I. Funding instrument

The post-doctoral program Just’us (Junior Science and Teaching Units) awards fellowships to outstanding junior researchers at Justus Liebig University Giessen. It is intended to support qualified junior researchers in the early development of their academic independence as well as to help them in the preparation of their own research projects and the possible establishment of their own work groups. Activities aimed at raising third-party funding are an integral part of the Just’us program.

The funding in principle is available to internal and external post-docs who intend to develop a comprehensive research program largely free from other obligations in the course of the grant period, which lasts a maximum of two years.

• Funding line 1 – target group “external applicants”

The goal of external applicants is to achieve eligibility for professorship through Just’us, especially with further third-party grants; e.g. applications for the establishment of a junior research group (e.g. Helmholz junior research group leadership, Emmy Noether Program of the DFG, ERC Starting Grants, etc.) or for a project funded by the DFG. It is expected that a proposal for the establishment of a junior research group should be submitted no later than 12 months after the start of the fellowship and should be presented to the Vice President for Research and Funding of Junior Researchers prior to submission. It must be stated to which funding institution an application is to be submitted. It must be specified to which funding institution an application is planned to be submitted. When applying for a Just’us fellowship, the last oral examination taken in the course of the doctoral process should not be longer than two years prior (documented parental or caregiver leave will be taken into account accordingly). Applications are only accepted on the recommendation of a JLU professor who, together with said recommendation, also must declare the applicant’s infrastructural support. Applications are expected primarily in the profile and focus areas of Justus Liebig University.

• Funding line 2 – target group “internal applicants”

The goal for internal JLU applicants is, among other things, to become eligible for an external (junior) professorship. The direct acceptance of the recipient for a position at the Justus Liebig University Giessen is not the goal for the funding of JLU internal applicants.

An application including a comprehensive research program is expected. At the time of application, the last oral examination taken in the course of the doctoral studies should generally not be more than six months ago (documented parental or caregiver leave will be taken into account accordingly). The doctorate must be or have been granted by Justus Liebig University Giessen.

The projects can be conducted by the post-doc at an institution of his or her choice at Justus Liebig University Giessen. The host institution must confirm its support for the project in writing and provide information on the provision of the workplace. The greatest possible degree of independence should also be assured. During the term of the fellowship, fellows cannot be required to perform work that is not related to the purpose of the fellowship. Regardless, fellowship recipients have a teaching obligation of two semester hours per week. Partial fellowships (at least 50%) can be granted to enable the fellowship recipients to devote themselves to caring for their children or family members for reasons of age or illness in addition to their academic work.
Fellowships already granted may also be converted into part-time fellowships for these reasons. In both cases, the duration of the fellowship will be extended accordingly.

II. Scope of the funding

The basic fellowship amount is intended to cover the recipient’s living expenses and may not be used to supplement fellowships from other funding organizations or income from another occupation.

Fellowship amount
The basic fellowship amount designed to cover the living expenses of the recipient, is 1,900 EUR plus possible supplements for children. A health insurance subsidy of up to 300 EUR is granted upon request.

Allowance for material costs
In addition to the basic amount, funding for materials and travel expenses, as well as for student assistants will be made available; in justified cases, applications for scientific equipment may also be approved. As a rule, positions for the employment of staff cannot be funded.

III. Duration of funding

The fellowship is usually awarded for a period of up to two years.

IV. Requirements for the application

The award of a fellowship requires outstanding academic performance of the applicant. The completed doctorate should have been graded with at least ‘magna cum laude.’

V. Form and time of the application

The application for a fellowship can be submitted by postdocs of the Justus Liebig University Giessen at any time. The written application is to be submitted on paper in duplicate with attachments; in addition, an electronic version of the documents in PDF-format is to be sent by email to forschung@uni-giessen.de. The application should not exceed a maximum length of 10 pages. It is not necessary to submit a detailed description of a research project, but rather a work plan explaining the work phases envisioned for the development and implementation of the project. In addition, information is requested on the expected significance of the project for the applicant’s further scientific career. Corresponding plans must also be explained (as far as this is already possible at the time of application).

VI. Assessment and decision

The applications are evaluated by external reviewers. Applicants must submit up to three suggestions for independent external reviewers with their application. The Executive Board of JLU makes the final funding decision.

VII. Obligations

If applications for comparable funding have been submitted to one or more third-party funding bodies, this must be stated. By accepting the research fellowship, applicants confirm that they will concentrate all their work efforts on the approved project.