



Application Guide for doctoral candidate positions

This application guide details the application procedure for the following call:

5 Doctoral Candidate Positions (65% TV-L 13) in Ethics of Science and/or Philosophy of Science

starting 1 October 2021 at the DFG Research Training Group GRK 2073 “Integrating Ethics and Epistemology of Scientific Research” (Leibniz Universität Hannover / Universität Bielefeld)

Application deadline: **6 May 2021**

1.1 Required Documents

Please send us the following documents in English and in anonymized form (section 1.2) (except for the certificates). Make sure you use the appropriate file type for each document as indicated below.

Cover letter

The cover letter (RTF or DOCX) is an opportunity for you to highlight your unique qualifications for a doctoral candidate position within the research group in brief. Please do not write more than 1 page.

CV – Curriculum Vitae

This should be an academic CV, focusing on your education and academic activities. Please provide

1. an anonymized version (RTF or DOCX) as well as
2. a regular, non-anonymized one (RTF, DOCX or PDF).

Research proposal (“Exposé”)

The research proposal (RTF or DOCX) is an outline of your proposed dissertation project. What is the central research question? How are you going to approach it? Which existing research/literature is the project going to be based on or engage with?

We recommend that the research proposal be of between 1,500 and 2,000 words in length. Please do not write more than 2,500 words.

Indication of preference

Please add, in a separate file, an anonymized document (RTF or DOCX) containing the title of your research project and exactly one of the following five statements.

- I prefer a position at Bielefeld University over a position at Leibniz University Hannover.
- I prefer a position at Leibniz University Hannover over a position at Bielefeld University.
- I have no definite preference for one of the two Universities involved in the project.
- I am applying for a position at Bielefeld University only.
- I am applying for a position at Leibniz University Hannover only.

If you give one of the first three preferences, your indication of preference will not be considered in the decision about whether you're offered a position at all. (It will be taken into consideration with regard to the question of where you are offered a position, but you may nonetheless be offered a position at the university that doesn't match your preference.)



Note that if you choose one of the two latter options, and if we have decided to offer all the positions for the university you prefer to other candidates, we are not going to offer you a position at the other university (even if we think you would be a suitable candidate) because we will assume that you would not take it.

If you wish to do so, you can also use the indication of preference to let us know who among the Principal Investigators you think would be a good supervisor for your dissertation project. (You can mention more than one.) This information will not be used when making our decision concerning whether to offer you a position.

Certificates

We require a scan (PDF) of your degree certificate that qualifies you as a potential doctoral candidate (typically an MA degree). This is an administrative requirement for the hiring process. The certificates do not need to be anonymized.

The certificate should be in English or German. If your certificate is in a different language, please provide a translation in English or German. For the application, a translation made by yourself is sufficient. However, for the hiring process we will need certified translations.

1.2 A Quick Guide to Anonymizing Your Application

We ask for anonymized applications in order to mitigate the effects of gender-based implicit biases on the application process. The purpose of the anonymization is thus not to mask your identity completely. It is therefore sufficient to remove your name and other information that identifies your gender or gives strong clues about it.

Please provide your cover letter, CV, research proposal, and indication of preference of institution in anonymized form. Please send these anonymized documents in an editable document format (RTF or DOCX), so that the assistant who manages the application process can make small adjustments to achieve a comparable degree of anonymization in all applications. No substantial changes will be made without your permission.

As regards your CV, please also provide a regular, non-anonymized version for our files (RTF, DOCX or PDF). This version will not be forwarded to the committee members at the first stage of the application procedure, but may be perused at a later stage.

To anonymize your cover letter, CV, research proposal, and indication of preference:

- Make sure that your name appears nowhere in the documents.
- In listing publications, eliminate your own name as well as those of co-authors, replacing them with a placeholder such as “[applicant + 2 co-authors]”.
- Please check your documents for gender-identifying expressions and replace them with gender neutral ones. E.g., please use “parental leave” instead of “paternity” or “maternity leave” and indicate “*Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeit*” instead of “*Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin*”. If you have attended the Chichester High School for Boys, mention only the “Chichester High School” (even if that is not the full name of the school). Use your own good judgment.
- If your CV includes mention of periods of gender-identifying activities, please eliminate these from your CV altogether. This primarily concerns military service or other compulsory services in countries where such services are only or almost only done by men. Please do not replace the eliminated period by a dummy such as “[Period of employment eliminated]” or similar. Instead, if you have to eliminate a substantial period of full-time activity for the purposes of anonymization, you are permitted to change all previous dates on your CV (i.e., make yourself younger) by exactly the time span that you have eliminated, so as not to place yourself at a disadvantage by creating a “gap” on your CV. Needless to say, this permission does not extend to the non-anonymized version of your CV.



