

Medical Scientist Programme

The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Freiburg is funding up to **seven** grants for

MEDICAL SCIENTISTS

including

DIGITAL MEDICAL SCIENTISTS

within the Medical Scientist Programme, starting in January 2023.

Aim of the Programme

The aim of the Medical Scientist Programme of the Faculty of Medicine is to foster translational research at Freiburg's University Medicine and to support the career development of excellent doctorate-holding Medical Scientists.

Translation refers to a process connecting basic and disease-oriented research with clinical application (including diagnostic, therapeutic or preventive measures). It includes both forward and reverse translation. Translation requires a long-term cooperation of various disciplines including scientists with responsibilities in patient care (Clinician Scientists) as well as researchers not working in patient care (Medical Scientists). While Clinician Scientists are supported by the Berta-Ottenstein-Programme of the Faculty of Medicine, the Medical Scientist Programme is aimed at scientists from the medical, technical, and mathematical sciences or different research areas who are not pursuing clinical training. Applicants should be in their first postdoctoral career phase.

For the first time, this call of the Medical Scientist Programme contains a pilot phase that also welcomes applications of Digital Medical Scientists. Digital Medical Scientists are a sub-group of Medical Scientists who do not work experimentally (wet lab) but computationally, and whose project focuses on data sciences with a clear translational application. Data-driven sciences are a central driving force of translational research and include important approaches such as the analysis of high-throughput "omics" data, imaging data, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, or the Digitalization of patient data to develop personalized medicine. The Medical Scientist Programme aims to support this dynamic development in translational research and to foster a close exchange of relevant scientific disciplines within the Faculty of Medicine.

How you can benefit from the Medical Scientist Programme

The Medical Scientist Programme is intended to pave the way of Medical Scientists, including Digital Medical Scientists, to scientific independence by providing funding and a personalized qualification programme focusing on translational research. The programme offers a platform for interdisciplinary exchange within an established framework of courses, lecture series and tandem-mentoring (one clinician mentor, one non-clinician mentor).

Who is eligible?

Eligible are excellent scientists, at an early career stage, who are affiliated with Freiburg's University Medicine (or will be by the start of the funding period). Applicants have to be doctorate-holding researchers without responsibilities in patient care and not pursuing fellowship training in a clinical discipline. The focus is on promoting Medical Scientists, including Digital Medical Scientists, working at the Medical Theory Institutes or at the Medical Institutes for Diagnostics and Research ([Link](#)). Medical and Digital Scientists employed by clinical departments are also eligible.

Funding is not aimed at established scientists already qualified to complete their habilitation.

Funding

Funding is offered for two years. Funds of 40.000 EUR per person and year are provided, subject to the availability of funds. There are two types of funding to apply for: (a) The applicant's position may be funded directly (personnel cost) or (b) funding may be used for direct project costs. The applicant has to define in detail in his/her project proposal how the funding she/he applies for will be used.

The Medical Scientist Programme offers the possibility to apply for Track I or Track II. The two track procedures (I and II) only differ in terms of funding.

Track I

Track I Fellows receive funding by the programme and profit from the qualification and mentoring offers.

Track II

Track II Fellows profit from the same qualification and mentoring offers as Track I fellows. They are not financially supported by the Programme but are funded through their own, peer-reviewed research programs that provide funds of at least 40.000 EUR per year, which were raised by the fellows themselves.

Requirements for participation

The call is aimed at highly qualified scientists who

- are currently in their early postdoc phase (or will be by at the beginning of the funding period)
- hold a good or very good MD or PhD degree in natural, technical, mathematical, medical or life sciences (at least "magna cum laude")
- can demonstrate a scientific track record (e.g. via publications)
- submit a promising, translationally-oriented excellent scientific project outline
- are employed at an Institute or Department of the Faculty of Medicine by the start of the programme (January 1st, 2023)

The research project shall be of high scientific quality and originality. The programme is thematically open and supports basic science-oriented, disease-oriented and patient-oriented

research. The applicant has to outline the translational objective of her/his project in the proposal.

The evaluation of the applications is carried out by the selection committee of the Medical Scientist Programme. The aim of the Medical Faculty is to support Fellows from a broad variety of institutes, departments and clinics of the Freiburg University Medical Center. For this reason, the programme welcomes applications from numerous different institutes / departments / clinics with a wide range of research topics / subjects. During the selection process, a great focus is set on a balanced proportion of men and women in the selection of successful applicants.

The application process is the same for track I and track II. For both, track I and track II the **electronic application** must include:

- Application form with CV and list of publications
- Letter of motivation
- Copies of MD/PhD degree certificate or equivalent
- Project outline (designed for two years)
- Career plan signed by (Digital) Medical Scientist and supervisor
- Letter of support signed by the Head/Director of the Institute or Department, with a confirmation of the applicant's employment and the availability of the necessary infrastructure for conducting the proposed research
- Confirmation of support by a tandem mentor team (in form of signatures required on the application form)

Please request the application form/information sheet and submit the complete application documents via email by **July 11, 2022, 12:00 (noon) CEST** to equip@uniklinik-freiburg.de. The required documents must be submitted in the order given in the information sheet as a single pdf file without access restrictions. If you require further information, please send an email to equip@uniklinik-freiburg.de.

Further information regarding the Medical Scientist Programme of the Faculty of Medicine can be found here: <https://www.med.uni-freiburg.de/de/forschung/karrierewege/medical-scientist>.