

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

LONG-TERM GROUPS AT ZIF

Deadlines for Application: 23 April 2024, 28 November 2024

The **Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF)** is Bielefeld University's Institute for Advanced Study. It offers opportunities—with respect to time, space, and funding—for outstanding interdisciplinary research. ZiF is open to scholars from all disciplines post-PhD, based in Germany and abroad. They can propose a research project to be conducted with a curated group of (preferably) international colleagues.

To support the work of groups on-site in Bielefeld, ZiF allocates financial resources and provides infrastructure as well as organisational support. If their collaborative application is successful, ZiF will host these groups on its campus, offering ideal working conditions.

WHAT ZIF OFFERS

- **Duration:** several visits to ZiF over a period of up to three years; these recurring visits may add up to a total of ten months
- **Funding Amount:** up to EUR 200,000 to cover costs for travel, accommodation, workshops and/or conferences (to be held at ZiF); personnel expenses (e.g. buy-outs) cannot be covered
- **Timing:** a period of up to three years (several stays at ZiF)
 - For deadline on 23 April: Projects can start in the fall of 2025
 - For deadline on 28 November: Projects can start in the spring of 2026

Long-Term Groups offer great organisational freedom and flexibility to meet the needs of long-term projects; the set-up of the group work is based on the needs of the individual project idea. An overarching project design and coherent approach to planning the group are essential for a successful application.

A Long-Term Group **must not consist of a series of individual events**. Questions or topics should be addressed in a series of coherent, interrelated meetings. A substantial share of the members of a Long-Term Group should participate in all events; varying experts can be invited if required for the discussion.

Please note: Interdisciplinary research projects funded by ZiF are primarily dedicated to theoretical reflection and aim at generating new insights in the disciplines involved, very much in the sense of basic research. Projects with an essential fieldwork component cannot be supported by ZiF.

Group Requirements

- **Size:** the minimum for each group is three people
- **Composition:** different disciplines must be involved; international participation is encouraged
- We expect groups **to be present at ZiF for their collaboration phases**. Additional virtual participants may be involved, but must not form the majority.
- The need for interdisciplinary collaboration must stem from the research at hand and be explained in the proposal. The mere involvement of different disciplines does not suffice.
- A gender balance appropriate to the disciplines involved is expected.

Important Selection Criteria

- Interdisciplinarity
- Academic quality
- Originality on an international level

Selection Process

Proposals will be selected competitively. Complete submissions will be reviewed externally. Upon positive assessment, applicants will be invited to an interview by ZiF's Academic Advisory Board. The final decisions will be made by the Board of Directors.

Timing of Selection Process

- for the deadline in April: Interview by the Academic Advisory Board in November 2024; Decisions in December 2024, Project start: from fall 2025
- for the deadline in November: Interview by the Academic Advisory Board in May/June 2025; Decisions in June/July 2025; Project start: from spring 2026

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted by a team of **two to four** people who also act as convenors of the group they propose. All convenors must have completed a doctorate. One of them acts as the main contact person (to be clearly labelled). The team of applicants has to represent different disciplines.

Please consider the following formal criteria for a formally adequate application:

1. Cover Sheet

- Title of the project
- Name, affiliation, and address of all applicants; clear indication of a main contact
- Intended timeframe

2. Summary of the project (up to 1,500 char., incl. spaces, approx. 1/2 a page).

3. Project description (max. 25,000 char., incl. spaces, approx. 10 pages)

- Research topic and questions
- Objectives and anticipated output
- Current state of research
- Methods
- Justification for the interdisciplinary collaboration
- Timing of the project and work plan (overview, e.g. as a table)
- If applicable: information on workshops and/or conferences to be held during the project
- Composition of the group (list of participants, their discipline, affiliation, and specific expertise for the project, status of invitation/participation) (not part of the character count)
- Reference list (not part of the character count)

4. Preliminary budget (in case a grant is made, the budget will be checked by ZiF)

5. Short CV of all applicants, including latest publications relevant to the project (up to 3 pages per applicant, incl. publications). CV of participants are not part of the application.

ANSWERS TO BUDGET-SPECIFIC AND GENERAL QUESTIONS CAN ALSO BE FOUND IN OUR [FAQ](#).

Please contact us with any questions;
we are happy to help!

Dr. Anika Haverig
Dr. Daniela Noll-Opitz
Dr. Nadine Suttmöller
Email: zif-proposalsupport@uni-bielefeld.de

**Send your application
IN ONE PDF FILE to:**

Executive Director
Prof. Dr. Jens Stoye
Email: zif-proposals@uni-bielefeld.de