

DKFZ International Postdoc Program

DKFZ Postdoctoral Fellowships

Application Guidelines



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RESEARCH FOR A LIFE WITHOUT CANCER





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Program Overview

The DKFZ Postdoc Program is the German Cancer Research Center's central program to provide comprehensive support to young researchers while doing their Postdoc at the center.

Highly talented young scientists from all over the world who wish to pursue research projects in basic and translational cancer research are welcome to join the program. The DKFZ is a prime location to pursue basic and translational oncology research in one of its six research programs. Through the research divisions and groups, we provide access to cutting-edge research facilities and state-of-the-art labs. We foster personal career development of our postdoctoral researchers by offering a unique and tailored training portfolio and access to our DKFZ Career Center for Postdocs.

Although there are many ways to start a Postdoc at our research center, the **DKFZ Postdoctoral Fellowships** represent the most prestigious and competitive Postdoc recruitment process at the DKFZ and we intend to recruit highly talented and motivated young scientist, who wish to work at the forefront of cancer research in any of the basic or translational cancer research labs at the DKFZ.

This program offers **up to 10 fellowships** per year and provides interdisciplinary training and research opportunities in state-of-the-art research facilities for excellent young scientists, **no longer than 2 years past graduation**. We offer exciting projects for Postdocs in basic, epidemiological, computational and translational cancer research.

Personal Career Development

We want you to excel in your research and do our best to support you in mastering this very important phase of your scientific career. The DKFZ is committed to open new avenues for personal career development and the center actively supports its scientists by providing **advanced training** tailored to their specific needs.

A **dedicated Career Center for Postdocs** is available to inform about future career opportunities. The team provides personal coaching and advises postdocs on formulating and following-up their personal career strategy.



Eligibility

- A qualification equivalent to a PhD or MD is a prerequisite for all applications.
- Candidates should document their successful previous research endeavors with publications.
- The candidates should be at an early stage of their career, having held a PhD (or MD) for no longer than 2 years.
- The fellowship is open for national and international candidates and for DKFZ Postdocs who have been recruited no longer than 6 months before the application deadline.

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.

- **One-page motivation letter** (incl. statement of your research interests)
- **Curriculum vitae** (incl. publication list)
- **Copy of degree certificates** (originals, transcripts and translations if applicable)
- **Two letters of recommendation**

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

Candidates are encouraged to contact division heads and group leaders at the DKFZ Heidelberg before application to discuss potential projects.

Funding and Duration

DKFZ Postdoc salaries are competitive by national standards and are negotiated and confirmed during the recruitment phase should a fellowship be offered.

The fellowships are initially offered for a duration of two years, possibility of extension depends on the group leader.

What happens after you submit your application?

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



Selection Process

STEP 1:

- All **application documents** submitted through the application portal before the deadline will be evaluated by the Postdoctoral Fellowships Selection Committee based on the scientific achievements and the clarity of the future goals at the DKFZ.
- Based on the rating of the written application, the highest-evaluated candidates will be invited to the DKFZ Postdoctoral Fellowship Selection Symposium in Heidelberg*. Letters of invitation will be provided for VISA application if necessary.

STEP 2:

- About 8-10 weeks after the application deadline, the three-day DKFZ Postdoctoral Fellowship Selection Symposium will be held.
- The invited candidates will have then the opportunity to meet with individual division heads and research group leaders to discuss about potential research projects.
- On the second day of the Selection Symposium, all candidates will meet with members of the Postdoctoral Fellowships Selection Committee to each give a 15-minute presentation about their recent work which will be followed by a short panel interview.
- Upon finalization of the event, both the candidates and the interviewing groups will inform the DKFZ Postdoc Office about their preferences. A match between applicant and group leader needs to be achieved in order to be offered a fellowship.

STEP 3:

- Applicants will be informed about the outcome of the selection process shortly after the symposium (1-3 weeks).
- Start dates for fellowships will be mutually agreed after acceptance of the offered fellowship contract. Normally, fellowship positions should be filled within max. 6 months after the DKFZ Postdoctoral 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.

We are looking forward to receiving your application!





Contact Us

International Postdoc Program

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

www.dkfz.de/postdoc