

Regulations for the application, selection and funding of Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland¹

Application for a Dioscuri Centre of Scientific Excellence

1. Before the formal call announcement, NCN will invite all Polish universities and Polish research institutions to provide declarations of commitment as potential future Host Institutions in the framework of the Dioscuri Programme. A list of Polish universities and Polish research institutions that submit expressions of interest will be made available by NCN in the framework of the formal call announcements.
2. Max Planck Society (MPG) and National Science Centre (NCN) will jointly publish worldwide the respective formal call announcements.
3. The applicant (Principal Investigator (PI)) must submit all required application documents to MPG within the established application deadline. Applications must be complete as specified in the call text. All application documents shall be in English language.

Evaluation

1. The Scientific Committee is composed of renowned scientists from European universities and European research institutions from outside Poland. These will be nominated by the President of MPG. NCN may recommend members to be nominated and MPG will consult the shortlist with NCN. Furthermore, one Polish renowned scientist will be member of the Scientific Committee in a consultative capacity; he/she will be nominated by NCN in consultation with MPG. The Committee may decide to add ad-hoc scientific members from European universities and European research institutions from outside Poland.
2. The Scientific Committee will be responsible for the overall review and selection process for the establishment of Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence.
3. Proposals are made up of a short proposal and a full proposal and are subject to a formal eligibility check and peer review.
4. The eligibility check is carried out by MPG and NCN.
5. The Scientific Committee will select up to 15 applications based on short proposals.
6. These selected applications will be subject to scientific review based on full proposals.
7. The Scientific Committee will select up to 6 applicants for final interviews.

¹ The „Call for Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland“ is an integral part of these regulations.

8. The review will be based solely on the scientific merit of the candidates and the quality of their research projects.
9. Max Planck Society issues the formal decision of the Scientific Committee on the outcome of the review to the applicants.

Negotiations

1. After the selection by the Scientific Committee, the PI and NCN representatives will negotiate specific conditions, e.g. regarding funding by the Host Institution, provision of infrastructure, career perspectives etc. with the representatives of the respective Polish Host Institution.

Funding

1. The Dioscuri Programme in Poland is mutually funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW).
2. If an application is awarded funding, the President of MPG and the Director of NCN will issue formal letters of approval.
3. The funds are transferred to the Host Institution on the basis of a written agreement. Before the signing of the agreement the PI and HI shall provide a budget table with the breakdown of Polish and German funds.
4. The rules for annual and final reporting requirements will be based on a written agreement.
5. The funding period is five years beginning from the date of the establishment of the respective Dioscuri Centre. Upon positive evaluation by the Scientific Committee and subject to the availability funding, the funding period may be extended once for another five years.

Partnership / Advisory Board

1. Each Dioscuri Centre may decide to expand the partnership with a scientist from a German university or research institution and turn it into an Advisory Board.



General Items for Review

- 1.) A Dioscuri Centre is more than a research project. It is expected to become a lighthouse of scientific excellence according to international quality standards. Dioscuri Centres have a lifetime of 5 plus 5 years.
- 2.) Bearing this in mind, the scientific quality of the PI (and of the collaborating scientists, including the scientific Partner) and his/her ability to conduct innovative, internationally competitive research is the most important criterion in reviewing the proposal.
- 3.) Dioscuri Centres shall be scientifically ground breaking and flexible. They should take up innovative topics, follow a sustainable approach, and involve excellent researchers.
- 4.) The clear goal and the ability to build up and develop the Dioscuri Centre and to integrate it into the regional and international research landscape, including co-operation with German partners, is indispensable.



Evaluation Form

2nd step – External Review

Name of Reviewer:

Institution:

Name of Applicant (PI):

University / Research Institution in Poland:

Scientific Partner from German University / Research Institution:

For our records

I know the applicant

personally

scientifically

both

I have

published

collaborated

a grant with the applicant

none

I. Assessment of the envisaged PI of the Dioscuri Centre

Is the PI an experienced and outstanding research personality? Are the proposed group members of adequate quality to meet the demands of the proposal?

Publishing record of the PI outstanding excellent good average

II. Review of the research proposal

Is the research proposal groundbreaking and innovative, does it raise new and creative questions that go beyond the state of the art, in Poland as well as in international comparison?

Please comment

III. Review of the appropriateness of the proposal for the framework of a Dioscuri Centre of Scientific Excellence

Is the proposal dealing adequately with the proposed subject?

Is the proposal in line with the attached criteria for a Dioscuri Centre, i.e. a lighthouse of scientific excellence according to international quality standards? Does it follow an innovative and sustainable approach?

Is the proposed structure of the Centre appropriate?

Is the proposed Budget Plan reasonable and convincing?

Please comment

IV. Are the following demands of the call met satisfyingly by the application

1. stimulation of co-operation with partners in Germany yes no
2. stimulation of co-operation in the region yes no

Please comment, especially regarding the expected benefits of the collaboration with Germany:

V. General Remarks

Please comment

Date, signature: