

# Call for Senior Scientist Projects

The German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig is establishing a Senior Scientist Programme for highly-qualified scientists, who already have research experience (from any discipline), though are not professors or junior group leaders, and who

1. will significantly advance [iDiv's integrative biodiversity research missions](#), and
2. pursue their research agenda, as documented by first- and senior-authored publications, and
3. have experience in externally funded research projects and successfully supervising early-career researchers.

The Senior Scientist Programme includes method-oriented researchers ("iDiv advancers") and question-oriented researchers ("iDiv fellows").

iDiv advancers and iDiv fellows define and pursue their independent research agenda at the intersection between two or more of [iDiv's five research areas](#): Change, Complexity, Molecular, Functioning, and Society.

iDiv Senior Scientists receive individual resource endowments consisting of desk and lab space, consumables of 5k euros per year, and administrative support by central management for the duration of their appointment. Senior Scientists should contribute to teaching, particularly to supervising students who pursue their BSc, MSc, or PhD theses in integrative biodiversity research.

## Call for Senior Scientist project proposals

iDiv is starting this programme in fall 2022 with the first cohort of senior scientists. We seek two senior scientists who will receive two years (2022–2024) of funding (100% positions, salary level E13/E14). We also seek to appoint up to three senior scientists who have already secured funding for their position (e.g., external grant, university position, etc.) and would like to join the Senior Scientist Programme at iDiv (2022–2024).

**Applications should be submitted online via [apply.idiv.de](https://apply.idiv.de) by 30 April 2022.**

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iDiv is a central facility of Leipzig University within the meaning of Section 92 (1) of the Act on Academic Freedom in Higher Education in Saxony (Sächsisches Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz, SächsHSFG). It is run together with the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, as well as in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ. The following non-university research institutions are involved as cooperation partners: the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry (MPI BGC), the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology (MPI CE), the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPI EVA), the Leibniz Institute DSMZ–German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB), the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and the Leibniz Institute Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz (SMNG).

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When applying, please specify if you apply

- for a **fully funded senior scientist position**, or
- to become a **senior scientist without applying for funding** of your position, or
- for **both**.

If you already have funding for your position, please explain how this funding is compatible with your planned work in the Senior Scientist Programme.

Your application should contain a proposal for a research agenda at the intersection between two or more of iDiv's five research areas. Your agenda can be question-oriented (the iDiv fellows' line) or methods-oriented (the iDiv advancers' line). The proposal should be clear about which of these orientations you intend to join.

**The proposal for your research agenda should be no longer than three pages and include the following parts:**

1. Summary
2. State of the art, both concerning iDiv's research and the field as a whole
3. Research aims
4. Work plan, including a description of how it integrates into iDiv's research landscape

**Your application should contain your academic track record, and**

- explain how your research experiences are related to iDiv's integrative biodiversity research missions;
- describe your most important scientific discoveries, list your associated major publications and explain the significance of each;
- document your experience in initiating and leading externally funded research projects and/or successfully supervising early-career researchers; and
- a letter of recommendation by your current advisor. If you apply to become a senior scientist without applying for funding for your position, the letter should explicitly declare the advisor's support of the application.

The applications will be reviewed by the Senior Scientist Committee (Jon Chase, Nicole van Dam, Ingolf Kühn, Sabine Matthiä, Robert Paxton, Martin Quaas). Applications of shortlisted candidates will be externally reviewed. The final decision is made by the [iDiv Science Strategy Board](#).

**The criteria for the assessment of applications include:**

1. Individual scientific merit, documented by first- or senior-authored publications, and successfully acquired external grants;
2. A conceptual scientific research programme that is showing integration across iDiv's research areas, connecting research interests of core and member groups.
3. **For iDiv fellows:** Achievements to be expected concerning integrative biodiversity research pertinent to the research topic (peer-reviewed publications, policy output, media coverage, and other measures of scientific success).  
**For iDiv advancers:** Expected demand for the proposed research methods/technologies at iDiv member and core groups, expected success contributing to co-authored publications and collaborative research grants.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact us by email ([senior.scientist@idiv.de](mailto:senior.scientist@idiv.de)).