. This naturally varies depending on the Fellows professional circumstances from Fellow to Fellow.

Funding and Duration

Salaries for DKFZ Clinician Scientist Fellowships are competitive by national standards and are negotiated and confirmed during the recruitment phase should a fellowship be offered. Salaries are competitive with other national and international fellowships and our Human Resources department will be able to provide more information on the conditions once a candidate enters the next selection step.

Fellowship Model

Fellowship contracts are initially offered for a duration of two years (100 % funding of salary) and can be used within the Clinician Scientist Program period of 4 years, e.g. if clinical work needs to be interspersed. We acknowledge that clinician scientists' careers need to be handled with a great amount of flexibility. Therefore, Fellows are required to develop their individual fellowship timeline together with their mentors and present this to the Clinician Scientist Program Office within the first 1,5 months after starting the fellowship. The detailed plan and order of the research phases will be discussed between the Fellow, the respective mentors and us.





How to apply for a DKFZ Fellowship?

In order to prepare your application please make sure to compile all the required information in one single PDF document which you need to upload during the online application process:

- **Curriculum vitae** (incl. publication list and documentation of your clinical/research experience)
- **One-page motivation letter** (incl. statement of your research interests)
- Copy of **degree certificates** (originals, transcripts and translations if applicable)
- Contact details of **two references** who are familiar with your work

Please note that **applications need to be submitted in English language.**



What happens after you submit your application?

The selection procedure for the DKFZ Clinician Scientist Fellowships is composed of multiple steps which are highlighted below.

Selection Process

STEP 1:

- Submit the requested application documents via our application portal (link on website).
- All application documents will be evaluated by the Clinician Scientist Program Committee in a competitive selection process.
- We will then invite candidates who have successfully passed this first selection step for a visit to the DKFZ in Heidelberg. Letters of invitation will be provided for VISA application if necessary.

STEP 2:

- About 8-10 weeks after the application deadline, a 2-day **DKFZ Clinician Scientist Selection Event** (incl. interviews) will be held in Heidelberg. A number of invited candidates will be participating in this event. *
- Applicants will have the opportunity to meet with individual division heads and research group leaders to discuss about potential research projects.
- In addition, candidates will meet with members of the Clinician Scientist Program Committee to present a former research project or a scientific publication and to discuss about their plans for the fellowship time at the center.

STEP 3:

- Applicants will be informed about the outcome of the selection process shortly after the symposium.
- Start dates for fellowships will be mutually agreed after acceptance of the offered fellowship contract. Normally, fellowship positions should be filled within 6 months after the fellowship has been awarded.

* **Important note:** restrictions may apply due to the world-wide Corona pandemic. In case it will not be possible to organize the selection event on site, we will invite pre-selected candidates to a virtual selection event.





Contact Us

Clinician Scientist Program

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For general inquiries about the DKFZ Clinician Scientist Program,
please use our [contact form](#).

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www.dkfz.de/clinicianscientist