

DKFZ Postdoc Internship Program (PIP)



GERMAN
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER
IN THE HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION



Research for a Life without Cancer

1 January 2025 - 30 March 2025

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

At which time can I do an internship?

In principle, the internship can be performed at any time during or at the end of employment at DKFZ, in agreement with the Supervisor. It can, but does not have to be at the end of the contract. An extension of your contract is only possible if requested by your Supervisor, and only if the "12 year rule" (Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz) allows an extension.

Am I eligible if I finished my PhD more recently?

Yes, all Postdocs are eligible, but priority will be given to Postdocs who graduated 4 or more years ago.

Is there a minimum duration of the internship?

The recommended duration is 6 or 12 weeks. In exceptional cases a different timing (4 or 8 weeks) can be allowed.

Will I be paid social benefits?

Yes, you will continue to receive your salary from DKFZ during the internship. Your department will receive a respective refund.

Can I get financial support for travel and/or accommodation?

We can provide contribution towards the travel costs (up to 250€ within Germany or 350€ within Europe) and for accommodation (up to 500€ per month).

How can I find a hosting company? Is there a limit in hosts?

Feel free to suggest the host of your choice. From our Alumni network on www.dkfz-connect.de there are some possibilities but these are not binding. Check how to find [possible internship hosts](#) on our Alumni platform and/or make a [career guidance appointment](#).

Can I do an internship outside Germany?

In principle, yes, but relocation funding might be a limiting factor.

Is it possible to do an online internship?

This depends on the host. It is recommended to spend at least 1/3 of the internship time on-site.

Is it possible to do a part-time internship?

A part-time internship is only possible if you already have a part-time contract at DKFZ. It is not possible to reduce your working time at the DKFZ to do a part-time internship on top.

Can I take holidays during my internship?

The purpose of an internship is not to take holidays! We ask you and your supervisor that the financial support is respected and that no prolonged holidays (accumulated before the internship) are taken during the internship period.

Can my contract be prolonged for the internship?

This depends on your type of contract and has to be decided by your Supervisor and Human Resources. An extension of your contract is only possible if requested by your Supervisor, and only if the "12 year rule" (Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz) allows an extension. Please note that some third-party funding cannot be extended. We recommend contacting the DKFZ [Human Resources](#).

What type of contract will be established for the PIP?

A Host Agreement will be set up at DKFZ and signed by the following three parties: the host company, DKFZ Human Resources, and the Postdoc. The supervisor does not sign the contract.

What are review criteria?

The commission will evaluate FOUR aspects of your application: 1. CV (time at DKFZ, time after PhD, experience outside academia, general CV quality); 2. Motivation (awareness of how PIP will benefit your career orientation and/or transition); 3. CDP (Checkpoints completed including targeted orientation; You know what you want, when and why); 4. Suggested Host (To whom did you speak? Has the Host been contacted and/or confirmed?)

What happens after evaluation?

You will receive a score out of 10. The outcome is either provisional acceptance (score over 8), minor revisions (score over 6), major revisions (score 6 or lower) or reject. You will have 6 weeks to revise your CDP (more rounds of revision are possible). Depending on the costs about 5-7 applications can be funded - a waiting list will be opened as soon this number is reached with provisional acceptances. After provisional acceptance the internship agreement has to be signed within 3 months (regardless of the starting date of the internship).

What happens if I don't have a confirmation of interest from the Host by the time of application?

You can still apply with the name of the host and of a contact person at the host. The written confirmation by the host can be considered a "minor revision" at the evaluation process.

How can I talk to my supervisor?

The Postdoc Office and Career Service are available to provide information to Supervisors upon request, and if considered useful, participate in a joint meeting

Any other questions?

Contact careers@dkfz.de or postdoc@dkfz.de