

Guide for Applicants 2025

PNB Individual Grants - Open Topic Postdoc Positions

Thank you for your interest in the PNB Individual Grants of the Postdoc Network Brandenburg (PNB). This document contains important information concerning your application. Please read it carefully before submitting your application.

Applications must be sent in English or German to info@postdoc-network-brandenburg.de.

The application deadline is May 4th, 2025 (23:59 CEST).

1 What does the PNB offer?

The four Brandenburg universities - the University of Potsdam, the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg, the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), and the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF - have founded the Postdoc Network Brandenburg with the aim of developing the potential of postdocs working at the state's scientific institutions to the fullest possible extent. Recently, the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam, the Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau, the Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences, and the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development joined the network.

The PNB invites postdoctoral researchers who are already working at / associated with a research institution in Brandenburg to further their academic career by pursuing their individual research project as PNB Fellow at one of the eight Brandenburg universities / universities of applied sciences of their choice. PNB Fellows will be offered a position at their preferred host university / university of applied sciences, which will provide an encouraging environment and support their research activities. In addition, they have access to professional training and coaching promoting their development of individual and professional competencies.

The Berlin-Brandenburg capital region offers the highest density of universities and research institutions in Germany and at the same time holds a leading position in the German and international innovation landscape. Four traditional universities together with four universities of applied sciences covering a broad variety of key research topics as well as a large number of non-university research institutions are located in the state of Brandenburg. The structure of the scientific landscape, which combines the advantages of manageable institution sizes with short distances between research locations in a state-of-the-art research environment, provides excellent conditions for establishing and expanding individual research collaborations and networks for young and advanced researchers.

2 Applicant eligibility

In order to enter the selection process, applicants must meet the following criteria (for more details, please refer to the [FAQ](#)):

- Eligible applicants are already working at / associated with one of the many scientific institutions in Brandenburg.

- Eligible applicants must have a completed research doctorate and must be employable according to the WissZeitVG. Scientists with a completed habilitation are not eligible.
- Applications must be complete (see required documents in section 3).
- Applications can be submitted in either German or English.

Women are especially encouraged to apply. The scientific institutions in Brandenburg are family-friendly and offer numerous possibilities of support for researchers with children (e. g. child-care facilities, day-care organized during lectures, conferences, other scientific events, etc.). The institutions will be glad to provide more detailed information to applicants if any questions arise.

3 Required documents

Applications (in electronic form, **one pdf-document**) must include:

- CV
- Copies of academic certificates and documents (diplomas only)
- List of publications
- Contact details of two potential reviewers without joint publications or common scientific projects during the last five years
- Outline of the proposed research project tailored to the research profile of the chosen university (4 pages)
- If applicable, written proof of association status with a scientific institution in Brandenburg
- Letter of support from a professor/mentor of the selected host university

3.1 How to obtain a letter of support

Applicants must submit a letter of support from a professor at one of the Brandenburg universities / universities of applied sciences. After you have decided, which institution will fit best to your research project, get in touch with a professor or research group in your scientific field. Present your research project to the professor asking whether she*he would be willing to act as a mentor/supervisor for your research project. Ideally, this professor will demonstrate her*his commitment by writing a letter of support.

3.2 Dealing with AI-based applications

In general, the PNB accepts applications created with the help of artificial intelligence. However, we consider the applicant to be fully responsible for the content and compliance with research integrity. If you use AI as an auxiliary tool in the preparation of your application, please indicate this in a scientifically appropriate way.

In this context, the PNB refers to the DFG (German Research Foundation), which has published initial guidelines for the use of AI for text and image creation. Please take a look at

<https://wissenschaftliche-integritaet.de/en/use-generative-models/>

4 Selection

You will receive an email confirming the receipt of your application and informing you whether your proposal is complete. You will be informed via email at all relevant stages of the selection process.

Complete proposals will be externally reviewed by experts using a points awarding procedure. This evaluation assesses

- the quality of the project,
- the qualifications and expertise of the applicant,
- the quality and uniqueness of the objectives of the proposed research project,
- how the proposed project fits into the host's research activities,
- the feasibility of the proposed project as explained in the research plan.

A ranking list will be composed based on these results and the most promising candidates will be invited to an online interview.

4.1 Selection panel

The selection panel consists of nine members maximum - one representative of each of the Brandenburg universities and universities of applied sciences involved in the selection process as well as at least one external expert. The panel examines the reviewers' selection, assists in the online interviews, and ultimately identifies the projects, which will be recommended for funding.

4.2 Timetable

Publication of the call:	March 19 th , 2025
Application deadline:	May 4 th , 2025 (23:59 CEST)
Review process:	6 - 8 weeks
Selection panel meeting:	end of June 2025
Response to all applicants:	within two weeks after the selection decision
Start of the postdoc positions:	no later than 4 months after the written funding approval

5 Contact

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact

Postdoc Network Brandenburg

Dr. Heike Küchmeister or Dr. Katharina Lüning

Email: info@postdoc-network-brandenburg.de