

How are (DFG) research proposals evaluated?

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Funding portfolio

Applicant	Individuals				Institutions			Prizes	
Funding Focus	Investigators	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Themes	Forum	Infrastructure	Individuals	
Funding Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Walter Benjamin Programme › Research Fellowships › Emmy Noether Programme › Heisenberg Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Individual Research Grants › Reinhart Koselleck Projects › Package Proposals › Research Units › Clinical Research Units › Clinical Trials › Projects in Priority Programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Centres for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences › Scientific Networks › Workshops for Early Career Investigators › Project Academies › International Scientific Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › New Instrumentation for Research › Specialised Information Services › Infrastructure for Electronic Publications and Digital Scholarly Communication › Information Infrastructures for Research Data › e-Research Technologies › Indexing and Digitisation › Licences for Digital Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Collaborative Research Centres/ Transregios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › (International) Research Training Groups › DFG Research Centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Major Research Instrumentation › Major Instrumentation in Research Buildings › Major Instrumentation Initiatives › Core Facilities › Open Access Publishing › Acquisition of Complete Collections and Literary Remains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Clusters of Excellence › National Research Data Infrastructure › State Major Instrumentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize › Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize › Communicator Award › Copernicus Award › Eugen and Ilse Seibold Prize › Albert Maucher Prize in Geoscience › Bernd Rendel Prize in Geoscience › Ursula M. Händel Animal Welfare Prize › von Kaven Award

Quo vadis, proposal?



What criteria must a proposal meet?

Reviewers should judge a proposal based on the

- Quality of the project
- Qualification of the applicant
- Scientific environment
- Objectives, work programme and research methods

Walter Benjamin Programme

Quality of the project: originality and contribution to knowledge?

Objectives and work programme: clear working hypotheses?
Strengths and weaknesses of the planned investigations? Suitability of
methods? Appropriate schedule?

Applicant's qualifications: Scientific potential? Qualified for proposed
project? Plans for career advancement? Match of project and career
advancement?

Choice of host institution(s): Convincing? (Programme promotes
geographic mobility; no change needs justification.)

Support by the institution(s): Scientific (and financial) support? Working
conditions? Research environment?

Emmy Noether Programme

As WB programme, plus:

Does the applicant have the ability to **independently lead a junior research group**?

How would you assess the applicant's chances of being **appointed to a professorship** after the independent junior research group ends?

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Heisenberg Programme

As EM programme, plus:

The applicant should emphasise how her **academic career to date has prepared her for a professorship** or to take on a comparable academic management function and how she plans to continue along this path.

Temporary positions for principle investigators

This module allows to request funding for a position as project leader for the duration of a research project.

- Quality of the project
- Qualification of the applicant: in general and for the proposed project; is the applicant qualified to independently lead the project?
- Scientific environment
- Objectives, work programme and research methods

Temporary positions for principle investigators

This module allows to request funding for a position as project leader for the duration of a research project.

First time proposal:

The DFG would like to encourage a greater number of highly qualified individuals to take up a research career. It therefore aims specifically to encourage first-time applicants to apply for DFG funding. First-time applicants have the option, once only, of marking a proposal as a first-time DFG proposal. During the review process, less emphasis should be given to the applicants' project-specific experience and more to their potential and the quality and originality of the proposed project.

Temporary positions for principle investigators

This module allows to request funding for a position as project leader for the duration of a research project.

First time proposal:

What has the applicant achieved in his/her academic career to date and in research topics handled so far, in relation to his/her current career stage?

In your overall assessment, please also bear in mind that previous work specific to the project, documented for instance by project-specific publications, is not mandatory for first-time applicants to the DFG.

Age profile of applicants

Tabelle 5:
Promotionsalter und Lebensalter der Antragstellenden nach Programm

	N	Promotionsalter	Ø Lebensalter	Ø Jahre seit Promotion	Ø Lebensalter 2015
			bei Förderentscheidung		
Forschungsstipendium	209	30,1	31,9	1,8	39,7
Eigene Stelle	294	32,2	36,4	4,2	44,3
Emmy Noether-Programm	333	29,7	33,6	3,9	41,5
Heisenberg-Stipendium	244	30,2	39,2	9,0	47,1
Heisenberg-Professur	53	29,8	39,2	9,4	47,1

