

## Programme Information

### Mercator Visiting Professorships

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#### **Aim of the programme**

The programme is designed to enable Universities in Germany to invite highly qualified scientists and scholars (as a rule foreign nationals) from abroad. A Mercator Guest Professorship should provide a visible accent of quality in the host University's activities. Applications should therefore be related to the focal points in the University's scientific profile and thus show a structural benefit. Mercator Guest Professors will be expected to contribute significantly to the research activities of the University, but at the same time to research-related educational activities, in particular to the training of graduate students.

A specific aim of the programme is to contribute to the internationalization of Higher Education and research in Germany.

#### **Application requirements**

The Visiting Professorship must be of specific interest (to be detailed in the application) for the quality research and teaching of the host University. It should neither be a training fellowship for the invitee nor constitute a merely quantitative addition to the University's teaching programmes. The length of stay should not be less than three and not more than twelve months.

Applications must be submitted or endorsed by the Rector or President of the University.

#### **Form of applications**

Applications may be submitted at any time. There is no prescribed form. However, the application should always contain the following items:

1. Curriculum vitae of the Visiting Professor including date of birth, previous academic career and present appointment as well as a list of major publications showing the research and teaching qualification;
2. a description of the University's specific interest in the invitation,
3. a detailed work programme for the visit showing the intended joint research project(s) and the proposed teaching activities,
4. the dates of arrival and departure envisaged,

5. details of the financial support required :

Based on the invitee's qualification and present appointment, the host University is asked to propose the salary level (usually C 3 or C 4) for which the DFG's grant should be calculated.

Travel expenses may be granted to cover the costs of the Visiting Professor's journey to Germany and back to his or her home country (shortest route, economy fare). Travel costs for accompanying family members are allowable on the same basis for visits of six months or more.

A lump sum of up to 1.500,- EUR may be provided for the Visiting Professor's contacts of other academic institutions in Germany including scientific meetings. The host institution must provide detailed justification of the use of these funds at the end of the visit.

To support the Visiting Professor's scientific activities at the host institution, the DFG may provide up to 12.500,- EUR for assisting personnel, equally subject to detailed accounting by the host institution.

In calculating the grant, the DFG will **not** be able to take into account special payments (e.g. Christmas Bonus), separation allowances, removal costs, rent support, financial assistance for health care, births or deaths or contributions to health insurance.

There will be no contractual relationship between the DFG and the Visiting Professor. All necessary agreements must be concluded between the host University and the visitor.

All applications are peer reviewed. The peer review process may commence when all necessary informations detailed in items 1-5 above are available to the DFG central office. Processing of applications will regularly take three months or more.