FAQ

Job Post: Research Group Leader in Political Communication

Topics

Must my project fit within the other ongoing projects being conducted in the Cluster?
Your proposal should demonstrate your ability to conduct independent research. It is thus not necessary that the project connect up with other ongoing projects. However, the project must be connected to at least one of the Cluster’s overarching research areas (perceptions, participation, and policies) as well as to an empirical domain of inequality research (e.g., education, employment, political rights, as well as emerging topics such as environmental and health inequalities).
For more on the Cluster’s research areas, see: inequality.uni.kn/research/research-areas.

What do you mean by ‘independent research’?
The proposal should demonstrate your ability to carry out your own large research project and should thus also demonstrate how you intend to build up a small group of doctoral and post-doctoral researchers that would support you in pursuing this research.

Budget

Should I include my own salary in my budget allocations?
The Research Group Leader’s salary (TV-L E14) is calculated separately from your personnel and research costs of up to 500,000 EUR and therefore should not be include in the proposed budget.
According to the general pay scale of German universities, the salary will be “E 14 TV-L”. Depending on your experience this corresponds to a monthly salary of around EUR 4.752 (fulltime position, experience level 2, gross pay, before tax).

What do I need to include in my budget proposal?
You need to include several years of funding for any post-docs (full-time 100% position at salary level TVL-13, with at least two years contract duration) and/or doctoral researchers (part-time 65% position, usually 1+3 years contract duration at the Cluster) that you plan to recruit for your group.
“Direct costs” refer to costs for, e.g., data collection or expenses for traveling.
Taken together, the budget should not exceed 500,000 EUR.
Conditions of the Fellowship

How long does the fellowship run?
The Research Group Leader’s contract should start no later than 1 October 2021. The duration of the position is linked to the funding period of the Cluster, i.e., until December 2025. The contracts of doctoral and postdoctoral scholars may begin later that October 2021.

What does this call mean with regard to the German Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz?
The advertised position is not tied to the so-called Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz (German Law on Temporary Scientific Contracts), which primarily applies to researchers who are already part of the German university system. You may therefore also apply if you have already exceeded the 12 years allowed by the WissZeitVG.

Will the Cluster help me and my personnel with relocation costs?
The Cluster offers financial support with respect to the relocation of the future Research Group Leader and, if applicable, their family (some limitations apply).

Living and Working Conditions

Do I need to be able to speak German?
The main working language of the Cluster is English. Speaking German is not a requirement for application.

Will the University help me find childcare?
The Equal Opportunity Office of the University of Konstanz provides support for incoming researchers with children. It assists with locating daycare and schools in Konstanz and provides information with respect to child benefits.

For further information, please see:
https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/welcome-centre/
https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/equalopportunities/family/