



DFG



Supporting Young Investigators

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Florence, November 11, 2009



DFG

Topics

- ▶ DFG's mission
- ▶ Scientific career development
- ▶ Programmes for young investigators
- ▶ The Excellence Initiative



Our mission

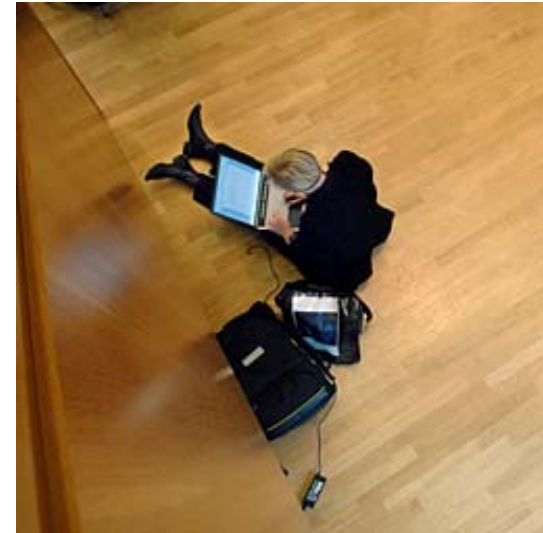
- ▶ Self-governance of science and the humanities
- ▶ Promoting academic excellence on a competitive basis
- ▶ Serving all fields of science and the humanities
- ▶ **Promoting young researchers**
- ▶ Advisory activities in politics
- ▶ **International co-operation**



Our Approach: Science Career Development

► Aims:

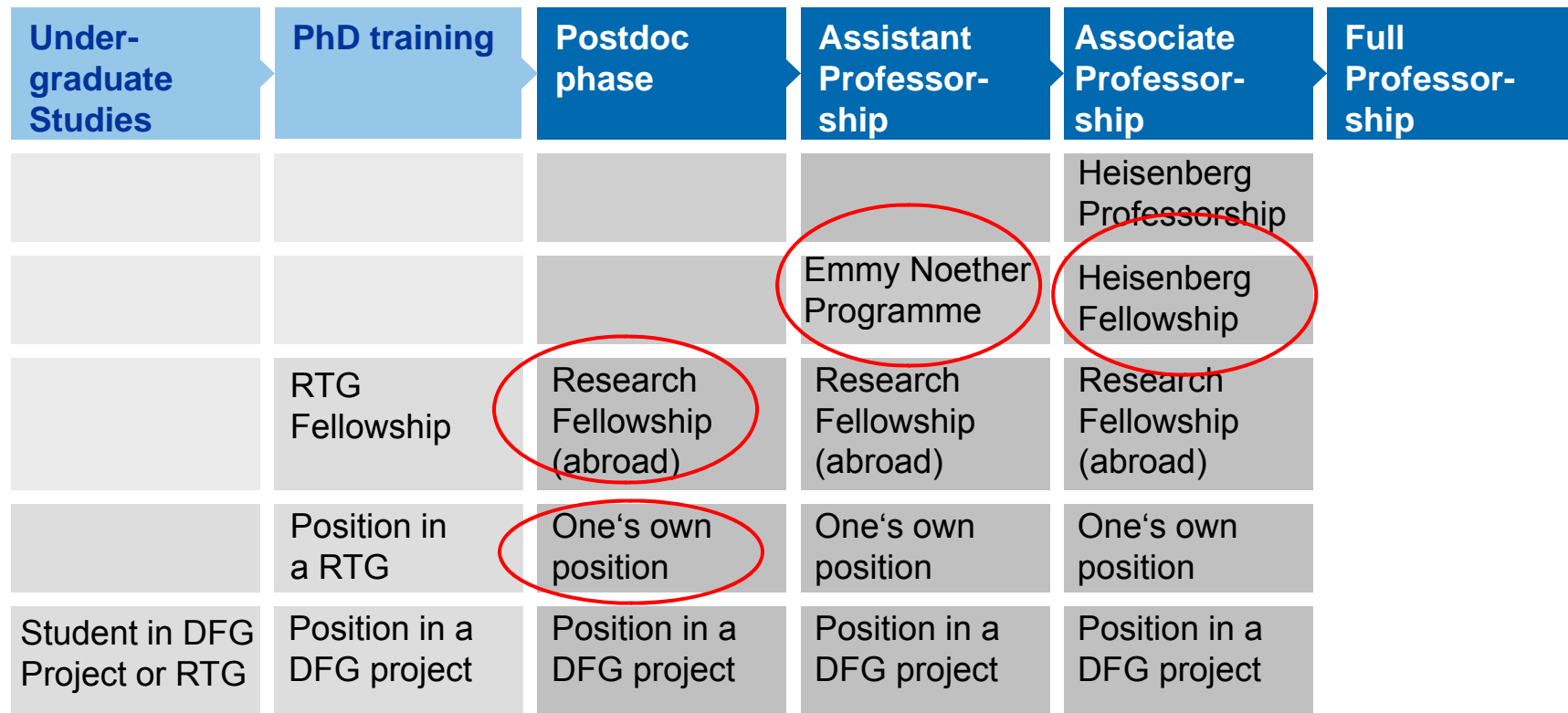
- Attract outstanding young researchers
 - **independent of nationality**
- Provide talents with excellent research topics and first class working conditions
- Pave the way to independent careers at an early stage



