



Munich, January 2024

# Promoting young researchers in the field of digitalisation with focus on AI: The bidt Graduate Centre for postdocs

## Request for applications

### 1. Strengthening digital skills

Digital technologies have an impact on the everyday life of every individual. In addition to changing the way we communicate and work with each other, they also influence social interaction, economic developments, and the political process. Developments in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) are further emphasising this situation. That is why having an understanding of the technical foundations and the impact of digital technologies is becoming increasingly important for all scientific disciplines. In future, digitalisation skills will be of great importance in all scientific disciplines. Strengthening digital skills across disciplinary boundaries is one of the objectives of the Graduate Centre for postdocs and doctoral candidates at the Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt), an institute of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BAAdW). The focus of the current call for proposals is on AI.

### 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 and have a connection to the topic of artificial intelligence.

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 2025. Following a successful application, admission prospectively starts on 1 January 2025.

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.

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 including a declaration of willingness to take on a working group and to exchange ideas with doctoral students and other postdocs
- Five-page synopsis describing the research project; the research project should have a technical, economic or social focus relevant to digitalisation, be related to the field of AI and be planned for a period of up to four years
- Curriculum vitae including certificates
- Proof of an outstanding doctorate or a comparable recognised degree or acceptance as a habilitation candidate. Proof of the doctorate can be provided by submitting all examination-relevant achievements.
- Declaration of support by the university at which employment is sought, signed by the dean's office of the relevant faculty. An existing employment relationship is not a prerequisite for application.

In addition, a very good knowledge of English is also required, as the language of communication at the Graduate Centre is English. Basic knowledge of German and an interest in expanding this knowledge are also required.

An interest in interdisciplinary exchange and initial experience at the interface to other disciplines are also desirable. 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 must be submitted using the application form provided at <https://en.bidt.digital/funding/graduate-center-for-postdocs/>

Applications must be submitted using the application form linked above. The complete application documents (application form, CV and certificates, declaration of support) must be submitted in a single PDF.

Upload documents via this link in EasyChair:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=bidtgc2024postdocs>

A free account must be created here before submission is possible. Please also note the data protection regulations.

The closing date for applications is 30/04/2024.

## 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 in relation to the field of artificial intelligence will determine the grounds for selection.

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

Dr. Christina Dieckhoff

+49 89/540 23 56 51

[young-talents@bidt.digital](mailto:young-talents@bidt.digital)

Further information on the bidt at:

<https://en.bidt.digital/>

Further information on the programme at:

<https://en.bidt.digital/funding/graduate-center-for-postdocs/>