

Submission of applications for the Fellowship Program under Objective 3 – Advancing Research Quality and Value

The fellowship program under Objective 3 is designed to facilitate research partnerships and knowledge exchange at the national and international level. The aim of the fellowship program is to attract (inter)national experts who, with their professional expertise, will contribute to sustainably improving the quality of research and to establishing research practices at the institutions of the Berlin University Alliance. These explicitly include open science practices. A distinction is made between incoming and outgoing fellowships. The two funding lines differ in terms of their target group and duration.

On the following pages, you will find out what you need to bear in mind when submitting an application. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Objective 3 team (contact information at the end of the document).

Who can apply?

All researchers and employees from the science-supporting areas of the Berlin University Alliance's partners who deal with issues related to research quality and open science can apply for funding under the fellowship program.

What topics are funded?

The program aims to contribute to the sustainable improvement of research quality and the implementation of open science practices. For example, projects on learning how to apply interdisciplinary research data or on versioning when referencing research data, with a particular focus on open science practices, were funded in previous fellowships.

In your application, you must convincingly demonstrate how your project contributes to achieving the above-mentioned goal. What long-term benefits will arise from the funding for you, but also for other researchers in your department, your institute, the Berlin University Alliance and, potentially, beyond? Perhaps your project will yield insights for new formats of quality assurance, for example, through the (further) development and establishment of corresponding structures, processes and methods, as in a previous fellowship on the standardization of research hardware documentation? Or does it contribute to establishing research collaborations in the field of research quality, research integrity or open science? Or does the project serve to establish a separate research agenda on issues related to research quality, research integrity and open science or to set up structures that enable high-quality research in the Berlin University Alliance?

Whichever focus you choose, please note that the topics of research quality or open science and their implementation must be at the forefront – gladly across disciplinary boundaries. The fellowship program welcomes a broad range of applications, both in terms of their content and the disciplines they come from.

What will not be funded?

Funding under the fellowship program is unlikely or excluded if

... the topics of research quality and open science are treated only as 'marginal topics'.

...the application of comparatively widespread methods or existing practices in specific disciplines is described as the sole example of application or implementation.

· ... the benefit of the proposed project is on a purely personal level (e.g. through targeted individual training) without further application options in the home institution.

Selection of candidates

The selection of applications to be funded is the responsibility of the Steering Committee of Objective 3 for both lines. The Steering Committee reviews all incoming applications with regard to their fit with the program and the [goals of the Objective](#), in particular with regard to the potential for implementing measures with effects on structures or practices, as well as the adequacy of the requested funds. Depending on the expertise required to evaluate the application, additional experts from the BUA partners will be consulted.

Application documents to be submitted and application period

The application, which should describe the project and not be longer than three pages, should be submitted together with a CV, which can also be in narrative form, and a list of the five publications that you consider most relevant. The CV and publications are part of the application documents but are not included in the number of pages.

Applications can be submitted at any time, i.e. there are no fixed deadlines for submitting an application.

Calculation of funding

In the Incoming Fellowship funding line, personnel costs of up to €2,500 per month can be claimed. *The fellowship is generally awarded as a grant. It does not establish an employment relationship.* In the Outgoing Fellowship funding line, no personnel costs are reimbursed.

In both funding lines, you can apply for the material resources you need for your project. These also include per diem allowances, which you can apply for in accordance with the [provisions of the German Federal Travel Expenses Act](#). The amount of travel funds as well as the application and accounting for them are also subject to the provisions of the German Federal Travel Expenses Act.

You can find more information on this in the descriptions of the respective program lines.

Since the application documents to be submitted and the funds for the ‘Incoming Fellowships’ and ‘Outgoing Fellowships’ funding lines differ, these are described separately below.

Funding line 1: Incoming Fellowship

Incoming Fellowships are intended to enable the involvement of national and international experts in the work of the Objective, preferably beyond the duration of the actual funding. Their participation should help to support the networking and expansion of the Objective and the Berlin University Alliance, and thus further enhance the national and, in particular, international visibility of the alliance in the medium and long term. Incoming Fellows are guests of the respective host institution and are not entitled to be employed.

The **target group** is in particular scholars who, with excellent contributions, specific experience and skills in the thematic area of Objective 3, sustainably support and complement projects and/or measures at the Berlin University Alliance. Beyond their stay at one of the BUA institutions, the fellows are expected to become part of the Objective 3 network in the longer term.

Funding period and orientation: Nationally or internationally recognized experts are invited to work at one of the BUA partner institutions for a period of between three and six months to conduct research on a topic relevant to the objective or to advance the implementation of measures that affect structures or practices.