► Realisation:

- Offer flexible funding instruments to meet the specific requirements of young researchers
- Induce beneficial structures within the research system
- Special attention to: scientific excellence, individual careers

The DFG Funding Chain



Programmes for Young Investigators

► Individual grants

- Research proposal: own position
- Fellowship

- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme



Individual Grants' Programme

► Submit a proposal

- any time, no deadline
- any topic
- free selection of host institution
- no quota
- **regardless of applicants' nationality**

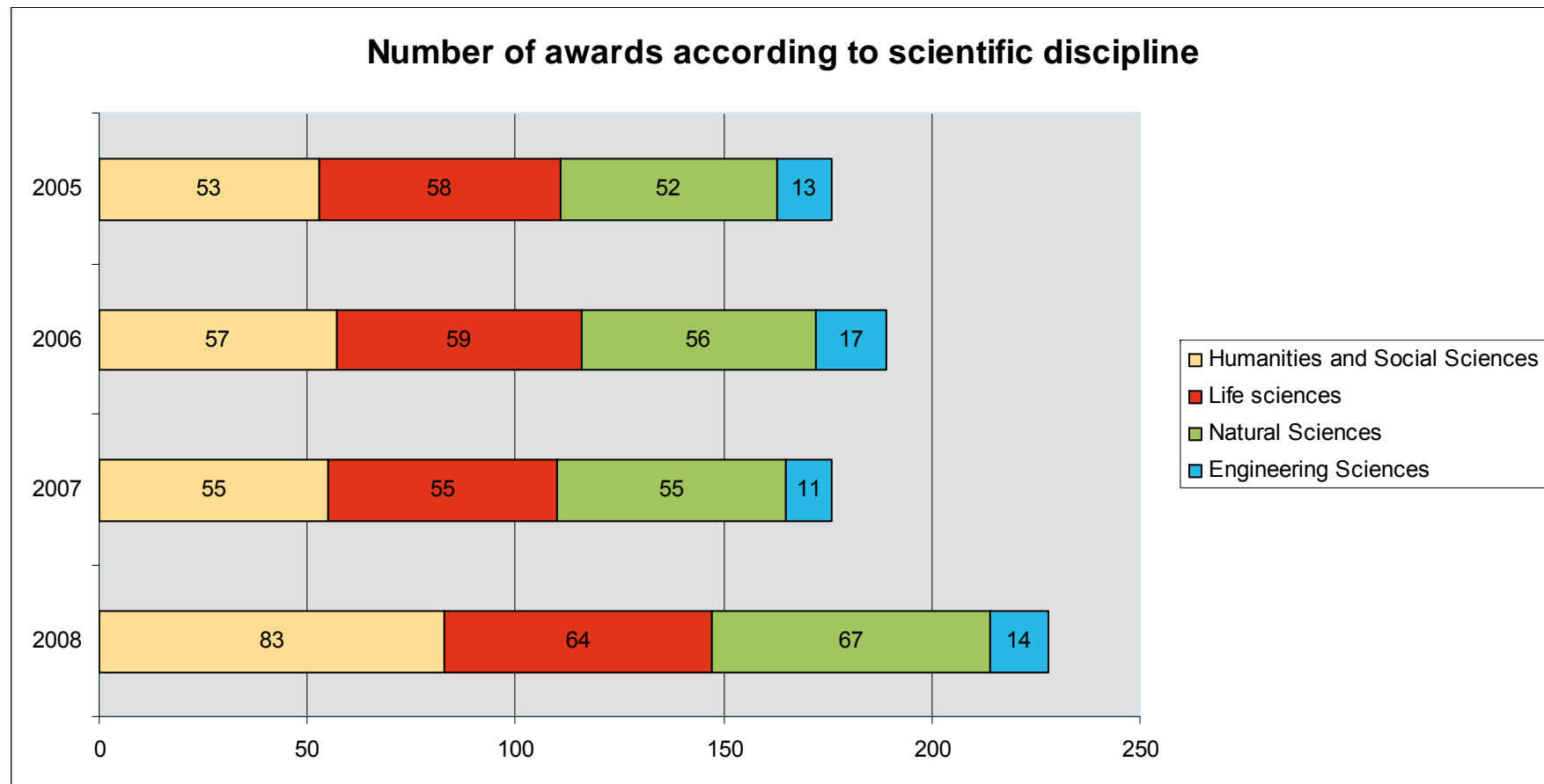


Research proposal including own position

- ▶ proposal for a research grant including one's own temporary position
- ▶ to be pursued **in Germany**
- ▶ terms and conditions for individual research grants apply
