

Innovation in Health
"PhD Transition Fellowship 2022"

Call for Application

Submission is open.

Submission deadline: 30.06.2022

Spin your scientific research out of university into a startup!

Why should you apply?

Barriers to innovation in the context of academic and research institutions include the lack of transferable entrepreneurship training, lack of real-world commercial experience for doctoral level candidates and, importantly, funding to enable transition of ideas and innovative discoveries into commercially linked programs and ultimately new products and services.

The aim of the PhD Transition Fellowship Program is to address the innovation funding gap between completion of the doctoral thesis and obtaining further seed funding. Applicants should be typically in their final year of thesis submission and close to the award of their doctoral degree. The three most innovative concepts or prototypes will be provided with a pre-seed award (up to 20.000 €) to fund accelerated development of discovery research in the applicants first post-doctoral year.

Who is eligible for funding?

Eligible applicants must be PhD students who performing research at a university or research institute in Baden Wurttemberg (e.g. University Heidelberg, Heidelberg University Hospital, EMBL, DKFZ, ZI – Central Institute of Mental Health Mannheim, Max-Planck-Institute for Medical Research, University Hospital Mannheim and others).

They should be close to completion of their doctoral training (We recommend \approx 1 year). However, it is not a criterion for exclusion if the doctoral training ends later. Moreover, their research must be in the field of Life Science or another health-related field.

How to apply?

The application process is quick and simple. Send your files to Sebastian Meuer (sebastian.meuer@innovationinhealth.eu) - that's it!

Eligible proposals comprise:

- a summary of the candidate's innovative research project or discovery (0,5 – 1 page). Please focus on the following content: problem, solution, needs and next steps.
- a CV (max. 2 pages)
- the completed and signed "PhD Supervisor Confirmation Form" from the PhD supervisor

You are welcome to encrypt all documents in a zip file. Then simply send the password to sebastian.meuer@innovationinhealth.eu and the files to info@innovationinhealth.eu.

You will receive a confirmation e-mail once we have checked your application for completeness.

How does the selection procedure look like?

Stage 1:

All applicants will be reviewed by a jury. The jury panel will shortlist up the most promising innovations.

Stage 2:

The candidates with the best ideas will be invited to attend a pitch session on the 26.09.2022 or 27.09.2022.

Personal participation on site (Mannheim or Heidelberg) is **mandatory**. The schedule and location will be communicated to the participants in good time. The selected candidates present their innovative propositions in front of a selection panel in form of a 10-minute pitch followed by another 10 minutes discussion. The panel will comprise university faculty members, university intellectual property services, Innovation in Health and other relevant partners. Confidentiality agreements will be in place. After all candidates have presented their innovation, the three winners will be announced.

What will the best innovations win?

The three winners will receive up to EUR 20,000 towards the cost of accelerated development of their idea in their first post-doctoral year. Awards will be made at three levels:

Gold: EUR 20,000 Silver: EUR 15,000 Bronze: EUR 10,000

What is the benefit for all finalists?

On pitch day all candidates get a goodie bag. The finalists will benefit from the opportunity to pitch and discuss their proposal with the selection panel, hence, obtain valuable feedback on their innovative proposition. Further we offer an individual workshop to all pitch day participants in advance. The focus will be put on research-related spin-offs.

Recipients of fellowships are highly encouraged to seek support of the technology and intellectual property offices of the universities involved for the duration of their fellowship. This may include help to assess the commercial potential of their results, to protect and manage the associated intellectual property, to identify the optimal route to commercialization (e.g. license to an existing company versus spinning out a new company), to define what potential commercial partners expect in terms of proof of concept for a given technology, to secure follow on translational funding where needed to achieve proof of concept, and to identify, attract and secure potential partners/investors to further develop and commercialize new healthcare technologies.

What are the important dates?

1. Start of the online submission for the application: They can now submit their project.
2. Closing of the online submission for the application: 30.06.2022

3. Internal review and evaluation of the submission: till 12.08.2022 (latest)
4. Preparation Day: tba
5. Pitch day + ceremony: 26.09.2022 or 27.09.2022 (Mannheim or HD)

Contact

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PhD Transition Fellowship

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Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST