

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Berlin, December 1, 2021

VISITING PROFESSORS 2022

1. Preamble

Stiftung Charité offers a wide range of funding programs to attract fascinating personalities and renowned scientists and innovators from abroad to the life and medical sciences in Berlin—permanent recruitings as well as temporary engagements of guest scientists. With the Visiting Professors, leading scientists from abroad or from other locations in Germany are recruited for guest stays at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Charité), Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) (integrated into Charité since January 2021), and Max Delbrueck Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) in order to give important impulses for the academic landscape and the innovation ecosystem in Berlin by sharing their experience, knowledge, and scientific and technological ideas. Stiftung Charité thus contributes to strengthening the life and medical sciences in Berlin and to international and national collaborations.

2. Funding objectives

Visiting Professors are leading scientists in their specific field within the life and medical sciences in the public or private sector¹ who come to Berlin for temporary activities at Charité, BIH and MDC. Their work stays are not designed to conduct a specific scientific project but to advance a recent project or to develop a completely new research and development program through cooperation between the host at Charité, BIH or MDC, the Visiting Professor, and possibly further partners, or to help the host by mentoring a single junior scientist. Visiting Professorships stimulate longer-term collaborative projects between the home institution of the Visiting Professors and Charité, BIH or MDC, and thus strategically extend the collaborative network of the life and medical sciences in Berlin.

Stiftung Charité supports Visiting Professors with funds from its [Private Excellence Initiative Johanna Quandt](#).

3. Funding volume

Funding is provided for work stays of leading scientists for a total duration of three to nine months. The period can be divided into several work stays with great flexibility as long as it is appropriate for the project. It is possible to apply for one guest stay of nine months as well as for several single stays summing up to a total duration of at least three months. A single guest stay should usually not be shorter than one week and the period between the first and the last guest stay should usually not exceed two years. Funding totals up to 15,000.00 Euro per month (or part thereof) of the total duration.

¹ oriented on "R4" career level in accordance with the European Commission's definition. Cf. European Commission: Towards a European Framework for Research Careers. Brussels 2011. [Hyperlink](#)

The funding period has to end on December 31, 2024 the latest, and it cannot exceed an overall period of 24 months. An extension of the funding period beyond December 31, 2024 will not be possible.

A renewal of the funding cannot be applied for.

The visiting scientists may hold the title "Visiting Professor, funded by Stiftung Charité" for the duration of their work stay and beyond. In addition, if the respective conditions are met, the Visiting Professors are to be integrated in Charité as *Gastprofessorinnen and Gastprofessoren* in accordance with the state higher education regulations.

4. Application of funds

For a Visiting Professor, her or his own remuneration of up to 10,000.00 Euro per month (or part thereof) during the period of the stay can be applied for. In addition, material and personnel resources up to a level of 5,000.00 Euro per month during the period of the stay can be applied for, especially to cover the travel costs of the Visiting Professor (if necessary also for next of kin accompanying her or him). In justified cases, the funding for the remuneration of the Visiting Professor can also be reallocated to fund material resources or personnel resources for scientific staff, provided that the work stays of the Visiting Professor can be guaranteed in other ways.

The host at Charité, BIH or MDC guarantees the provision of a suitable workplace including the necessary infrastructure, material, and equipment from her or his own funds.

Stiftung Charité funding is provided as a lump sum totaling up to 15,000.00 Euro per month respectively to Charité, BIH or MDC. The host at Charité, BIH or MDC arranges the details of the remuneration procedure with the Visiting Professor and her or his home institution. A further payment of existing remuneration to the Visiting Professor by the home institution and payment of a compensation to the home institution or leave of absence of the Visiting Professor at the home institution and payment of a remuneration to the Visiting Professor (e.g. royalty or stipend) would be conceivable. Travel funds must be used in accordance with the rules and regulations of the host institution. No contractual relations are entered by Stiftung Charité and the Visiting Professor. All necessary arrangements are to be made directly between the host at Charité, BIH or MDC on the one hand and the Visiting Professor on the other.

5. Eligibility requirements

Proposals are submitted by the host at Charité, BIH or MDC. Hosts can be either scientists at Charité or BIH heading a CharitéCenter, an institute or a clinic, or scientists at MDC heading a research area or a research team. The proposals are submitted respectively for the nominated Visiting Professor and are drawn up jointly with her or him. The nominated Visiting Professor has to be a leading scientist² in the respective field within the life and medical sciences. She or he has to be able to demonstrate relevant scientific experiences and achievements. In addition to common achievements in research and teaching, performance in knowledge and technology transfer as well as provision of scientific infrastructure are given equal consideration. The nominated Visiting Professor can be employed in the public or private sector in Germany and abroad or can be retired.

² oriented on "R4" career level in accordance with the European Commission's definition. Cf. European Commission: Towards a European Framework for Research Careers. Brussels 2011. [Hyperlink](#)

6. Proposal and assessment criteria

The proposal should demonstrate that the nominated Visiting Professor holds the qualifications required for a senior scientist position. Achievements in research, teaching, knowledge and technology transfer, and infrastructure provision are equally taken into account.

Furthermore, the proposal has to explain what scientific project the host and the nominated Visiting Professor seek to pursue during the work stays. Projects eligible for funding have to pursue one of the following aims:

- (a) Consultancy and support activities to advance a recent research and development program,
- (b) Concept and initiation of a new larger cooperative project designed for a period of several years, or
- (c) Mentoring and scientific supervision of a single junior scientist in the host institution with regard to specific projects which are promising for the supervised scientist.

Independently from the aim, it is expected that at the end of the funding by Stiftung Charité, a proposal to acquire competitive third-party funding, e.g. from the German Research Foundation (DFG) or the European Research Council, is made and ready for submission. According to its specific aim, this proposal following the possible funding by Stiftung Charité should be submitted by (a) the host institution only, (b) the host institution, the Visiting Professor, and partners collaboratively, or (c) the supervised junior researcher in the host institution.

For this reason, the project description in the application should clarify what added value is generated for the respective host institution at Charité, BIH or MDC and their national and international cooperation network, and how cooperation between the Visiting Professor, her/his home institution and the host institution is to be continued throughout the length of the work stay and beyond. The project can also be explicitly used to establish new collaborative relations for Charité, BIH or MDC.

The proposal is drawn up using the [proposal forms](#) provided by Stiftung Charité. By submitting this application the [data protection information](#) (Datenschutzhinweis) of Stiftung Charité is accepted.

When applying, and in the case of funding being approved, the [Rules of Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice](#) of the German Research Foundation (DFG), the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) and the [ethical principles](#) of the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation are to be observed. Consent to the forwarding of the documents to external reviewers, to members of the committees of Stiftung Charité, and to the responsible third-party funding administrations is given. In addition, the [Stiftung Charité approval principles](#) apply.

7. Selection procedure

Applications have to be submitted to Stiftung Charité. Stiftung Charité evaluates the applications formally. If the application passes the formal evaluation, a respective statement is obtained from the BIH Board of Directors. Additionally, a selection committee appointed by Stiftung Charité gives funding recommendations considering the statements mentioned above. The Academic Advisory Council of the Private Excellence Initiative Johanna Quandt takes the final funding decision.

8. Deadlines / dates

March 15, 2022, 11.59 PM	Application deadline
September 2022	Announcement of funding decision / approval
October 1, 2022	Earliest possible start of funding

9. Contact

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