1.3 Documents to submit – Checklist

| | Anonymized version (format: RTF or DOCX) | Non-anonymized version (format: RTF, DOCX or PDF) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Cover Letter | ✓ | |
| CV | ✓ | ✓ |
| Research Proposal | ✓ | |
| Indication of Preference | ✓ | |
| Certificates | | ✓ |

Please submit all anonymized documents as separate files in an editable document format (RTF or DOCX).

Send an e-mail with all your documents attached to admissions@philos.uni-hannover.de.

Applications must be received by **6 May 2021**. You will receive a confirmation of receipt.

Interviews will take place at the end of May or in early June 2021 in Hannover/Bielefeld; it will be possible to conduct the interview via video call.

Inquiries should be directed to Leonie Wiemeyer: leonie.wiemeyer@philos.uni-hannover.de

Some of your questions might have already been answered in our FAQ (section 3).

2 Information on the Research Training Group

The Research Training Group “Integrating Ethics and Epistemology of Scientific Research” has been established as a joint project by Leibniz University Hannover and Bielefeld University. It is funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft / DFG), the German national funding agency. Its key emphasis is on the qualification of doctoral researchers within the framework of a focused research program (section 2.1) and a structured training strategy (section 2.4).

2.1 The doctoral candidate positions

The doctoral candidate positions will be offered as part-time positions (65%) on salary scale 13 TV-L. The appointment will be until 30 September 2024. Please note that the position cannot be extended.

The following information is intended to give you a rough orientation on the salary and is not legally binding. Currently, a 65% TV-L E13 position amounts to a gross salary of ca. 33,000 € p.a. Taxes and deductions for mandatory health and retirement plans apply, so that an unmarried person may initially expect a monthly net salary of around 1,740 €. You automatically receive German statutory health insurance (“gesetzliche Krankenversicherung”). After one year, the gross salary rises to ca. 34,200 € p.a. (monthly net salary ca. 1,840 €). Cost of living expenses can be estimated at 1,000 € per month, depending mainly on your housing situation as rents vary considerably between individual rooms and apartments and between suburbs.

2.2 The Research Program

The Research Training Group aims at bridging the gap between practice and theory in the philosophical investigation of scientific research in two ways: firstly, it examines new connections between practical philosophy of science (ethics of science, political philosophy of science) and theoretical philosophy of science (epistemology, metaphysics); secondly, it analyzes relevant links between the material culture of the sciences (objects, equipment, experiments, practices) and the



cognitive dimension of the sciences (theories, hypotheses, discourses, models). The research of the group will thus take up contemporary tendencies to dissolve traditional borders between epistemic and ethical, and between cognitive and material aspects of the sciences. The group seeks to produce a rapprochement of the endpoints of both dichotomies. It systematically explores these connections and creates a framework that allows outstanding doctoral candidates to pursue integrated philosophical research into the sciences in a stable and stimulating research environment.

The priority of the research training group is to support philosophical research that requires serious attention to both theoretical and practical aspects of scientific research. We are open to a wide topical range of research proposals as long as they take a philosophical approach, focus on scientific research, and combine theoretical and practical aspects.

