

TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship

FAQ

Last updated: October 21, 2022. This document is continuously updated.

Content

Details about the Fellowship	1
Application Portal	2
Application Documents	2
Support of a TUM Host	3
Eligibility Criteria	4
Language-related Questions	5
Selection and Evaluation Process	5
Starting the Fellowship	6
Contact	6

Details about the Fellowship

For how long will the fellowship be awarded?

The fellowship will be awarded for 24 months.

When can I start the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship?

The fellowship can be started between April 2023 and April 2024, on the first of the respective month of your choice. The starting date needs to be agreed on with your host at TUM.

Funding

Fellows receive a stipend of 2 670 € per month and one additional kick-off flat rate of 430 € when starting the fellowship. Researchers living in the Munich metropolitan area receive an additional allowance of 350 € per month. It is also possible to apply for family benefits. The fellowship covers living expenses whereas additional payments for consumables and conferences are not included and may be covered by the host.

Will applicant be employed at TUM or receive a fellowship/stipend?

Successful applicants will receive a fellowship at TUM based on a fellowship contract that will be signed by the Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation. The fellows will not be employed.

Do I need to move to Munich to conduct the fellowship or can I also collaborate remotely with TUM researchers?

The basic idea of the fellowship is to integrate researchers in the research environment in Munich. TUM Global Postdoc Fellows are expected to be based in Munich during their fellowship. Please note that also the fellowship can only be paid to the fellow's German bank account.

Application Portal

Can I submit documents after the fellowship application deadline?

No, you need to make sure that you submit your application until November 20, 2022 (23:59 CEST); otherwise your application cannot be taken into consideration. This also applies to the letter of recommendation of the host supporting the application.

Can I update my application after the deadline e.g. add new publications?

For reasons of fairness additions or changes are not possible after the deadline.

How do I know that my application is complete?

You are unable to submit your application if you have not uploaded all required files.

Can I upload restricted PDF files?

Please upload PhD files without any restrictions; otherwise we will be unable to review them.

Can I submit a reference/recommendation letter e.g. by my former supervisor?

You do not need to submit a reference or recommendation letter. There is also no option to upload one in the application portal.

What is the application period for the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship?

The application portal will close on November 20, 2022 (23:59 CEST). We hence recommend to start preparing your application documents beforehand.

When will I be informed about the outcome?

We plan to inform every applicant about the results until the end of January 2023.

For **Language-related** questions, please refer to the section underneath.

Application Documents

How important are publications for a successful application?

Publications are certainly always an important criteria, but each field of research has very different standards. Hence, there are no requirements to have a certain number of publications. However, depending on the research area, the reviewers might look at your track record to assess your scientific excellence. The members are of course aware that the situation and standards vary for different fields. You may list manuscripts that have been accepted for publication, but are not yet published.

Is there a specific format for the CV?

There is no fixed template or structure for your CV. Make sure you include your track record and a good overview of your education, career and achievements.

What do I need to include in the Proposal?

Please note that there is not fixed template or structure. Please present the research project which you plan to conduct at TUM in such a way that a reviewer who is not an expert in your specific field can follow your argument.

In your research proposal, you should also address synergies with the TUM host and your career plans: Why is TUM the best possible place to do your research project? Why is your TUM host the person with whom you want to conduct your research project? What are your future career plans? For which subsequent funding would you apply during the fellowship? Your proposal should not exceed 4 pages (including references and footnotes).

We recommend spending about 3 pages on the project description and 0.5-1 page on the latter questions.

Support of a TUM Host

Who can be a host for my application?

Full Professors, Assistant and Tenure Track Professors	yes	In case of doubt, compare with the list of TUM Professors as well as the TUM Junior Fellows . The list is very comprehensive, but a few professors may not have a profile yet. In case of doubt, please also check the website of the respective department or institute.
TUM Junior Fellows (Research Group Leaders at TUM)	yes	
Retired Professors/ Honorary Professors/ Professors Emeriti	no	
Adjunct Professorships/ Außerplanmäßige Professoren	no	
Any other researcher/postdoc at TUM	no	

How can I find out about the status of a professor?

Check if s/he is mentioned in the [list of TUM Professors](#). In case of doubt, feel free to contact TUM ForTe before preparing your application. Particularly new professors at TUM might not have a profile immediately. TUM Junior Fellows can also be hosts, but need to make sure that their chair holder is aware of the application.

Is it possible to collaborate with more than one TUM Host or to mention more than one host?

During your research at TUM, you are of course welcome to interact and work with as many groups as your like. However, for the application process, it needs to be absolutely clear, who is the official host who supports your application. From an administrative point of view, you will be affiliated with one specific chair at TUM. Furthermore, the host needs to confirm that s/he will provide you with workspace and ensure the co-financing.

If you plan a project where you would collaborate closely with more than one host, you and the host can mention this in the project description and support letter.

Is it possible to collaborate with additional researchers outside TUM)?

Applicants are welcome to collaborate with different institutions as part of their fellowship project. However, for the application it needs to be clear, that the project will be conducted at TUM and the fellow will be based at TUM. You can mention planned collaborations in the project proposal. You do not need to submit additional endorsement or support letters.

How many applicants can one TUM host support?

For each application round, a TUM host can support up to two applications. If s/he supports two applications, at least one needs to be submitted by a female applicant.

Is it necessary to present a written confirmation from the TUM host where s/he commits to co-financing the fellowship?

Yes, it is a prerequisite for the application that the host agrees to co-finance the fellowship and to provide you with the necessary work and lab space in his/her support statement. Details are provided in the section for host.

I have not been able to find a host who is willing to support my application. Can I still apply?

No, unfortunately you will not be able to apply if you do not have the secured support by a TUM host.

A TUM host is willing to support my application but unable to guarantee the 20% cofinancing. Can I still apply?

No, unfortunately the confirmation of the co-financing is a prerequisite to be eligible for the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship. If s/he is interested in collaborating with you, but unable to co-finance the fellowship, we would be happy to support you to apply for other fellowships, e.g. an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship or to keep an eye on the next EuroTech Postdoc Fellowship call.

I have contacted various TUM researchers but not received a positive reply. Can you help me to get in touch with a potential host?

Unfortunately, the TUM Talent Factory cannot get involved here to find you suitable TUM hosts. It is always a researcher's decision whether s/he wants to collaborate with and support a postdoc. It is usually not appreciated if someone else gets involved.

We always recommend that you write personalized emails from your professional email account add your current affiliation, CV as a PDF attached and clearly elaborate why you contact the respective researcher. You may send a reminder if you do not get a reply, but be prepared that not all researchers are responsive.

Eligibility Criteria

Mobility

Can I apply for the Fellowship if I am living and working in Germany?

International and German researchers who are already residing in Germany can apply for the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship. However, be aware that the main target group are applicants from abroad. You are not eligible if you did your PhD at TUM and/or are currently working at TUM.

I am already working at TUM, can I apply for the Fellowship?

If you are already working at TUM (as an employee or a fellowship) or you are about to start working at TUM, you are not eligible to apply for the fellowship.

Can I apply for the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship again if I previously applied for the TUM University Foundation Fellowship (TUFF)?

ROW participants from previous years, who already applied for the TUM University Foundation Fellowship (TUFF) are not eligible to apply again for the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship. This applies to both successful and unsuccessful applications.

Can I apply for the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship more than one if I am not selected?

No, every applicant can only apply once for the fellowship.

PhD-related Questions

For how many years after finishing my PhD am I eligible to apply for the Fellowship?

You can apply for the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship if you finished your PhD within the last three years. In this round, you are eligible if you completed your PhD after or on October 1, 2019. This refers to the date which is stated on your PhD certificate. If you have not completed your PhD yet, see below "Can I apply for the Fellowship if I haven't finished my PhD yet?"

Please note that this is a fixed rule and cannot be waived as the Fellowship really aims at early-career postdocs.

Since completing my PhD, I have been on family leave/worked in industry/have been unable to focus on my research. Is it possible to extend the 3-year rule for any of these reasons?

