

## Frequently Asked Questions - concerning the Helmholtz Doctoral Prize 2021

- *What does the statement "The funding instrument is aimed at young researchers who have completed their doctoral studies with outstanding results at a Helmholtz Center within the last 14 months" mean?*

It means that the PhD must have been completed no more than 14 months before the deadline for submitting the application to the Helmholtz Office. The date of the defense is decisive. Example: The application deadline is December 1, 2021. Thus candidates who have defended their dissertation between October 1, 2020 and November 30, 2021, will be considered.

- *What exactly does the additional funding option of the Field Study Fellowship include?*

The Field Study Fellowship provides each of the prizewinners with an additional funding budget (up to 20,000 euros over 3 months) to undertake market research in order to understand customer needs more thoroughly by means of interviews and market research. The budget is to be used exclusively for personnel and material costs for market research. Funding is available for one to a maximum of two persons. However, only one person can be funded full-time, with the time commitment varying from 50% part-time to full-time.

In addition, all prizewinners will be offered mentoring focused on market research through the Field Study Mentor program, which can additionally be claimed up to 5,000 euros from this program.

- *In which period should the Field Study Fellowship be claimed?*

The fellowship can be arranged flexibly by the fellows, but must be notified to the Helmholtz Office no later than six months after the announcement of the prize and commenced within one year after the announcement of the prize.

- *Can the Field Study Fellowship also be claimed if the prizewinners are no longer employed at one of the Helmholtz Association's Centers, but at another research institution in Germany or abroad?*

No. The Field Study Fellowship funding and mentoring can only be claimed if an employment relationship with a Helmholtz Center exists during the entire funding period.

- *Whom do I have to inform about the planned Field Study Fellowship?*

On the one hand, you have to inform the Helmholtz Center, since the fellowship agreement is contractually regulated, implemented and invoiced via this institution. On the other hand, the Helmholtz Office must be notified of the use of the fellowship no later than six months after the prize announcement. Moreover, the implementation of the market research (and mentoring, if applicable) must be coordinated more closely with the corresponding contact persons of the Transfer and Innovation Division (see [here](#)) as well as with the contact person of the Initiative and Networking Fund who is responsible for the doctoral prize.

- *What is the process for applying for the Field Study Fellowship?*

For the implementation and financing of the fellowship from the Initiative and Networking Fund, a rough cost planning for the use of the personnel and material costs required for the market research must be submitted. On this basis, a funding agreement is concluded between the Helmholtz Head Office and the Helmholtz Center, and a proof of expenditure (e.g. report, explainer video, self-reflection - to be agreed) must be provided.

- *Which personnel and material costs can be funded by the Field Study Fellowship?*

Personnel costs: These are based on the pay scale grouping of the persons involved. The calculation of personnel costs should be based on the current values of the TVöD. The cost estimates should include all additional personnel costs. Additional costs (e.g. overheads, non-person specific costs) are not eligible for funding.

Material costs: All material and travel costs required to carry out the market research are eligible for funding; overheads, however, are not.