- ▶ statement from the host institution
 - committing to employer responsibilities
 - guaranteeing appropriate working conditions



Research proposal including own position



Fellowship

- go out and come back again

► Feature of programme

- early stage of scientific career
- to carry out a clearly defined research project
- or to acquaint with new scientific research methods
- at a place of own choice abroad
- max. 2 year funding
- return grant included: 6 month additional fellowship



Fellowship

- go out and come back again

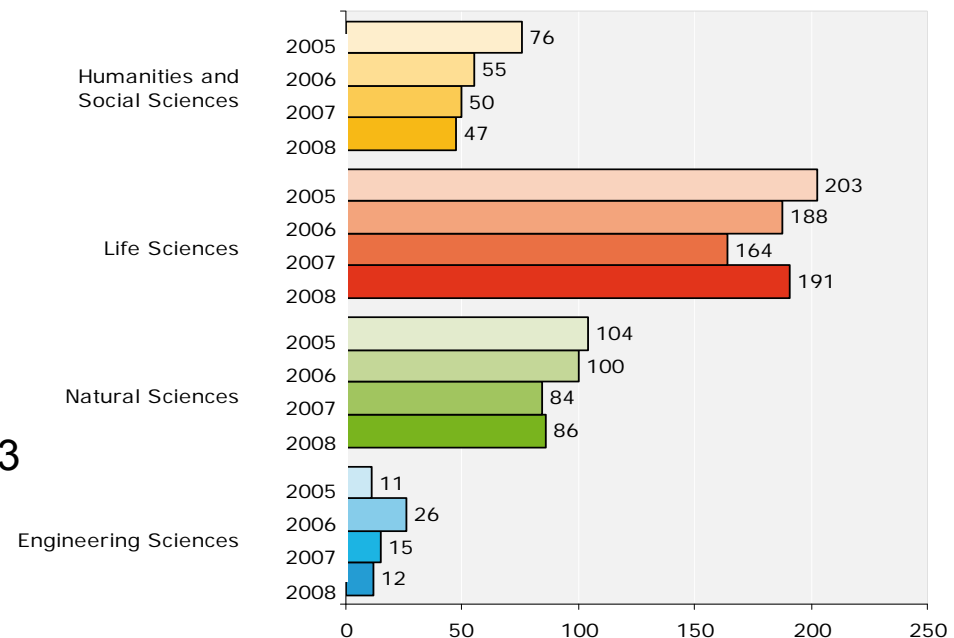
► Requirements:

- completion of scientific training (doctorate)
- high scientific quality and originality of research project at an international level
- high potential of applicant
- excellent host / host institution

