

## Annex 7

### Fact Sheet for Universities

#### The Helmholtz Investigator Groups program

The Helmholtz Investigator Groups program provides the opportunity to set up and lead a research group for excellent scientists from Germany and abroad. The program aims to foster the early scientific independence of researchers. It offers excellent working conditions in a research-intensive environment as well as attractive and permanent career prospects based on proven scientific achievements. Since the start of the program in 2003, more than 265 recipients have been awarded funding for their research group at a Helmholtz Center.

#### Universities as important strategic partners

The Helmholtz Association's most important strategic partners are universities. Close cooperation with them plays a key role in the Helmholtz Investigator Group program. This cooperation allows group leaders to experience the benefits of a collaborative culture based on the division of labor when striving to achieve a common goal. At the same time, they have the opportunity to gain teaching experience and qualify for a professorship. The President of the Helmholtz Association supports all efforts to jointly appoint the selected Helmholtz Investigator Group leaders to professorships at the partner universities.

A Helmholtz Investigator Group may be based at a university, a Helmholtz Center, or both. However, the group is expected to agree on clearly defined tasks at each of the institutions. These tasks must be set out in detail in the planned work schedule.

#### Selection procedure

The applications are assessed in a multi-stage selection process that meets the highest quality standards. In the first stage, the Helmholtz Center – if applicable in cooperation with the university - performs a pre-selection. The nominated candidates' applications are then submitted to the Helmholtz Head Office. Here, at least two reviews by national and / or international experts are commissioned to evaluate each proposal. Based on these assessments, approx. 18 candidates are invited to present their projects to an interdisciplinary, international panel.

#### The application – required university statement

The complete application needs to include a written statement by the university board (or another university representative with the authority to sign the statements in the attached form) and the department / faculty covering the following rights and responsibilities, following the higher education laws applicable in the relevant federal state:

- teaching responsibilities with a maximum of four hours per semester week;
- research independence;
- doctoral candidate supervision;
- access to all necessary resources and infrastructure;
- staff and budget responsibilities (if applicable).

The form for the university statement on the rights and responsibilities of a Helmholtz Investigator Group leader is provided below. This statement is to be submitted to the Helmholtz Head Office **by September 01, 2025**, at the latest.

## University statement

\_\_\_\_\_ (university) and the \_\_\_\_\_ department / faculty expressly welcome the application of \_\_\_\_\_ (group leader name) for a position as Helmholtz Investigator Group leader bearing the title of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ (institute/facility at which the group is to be based).

In order to grant \_\_\_\_\_ (group leader name) scientific independence early on and to provide the opportunity to gain the relevant qualifications for an academic career, this university and department / faculty declare the following:

|  |                              |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As an Investigator Group leader, he/she will be integrated into research and teaching activities at the university. By mutual agreement, the group leader will be entrusted with teaching responsibilities of not more than four weekly teaching hours per semester.</li> </ul> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neither the university nor the department will issue official instructions that influence the group leader's independent work on the specified research project.</li> </ul>   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group leader will be given the authority to supervise doctoral candidates in completing their doctorates. [specify if necessary]</li> </ul> Specifications:   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Helmholtz Investigator Group will have access to all necessary resources and will be able to use the infrastructure of the university and the department / faculty. [specify if necessary]</li> </ul> Specifications:   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group leader will be given responsibility for the Investigator Group university related personnel and budget. [click "does not apply" if neither university related personnel nor university related budget are scheduled]</li> </ul>                                       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/> Does not apply |

\_\_\_\_\_  
 University representative  
 Signature and date  
 Name/ Position:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Helmholtz Investigator Group leader  
 signature and date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Department / Faculty representative  
 signature and date  
 Name/ Position: