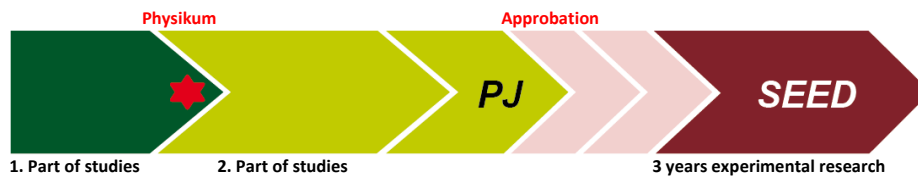


SEED.projects

Scientific Education and Experiences for Medical Doctors

Description of the programme and application instructions

The clinician scientist programme **SEED.projects** promotes especially talented young doctors having an interest in experimental scientific research, from the first or second year after obtaining the license to practice medicine. These young clinicians have the opportunity to rotate out of academic clinical medicine and to work on their own research in a small group of their own for **2-3 years** at one of the preclinical or clinico-theoretical institutes. In exceptional cases and with special justification it is possible to perform this research rotation in a designated experimental department of the clinic.



The dispatching clinic commits itself to retain the personnel position unaltered in the same working area as a return option for the SEED project leader. The IZKF finances the research rotation and thus ensures that the position in the clinic is manned for up to three years. In justified cases, a flexible design of the rotation is possible. However, at least the first year must be continuously spent carrying out research work.

Application requirements

Clinicians are eligible to apply at the end of the 1st or the 2nd year after obtaining the licence to practice, provided they already have a clinical affiliation and have begun their scientific careers with their own publications.

The preclinical and clinico-theoretical institutes participating in the program provide laboratory space with the necessary equipment. In addition to the clinical mentor, the **SEED.project** group leader chooses a research mentor from the host institute.

The exemption from the clinic is made with the greatest possible flexibility. Beginning with a base year of collaborative research, up to two more years of flexible clinical research activity may be added in meaningful cycles (e.g., 6 months research + 6 months clinical service). Lower overall terms are possible in justified cases. The IZKF exclusively finances the period of the research activity.

The contact between the dispatching clinic and the host institution must be established beforehand. A formal agreement is made between the two institutions, which defines clear rules on responsibilities in the event of a conflict.

In addition to project funding, a Travel Fund of 10.000 EUROS will be granted for 3 years. It is also possible to recruit medical students for an experimental doctoral thesis within the framework of a scholarship.

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Das IZKF ist ein Forschungsverbund
der Medizinischen Fakultät
der Westfälischen Wilhelms-
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↪ Funding amount

Each **SEED.project** will include funding of the PI's salary and a global budget of approximately 50.000 Euro per year (depending on the TV-Ä classification).

↪ Application documents

To apply for a **SEED.project**, you register in the OnLine application portal (OLA) on the IZKF homepage. All applicants will receive the necessary documents and instructions for submitting an IZKF-SEED application. The application comprises the following documents

1. Application and motivation letter from the applicant.
2. Statements by the director of the dispatching clinic and mentor of the host institution including the planned regulation of responsibilities.
3. The planned regulation of the responsibilities of both institutions.
4. Project outline (max 4 pages) with the following information: Theme of the research project, state of research (with relevant literature), objectives of the project, planned work program (experimental design, methods, etc).
5. Planned schedule of research rotation (requested total period of exemption and timetable for implementation)
6. Curriculum vitae of the applicant (1 page) in tabular form.
7. List of publications.
8. If applicable, ongoing (or expired) third-party funding.

↪ FAQs

- ❏ **What personal benefits do I have by participating in the SEED.projects-programme?**
At least one year of research activity is recognized by the clinical mentor as a continuing education period for the specialist training (*Facharzt Ausbildung*). In addition, the research activity can be recognized as a basis for qualification according to doctoral degree regulations (PhD thesis) or the habilitation regulations of the Medical Faculty
- ❏ **How is the contact with the clinic maintained?**
The clinic involved in the rotation allows the doctor access to clinical services ("*umbilical cord*") during the term of the **SEED.projects**. The personnel position will be available as a return option in the same work area.
- ❏ **How do I establish contact with an institute for a laboratory space?**
First of all, a concept for a possible research project should be formulated. The methods and techniques required for its implementation can be a good indication as to which host institute is appropriate. If the search for a host research institute nevertheless proves to be problematic, the IZKF will be happy to help with the mediation.
- ❏ **Which possibilities of the exemption are there?**
Basically, the first 12 months should be devoted to carrying out continuous research for the SEED.project. However, a separate agreement may allow the SEED group leader to carry out clinical services (*Klinikdienste*) during this time as well. Later, a meaningful division of the times between clinic and research is possible, which should be defined in advance in the form of a work plan (see application documents point 4).
- ❏ **Are medical/other PhD students allowed to work on the SEED.project?**
Supervision of PhD students within the project must be carried out by the project leader herself / himself. It is therefore imperative that she / he has some previous experience to fulfil these requirements.