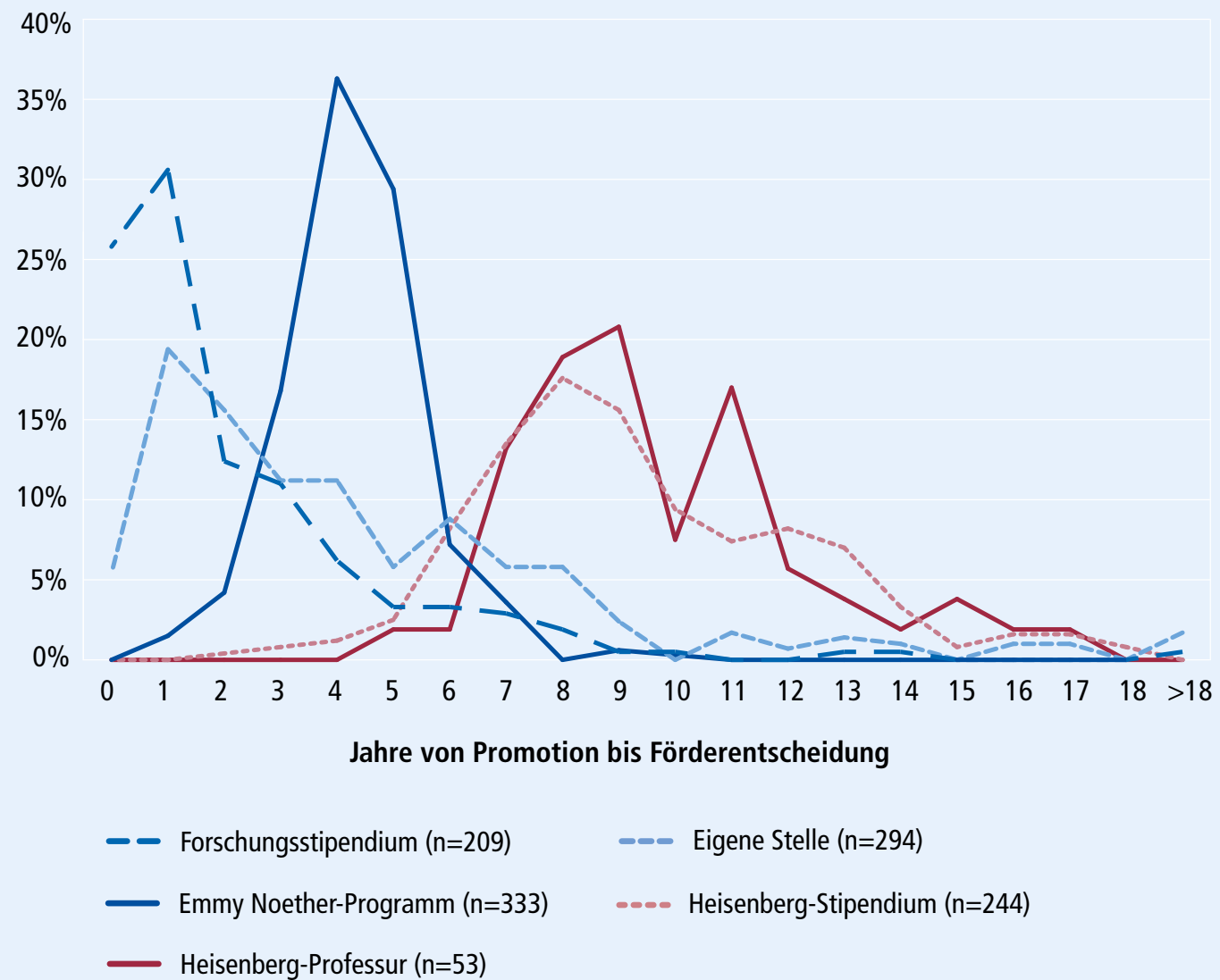
Datenbasis und Quellen:
DFG-Datenbank und CV-Recherche, Kohorte-07/08.