2.3 The Principal Investigators

The group is chaired by Professor Torsten Wilholt (Hannover) and co-chaired by Professor Martin Carrier (Bielefeld). In alphabetical order, the principal investigators are:

- [Martin Carrier](#) (Bielefeld), martin.carrier@uni-bielefeld.de
- [Uljana Feest](#) (Hannover), feest@philos.uni-hannover.de
- [Mathias Frisch](#) (Hannover), mathias.frisch@philos.uni-hannover.de
- [Alkistis Elliott-Graves](#) (Bielefeld), a.elliott-graves@uni-bielefeld.de
- [Dietmar Hübner](#) (Hannover), dietmar.huebner@philos.uni-hannover.de
- [Marie I. Kaiser](#) (Bielefeld), kaiser.m@uni-bielefeld.de
- [Thomas Reydon](#) (Hannover), reydon@ww.uni-hannover.de
- [Ralf Stoecker](#) (Bielefeld), ralf.stoecker@uni-bielefeld.de
- [Torsten Wilholt](#) (Hannover), torsten.wilholt@philos.uni-hannover.de

2.4 The Qualification Program

The qualification and supervision concept of the research training group is based on professional education via colloquia, theory workshops, peer groups, and tutorials, on international elements such as temporary stays abroad or the organization of conferences as well as on specific measures that help enhance the participants' scholarly skills. The involvement of scientists in residence enlarges the conceptual and methodological horizon of participants. Further measures aim at raising equality of opportunities as well as preparing for a professional career outside academia. The mandatory core curriculum comprises 5 to 7 working days per semester.

Qualification

- Theory workshops
- Research colloquia and peer groups
- Qualification courses in good scientific practice as well as transferable skills
- International experience
- Optional participation in further colloquia and seminars of the respective institute
- Optional participation in publishing and presentation courses

Supervision

- Supervision agreement with two principal investigators (preferably one from each university)
- Tutorials: counseling and mentoring by other principal investigators and postdocs
- Encouragement of individual interests and independency as a researcher

The research training group takes measures to create equal opportunities for men and women and to facilitate the reconciliation of family life and academic career, e.g. by providing additional funding for child care.



3 FAQ

3.1 I don't have my M.A. certificate yet. May I apply anyway?

You are very welcome to apply, even if you have not yet completed your M.A. degree. In this case you should add a copy of your B.A. certificate to the application and mention in your CV when you will receive your M.A. degree. If you have a transcript of records or another document which indicates your progress in your studies, please add a copy of that as well.

For the actual hiring process, however, we will need the M.A. certificate (or an official confirmation from your university that you passed your M.A.).

3.2 My M.A. degree is not in philosophy. May I apply anyway?

If you think your research project fits into our research program, you are very welcome to apply. When doing so, you should elaborate in your cover letter why you are suitable and qualified for a position in philosophy (e.g. when philosophy classes were part of your curriculum in an interdisciplinary M.A. program or the like).

For the *hiring process*, an M.A. (or equivalent) of any sorts would be enough. However, it may happen that the faculty's PhD admission board defines certain conditions for your *enrollment as a PhD student* (e.g. taking extra philosophy classes).

3.3 My degree certificate is neither in English nor in German. What shall I do?

If your certificate is in a different language than English or German, please provide a translation in English or German. For the application, a translation made by yourself is sufficient. However, for the hiring process we will need certified translations.

3.4 Should I add reference letters?

Please refrain from sending letters of recommendation. The selection committee bases its decision exclusively on the documents stated in this Application Guide. As the application process is anonymous, reference letters and related documents will not be forwarded to the committee.

3.5 I prefer sending a PDF document rather than several DOCX/RTF documents. Is that okay as well?

Please send your application in the format stated above (section 1.3) as separate files. Any other format will cause us a lot more work and might delay the application process.

3.6 The anonymous application process seems rather complicated. May I just send you a regular application?

No. You must anonymize your application. We have had very good experiences with the anonymous application procedure. In our opinion, it allows a fairer and more focused assessment of the applications. Therefore, we ask you kindly to make the somewhat greater effort.

3.7 Can I send my application in German or another language other than English?

No. Please submit your application in English.

3.8 How is the position funded?

Successful applicants will receive a working contract with either Leibniz University Hannover or Bielefeld University, hence you will receive a salary (not a stipend or a scholarship grant). This entails several benefits like statutory health insurance, social insurance, pension funds etc. This might also make a difference for the type of visa you require.



3.9 Do I need to provide a proficiency test in English, e.g. a TOEFL or IELTS certificate?

We do not require an official certificate about your proficiency in English.

3.10 I don't know any German. Can I apply anyway?

Yes, absolutely! English is the working language of our research training group and our qualification program and events are held in English.