It is expected that the Incoming Visiting Fellow will take on a mentoring role for a topic or a specific project and, after the initial guest stay, will remain in regular contact with the inviting institution and thus

also with Objective 3, either through subsequent short stays or virtual exchange. The aim is to ensure sustainable cooperation and exchange.

During the stay, the Fellow (m/f) works on research and/or implementation projects together with the Berlin colleagues and organizes events in consultation with the host institution. The host institution is determined by the topic and the organizational base of the applicant's working group.

Application and funding: Applications/proposals can be submitted by scientists from the institutions of the BUA. Expressions of interest or proposals for invited fellows are to be addressed to the Steering Committee 3. The following documents must be submitted with the application:

Application

- Name, title, institution of the applicant (PI)
- Name, title, home institution of the proposed fellow
- Planned duration of the stay and time slot
- Explanation of the purpose and aim of the stay, tasks of the fellow
- Brief description of the fellow's involvement in the work of the group or institutions

The application should not exceed 3 pages.

Attachments:

- Short CV, also in narrative format
- List of publications: Please do not submit extensive lists of publications and only name the five most relevant publications from your point of view
- Confirmation from the host institution that a workplace will be provided and access to the necessary resources and infrastructure will be granted (*not a BUA template)
- Overview of the required funds (see template budget overview)

Funds:

(In principle, the following can be requested)

- Personnel funds (fellowship funds), up to €2,500 per month
- Travel funds, usually up to €1,500, to be accounted for in accordance with the principles of the German Federal Travel Expenses Act
- Material funds for the realization of events, such as seminars and workshops, as well as per diems in accordance with the [provisions of the German Federal Travel Expenses Act](#).

Funding line 2: Outgoing Fellowship

Outgoing Fellowships are intended to give outstanding researchers or employees from the science-supporting areas of the Berlin University Alliance the opportunity to learn from the expertise at other (inter)national institutions and to incorporate this knowledge into the institutions of the Berlin University Alliance. This funding line is thus intended in particular to promote 'learning from others' and the dissemination of tacit knowledge. Similar to the incoming fellowships, the outgoing fellowships also serve to promote networking with relevant national and international actors.

The **target group** is excellent researchers at all career levels of the Berlin University Alliance who are working on a topic relevant to the objective. In addition, the outgoing fellowships are also open to employees in the science support sector. The funding recipients are given the opportunity to carry out their work at a relevant institution of their choice (national or international).

Duration and organization of the funding The funding period for outgoing fellowships is 1-3 months. The aim of this funding line is to familiarise oneself with established structures or processes at other

institutions that serve to ensure research quality in the long term or to implement open science practices (good practice examples). In addition, institutions can also be selected that are currently working on the development and, in particular, implementation of processes and/or structures whose introduction is also planned or suitable for the partners of the Berlin University Alliance. With this in mind, fellowships are particularly encouraged that are aimed at bringing together actors from different backgrounds, i.e. promoting collaboration between mixed teams from academia and practice (including politics and administration).

Application and Financing In order to apply for funding, employees of the BUA partners submit an application that addresses or includes the following aspects (max. 3 pages):

Application:

- Name, title, institution, area of responsibility
- Explanation of the purpose and goal of the stay
- Description of the host institution, in particular an explanation of the factors / characteristics that justify the selection of the institution: Why was this institution chosen? Why is this institution suitable?

The application should not exceed three pages.

Attachments:

- Letter of acceptance from the chosen host institution, including a commitment to provide a workplace and access to the necessary resources and infrastructure (*not a BUA template)
- Approval of the home institution
- Overview of the requested funds (see template budget overview)
- Curriculum vitae of the fellow, also in narrative format
- List of publications: Please refrain from submitting extensive lists of publications and only name the five most relevant publications from your point of view

Funds:

- (In principle, applications can be made for)
- Travel expenses including accommodation at the location of the host institution. The amount of travel expenses can vary depending on the destination country and is based on the German Federal Travel Expenses Act.
- Material resources, e.g. for the realisation of events, as well as a per diem allowance in accordance with the [provisions of the Federal Travel Expenses Act](#).
- If you have any questions about the fellowship programme, please do not hesitate to contact the CORE team of Objective 3.

Contact

Objective 3 – Advancing Research Quality and Value

Center for Open and Responsible Research (CORE)

Web: <https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/commitments/research-quality/core/index.html>

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About Objective 3 – Advancing Research Quality and Value

Objective 3 addresses questions about what constitutes good research, how the quality of research and its results can be evaluated and sustainably ensured, and how framework conditions must be designed to make this possible. In this sense, the examination of research quality is both an institutional goal and a field of research. The aim is to jointly strengthen the value, quality, integrity and credibility of research.