► International researchers

- resident in Germany for at least 3 years
- plan to pursue research in Germany in the future

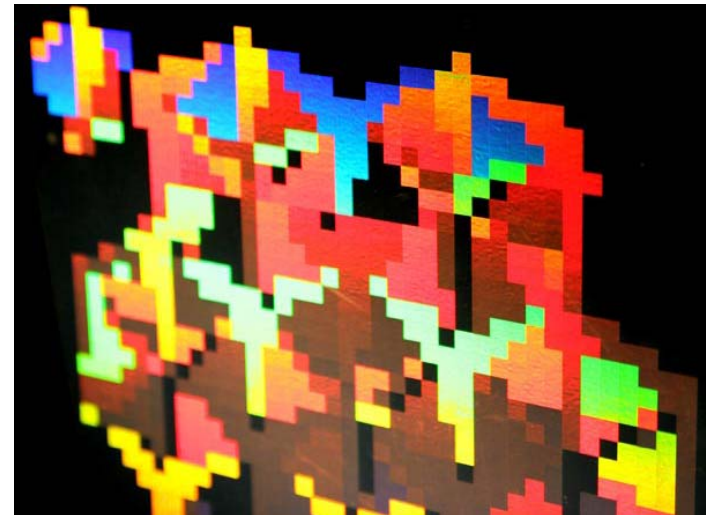
Number of Fellowships by Scientific Discipline in 2008



Questions?

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

- ▶ [General questions](#)
- ▶ [Research fellowships](#)
- ▶ [Return fellowships](#)
- ▶ [Temporary positions for principal investigators](#)



http://www.dfg.de/en/proposal_process/faq_young_researchers.html

Programmes for Young Investigators

► Road to independence

- Emmy Noether Programme
- Heisenberg Programme
 - Fellowship
 - Professorship



Emmy Noether Programme: - fast track to a professorship

Supporting early independence

- ▶ gain qualifications required for a university career
- ▶ own independent **Junior Research Group**
- ▶ young postdocs
- ▶ 5 year funding period (own position, personnel, travel, publication costs)



Eligibility

- ▶ two to four years significant international postdoctoral research experience
- ▶ excellence of project and applicant

Heisenberg Fellowship

- preparing for a tenured professorship

Preparation for a leading position

- ▶ opportunity and time to work on an advanced research topic
- ▶ 5 year funding period (add. research proposal possible)

Eligibility

- ▶ outstanding researchers, international standards
- ▶ fulfilling the requirements for long-term professorship, e.g.
 - junior professors
 - experienced German researchers (returning to Germany)
 - **foreign** researchers interested in a scientific career **in Germany**



Promotion of International Cooperation

International cooperation under all DFG programmes

▶ All **kinds of costs** for international collaborations

- Invitation of guest scientists
- Project costs
- Visits of German scientists abroad

▶ All **kinds of collaborations**

- Exploratory visits
- Cooperative study visits at German host institutes
- Bilateral Symposia, Workshops
- Joint Projects



The German Excellence Initiative – a Contest

Aim

- Strengthen Germany's universities
- Make them more visible and attractive internationally



Input

1.9 billion € government funding for 5 years (2007 – 2012)



Germany's Excellence Initiative

Programme feature: Three funding lines

▶ Graduate Schools (39):

- highest-level research training; ~ 1 Mio. € p.a.
- coordinated PhD training
- professional management

▶ Clusters of Excellence (37):

- centers of excellence in research; ~ 6.5 Mio. € p.a.
- huge centers of interdisciplinary research
- new in terms of size and budget, flexibility of money

