FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-
UNIVERSITÄT
JENA

Authorisation of Junior Research Group Leaders to Supervise Doctoral Candidates

According to section 4 subsection 3 sentence 2 of the General Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculties leaders of junior research groups are formally authorised to supervise doctoral candidates: “However, the leaders of junior research groups may only be supervisors if their scientific competence was identified by the external scientific assessment procedure of which the quality criteria are accepted by the Research Committee of the Senate.”

The Research Committee of the Senate discussed the topic of the authorisation of junior research group leaders to supervise doctoral candidates and made the following decisions.[1]

General specifications

Objective
Promoting early independence of early-career scientists and researchers by assuming formal supervision responsibility.

Quality criteria
The Research Committee has agreed on the following quality criteria, putting particular emphasis on the fulfilment of the procedural criteria:

Person: promoting especially qualified early-career researchers
Project: promoting excellent research projects
Procedure:

- scientific assessment procedure by a panel including external and independent reviewer
- compliance with the DFG guidelines for avoiding conflicts of interest
- selection procedure similar to an appointment procedure

Validity
The authorisation of junior research group leaders to supervise doctoral candidates ends when the corresponding funding expires. Ongoing doctoral theses may be supervised to completion.

[1] Meetings on May 3, 2018, November 27, 2018, November 16, 2021, November 22, 2022

Agreements on specific funding procedures

The following funding programmes meet these criteria:

Funding body	Programme
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation	Sofia Kovalevskaja Award
Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation	"Plus 3" funding programme
Carl-Zeiss-Foundation	Nexus - funding for interdisciplinary postdoctoral groups
German Research Foundation	Emmy Noether Programme
German Cancer Aid	Max Eder Junior Research Group programme
Volkswagen Foundation	"Freigeist" Fellowship
Leibniz Association	Leibniz Junior Research Groups
Leibniz Institutes	Junior Research Group leaders
Max Planck Society	Lise Meitner Excellence Programme of the Max Planck Society
Max Planck Institutes	Max Planck Research Groups
European Research Council	Starting Grant

With regard to the programmes mentioned below, the Research Committee's recommendation to the faculties is a case-by-case assessment by the faculty council based on the above-mentioned criteria:

Funding body	Programme
Helmholtz Association	Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups programme
Fraunhofer Society	"Fraunhofer Attract" funding programme
Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Research of Jena University Hospital	Programme for promoting women in science, Advanced Clinician Scientist, Advanced Medical Scientist
Departmental research by the federal ministries	Junior research groups in thematic calls for application
Miscellaneous	Junior research groups in large coordinated or joint projects (especially DFG Collaborative Research Centre)

Prof. Dr. Georg Pohnert

Vice-President for Research