Caveat: all of DFG, year 2007/2008

https://www.dfg.de/dfg_profil/zahlen_fakten/evaluation_studien_monitoring/studien/studie_karrierewege/index.html

Age profile of applicants

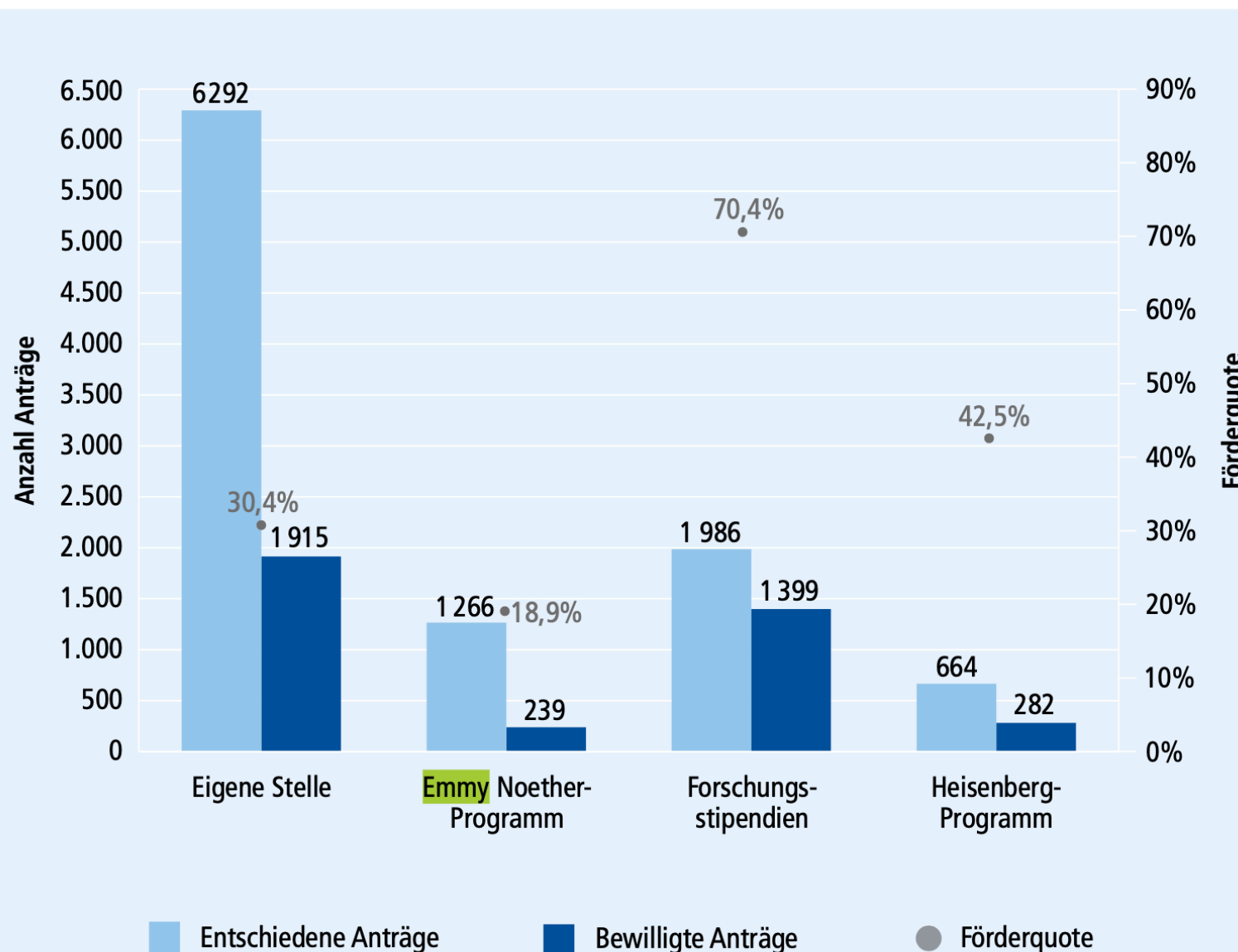
Abbildung 5:
Dauer von der Promotion bis zum Jahr der Förderentscheidung nach Programm



Datenbasis und Quellen:
DFG-Datenbank und CV-Recherche für die Mitglieder der Kohorte-07/08.

Funding decisions

Grafik 10: Antragszahlen und Förderquoten¹⁾ in den Programmen zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Karriere 2016 bis 2019



¹⁾ Basis: Neuanträge. Die ersten Entscheidungen im neu angelaufenen Walter Benjamin-Programm Ende 2019 sind in dieser Darstellung aufgrund der niedrigen Fallzahlen nicht enthalten.