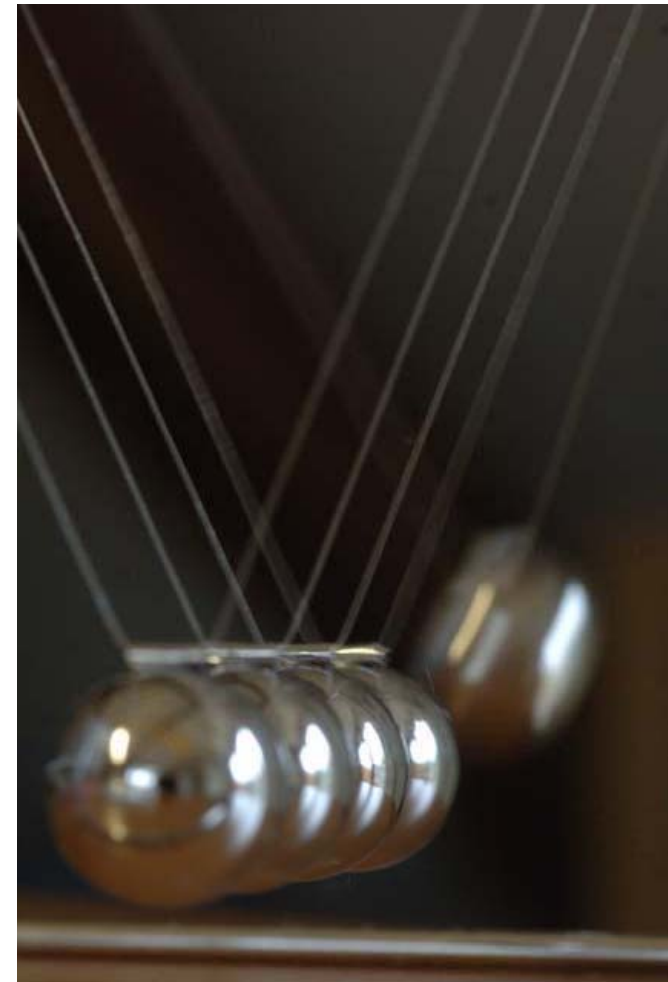
▶ Institutional Strategies to promote top-level research (9)

- excellent research, research training and institutional planning;
- ~ 21 Mio. € p.a. (including minimum of one Cluster and School)

Impact on German Universities

Direct and indirect effects:

- ▶ New positions: 'fresh' money
- ▶ Beneficial structures
- ▶ Positioning of universities in global competition



The Excellence Initiative

Fresh money, new positions

Total number from both rounds of the Excellence Initiative:
About 4000 new positions

- ▶ **EXC and GSC up to April 2009:**
 - ~ 1200 PhD positions
 - ~ 660 positions for PostDocs
 - ~ 70 junior professors/group leaders
 - ~ 180 senior professorships
- ▶ **Institutional Strategies**
 - ~ 850 positions for young reserchers (PhD to group leader)
 - ~ 140 senior professorships

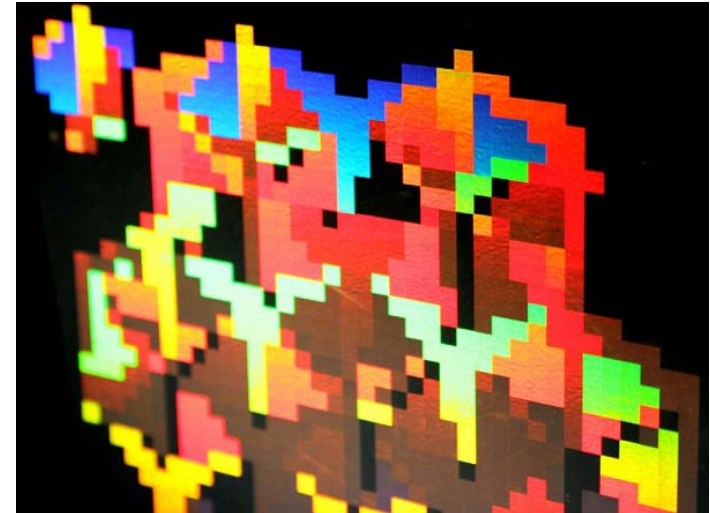


Further questions?

- ▶ look at DFG's website

http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/promoting_young_researchers/

- ▶ look at details of programmes
- ▶ look at lists of frequently asked questions
- ▶ all programmes are open for **international** scientists and researchers



Please, contact your programme director !

http://www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/structure/head_office/department_ii/humanities_and_social_sciences/index.html



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Thank you for your attention!

Further information

- ▶ DFG: www.dfg.de
- ▶ projects funded: www.dfg.de/gepris/
- ▶ research institutions in Germany: www.dfg.de/research_explorer/