Please note that this is a fixed rule and cannot be waived or extended as the Fellowship really aims at early-career postdocs. The TUM Talent Factory will be happy to assist you to identify other suitable fellowships you could apply for with the support of a TUM host.

I completed my PhD before October 1, 2019. Am I eligible to apply?

Unfortunately, you are not eligible for the event. The TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship aims at researchers who recently finished their PhD or are about to finish it, so we cannot make exceptions from the three-year rule.

Can I apply for the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship if I haven't finished my PhD yet?

Yes, you are eligible, but you need to submit a letter from your supervisor that confirms that you will finish your PhD within the next 12 months. You need to finish your PhD and have received your PhD certificate before starting the fellowship. If you are not sure whether you will be able to obtain your PhD certificate before the last possible starting date for this call, we would recommend you to postpone your nomination to the next call.

If you are unable to finish your PhD within the next 12 months, you are currently not eligible to apply.

Am I eligible to apply for the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship if I did not participate in the ROW?

The Research Opportunities Week and the TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship are strongly linked and we recommend to apply for and participate in the ROW to ensure that you are well equipped to prepare your fellowships application. However, the fellowship application is open to all eligible postdocs and it is not mandatory to have participated in the ROW.

Language-related Questions

Do I need to speak German to join TUM?

No, you do not need to be able to speak German in most fields at TUM – except if your research requires you to know German.

My PhD certificate is in Spanish/Portuguese/English/French. Do I need to have a translation?

In this case, we ask you to add an English translation, but it is not mandatory.

My PhD certificate is in Arabic/Russian/Korean/Mandarin. Do I need to have a translation?

For any language which does not use the Roman alphabet, please add a translation in English.

All other documents need to be written in or translated into English since not all members of the Selection Committee speak German.

Can I submit my application in German?

Since not all members of the Selection Committee speak German, please make sure all relevant documents are in English. Your PhD certificate or confirmation letters by the Examination Office can be submitted in German.

Can the TUM Host submit his/her supporter letter in German?

The support letter needs to be written in English since not all members of the Selection Committee speak German.

Selection and Evaluation Process

How will the applications be evaluated?

All submitted applications of eligible researchers will be passed on to and evaluated by three reviewers from the respective research field. As the reviewers might not be experts in your very specific field (particularly if you focus on an interdisciplinary topic), make sure that the proposal can be understood by the reviewers/ by a broad audience. Afterwards, the applicants will be ranked based on the reviewer's feedback and the fellowships will be awarded by the TUM Board of Management.

What are the evaluation criteria of the reviewers?

The reviewers will review the application based on the following criteria: (1) scientific excellence and career prospects of the applicant, (2) relevance and originality of the research project and (3) synergies with the TUM host's research. Please make sure that you cover all points, it should become clear to the reviewers why you are the ideal person to conduct the project you suggest and that it would be a great addition to the chair or institute where you are going to conduct your research.

Is there a possibility to extend the fellowship beyond 24 months?

Unfortunately, the duration is fixed and it is not possible to extend the fellowship further. This also applies if the host is willing to cover the complete expenses to ensure that all fellows are treated equally.

Starting the Fellowship

If I am awarded a fellowship, what are the next steps?

Until the end of January, every applicant will be informed about the outcome. If you are selected and awarded a fellowship, you need to accept the fellowship and inform the TUM Talent Factory when you will start the fellowships. Once the date has been finalized, you will receive the fellowships contract, which will be signed by the Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation and yourself.

We will also get you in touch with the TUM Welcome Services who will provide support regarding administrative questions and other practice matters. Once you start your fellowship, the host will provide you with access to the systems at TUM.

Is there support for Fellowship holders with families?

TUM.Family provides support for researchers with families at TUM. In general, the allowance for children and accompanying spouses ensures that also expenses for families in Munich are covered. Fellows can also try to apply for the Child benefit.

In general, it is not a problem for partners to get a work permit to work in Germany.

Contact

TUM Talent Factory

Organisation: Dr. Tiffany Paulisch

Contact us via: postdoc-application@tum.de

Website: <https://bit.ly/3scT85M>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TUMPostdoc>