Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst

Promoting young researchers in the field of digitalisation: The Graduate Center for postdocs

Request for applications

1. Consolidating digital competence

Digital technologies impact each individual's daily life. They not only change the way we communicate and work with each other, but also influence social interaction, economic developments and political processes. As a result, it has become more crucial for all scientific studies to understand technical basics and discern how digital technologies may have an influence. Competences associated with digitalisation will be highly relevant in all scientific disciplines in the future. For this reason, the Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt), an institute of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, is establishing a Bavarian-wide Graduate Center for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers.

2. Overview of funding

The bidt Graduate Center is for outstanding postdocs with a thematic focus on digitalisation and its interaction with society. Our goal is to support particularly well qualified young researchers in developing their research profile and qualifying them to remain in academia — especially to eventually pursue a tenure-track position, lead a junior research group or hold a comparable position.

Excellent young researchers in their first or second year after their doctorate will be prioritised. Your research project should have a technical, economic or societal focus relevant to digitalisation.

bidt Bayerisches Forschungsinstitut für Digitale Transformation

EIN INSTITUT DER BAYERISCHEN AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

Funding includes financing a position at a university with the opportunity to establish an independent research profile. Additionally, we promote networking and further qualifications within the area of digitalisation.

The Graduate Center for Postdocs is coordinated by the bidt.

3. Scope of funding

The Bavarian State Ministry for Science and Art intends to admit up to ten postdocs to the Graduate Center in 2022.

Funding includes personnel resources for the postdoc position with a maximum value of E14 TV-L as well as annual research funds of €15,000 each for a maximum of four years (providing that the necessary budgetary funds are granted by the legislator and an interim evaluation is approved).

The university where the position is located must provide the necessary infrastructure and all other resources.

In addition to participating in events and courses on current topics relevant to digitalisation, scholars admitted to the Graduate Center can also take part in training opportunities to enhance their career. Scholars at the bidt Graduate Center have access to all bidt events and can benefit from interdisciplinary exchange with other postdocs and doctoral students as well as experts from science and society in networking events and working groups. Within this specialist community and beyond they have the chance to increase their visibility.

Following a successful application, admission prospectively starts on 1 October 2022.

After two years of funding, the work's progress will be reviewed in a report, and a decision made on whether funding should be continued.

4. Requirements

We are looking for postdocs who are in their first or second year after their doctorate and are striving for an academic career. The (future) position of the applicant must be located at a university sponsored by the Free State of

Bavaria or a higher education institution mainly refinanced and approved by the Free State of Bavaria.

An application must include the following documents:

- Completed application form (see No. 5 below) including a statement as to whether the candidate is willing to take on a working group and to discuss his or her research with doctoral students and other postdocs.
- Five-page proposal describing the research project: The research project should have a technical, economic or societal focus that is relevant to digitalisation and should be designed for a duration of up to four years.
- Curriculum vitae including certificates.
- Proof of an outstanding doctorate or a comparable, state-approved degree or acceptance as a postdoctoral researcher.
- Letter of support by the relevant university at which the applicant's position will be located. Existing employment is not a prerequisite for application.

In addition, very good English is required as the lingua franca at the Graduate Center is English. Basic knowledge of German is also a prerequisite as well as interest in enhancing this skill.

Preferably, applicants will have interdisciplinary interests and some experience in other fields of research.

Endorsements by third parties are not to be included in the application.

We expect that the applicant participates actively in the course programme once admitted to the Graduate Center.

5. Application

Applications can be submitted using the application form provided at https://www.bidt.digital/en/young-talents. The completed application (application form with proposal of research project, curriculum vitae and

certificates, and letter of support) should be sent in a single PDF document (max. 10 MB) to young-talents@bidt.digital. The deadline for applications is 31 March 2022.

6. Selection procedure

The Bavarian State Ministry of Science and Art will decide on the funding allocation based on the recommendations of an independent, interdisciplinary commission of experts outside Bavaria. The assessment is based on the scholar's written application.

The applicant's professional qualifications, the academic quality of his or her research project and its relevance to aspects of digital transformation will determine the grounds for selection.

For questions on this request for applications and our funding programme, please contact:

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Further information on the bidt at: www.bidt.digital

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