



UNIT FOR
FAMILY,
DIVERSITY
AND EQUALITY



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

FAQ about

OLYMPIA MORATA-PROGRAMM (OMP)

Please first consult the call for applications, the programme guidelines, and the information provided on our website.

Can postdocs from all faculties and disciplines at Heidelberg University (UHD) submit applications?

Yes, the programme is open to female applicants from all faculties and disciplines at Heidelberg University (UHD). The prerequisite is that applicants hold a postdoctoral position at UHD, at the latest by the time funding is awarded.

Can postdocs from Heidelberg University Hospital (UKHD) / the Faculty of Medicine also apply?

Yes, postdoctoral researchers from Heidelberg University Hospital (UKHD) / the Faculty of Medicine may also apply, provided that they meet the eligibility criteria.

Is there a second Olympia Morata Programme run by Heidelberg University's Faculty of Medicine?

Yes. In addition to the university-wide Olympia Morata Programme, which is advertised by UNIFY, there is a programme with the same name run by Heidelberg University's Faculty of Medicine. We recommend that prospective applicants from the medical field contact the Research Dean's Office of Heidelberg University's Faculty of Medicine before submitting an application to obtain information, including details of the different application deadlines. Further information can be found [here](#).

Am I eligible to apply?

If you are an outstanding postdoctoral researcher (i.e. FLINTA*) and meet the time-related eligibility criterion (as a general rule, your doctorate should have been completed no more than 2–4 years ago), as well as the other requirements specified in the call for applications, you are eligible to apply. These additional requirements include: A very good or excellent doctoral thesis, an accepted publication closely related to the proposed project and/or relevant preliminary research, an institutional affiliation with an institute or faculty at Heidelberg University. commitment to co-funding from your institute or clinic for the entire funding period (generally 24 months).

You must also be able to submit the other required application documents (see items 1–5). If you meet these requirements, you are eligible to apply and may submit an application.

What is meant by the R2 phase?

The term “R2” refers to the postdoctoral career phase, which focuses on developing an independent research profile and exploring future career options. The subsequent R3 phase is dedicated to qualifying for a professorship.

By distinguishing between these career stages (R1 to R3), Heidelberg University follows the European Framework for Research Careers (see the Guidelines on Career Development at Heidelberg University): <https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/de/forschung/nachwuchsfoerderung>. For applications to the Olympia Morata Programme (OMP), the doctorate should generally have been completed no more than approximately 3–4 years ago.

How strictly is the criterion regarding the time elapsed since completing the doctorate applied?

Maternity leave, parental leave, and periods spent caring for family members are taken into account when assessing this criterion and during the evaluation of the application. If you submit an application, these periods must be clearly documented in the application materials. Applicants may also provide information about interruptions due to illness. Periods of professional activity outside academia, as well as other reasons for delays in career progression, may also be specified. Such circumstances will then be assessed on an individual basis.

How is the programme funded?

The University provides funding for a half-time position under the German public-sector pay scale (TV-L E13), supplementing a half-time position approved by the respective institute or faculty. The co-funding must be provided by an institute or faculty of Heidelberg University. The co-funding does not have to come from the institution's regular budget; third-party funding may also be used.

When does the funding period begin?

The programme is generally advertised annually in autumn. Funding then begins in March of the following year.

Is it possible to postpone the start of the funding period?

No, this is not possible.

Is part-time funding possible?

In principle, the programme is intended for postdoctoral researchers working full-time. Part-time funding is possible, provided that the position amounts to at least 75% of a full-time equivalent (FTE). This option is intended to support applicants with family and caregiving responsibilities in their academic career development. However, there is no entitlement to extend the overall funding period to compensate for the reduced working hours.

Can the application be submitted in English? / Can individual parts of the application be submitted in English?

Yes, the entire application or individual parts of it (e.g. the CV or the project proposal) may be submitted in English.

Is there a specified length for the project proposal?

The project proposal outlining the qualification project must not exceed 15 pages in total.

Are there any other formal requirements for the project proposal?

Apart from the information specified in the programme guidelines, there are no additional formal requirements for the project proposal.

What is meant by information on the gender dimension in accordance with DFG guidelines?

The consideration of gender and diversity is firmly established within the German Research

Foundation (DFG). The DFG recommends that applicants from all disciplines reflect on whether gender and diversity are relevant to their research content or methods. Applicants to the OMP are therefore also expected to address the relevance of gender and diversity in their proposed research. Even if these factors are not relevant to the research project, applicants should demonstrate that they have reflected on this aspect.

Is there a specified length for the letters of recommendation?

No, there is no specified length for the letters of recommendation.

Can the first letter of recommendation be written by the respective supervisor or mentor?

Yes, the first letter of recommendation may be written by the respective supervisor or mentor and should include a commitment to supervise the applicant.

What is meant by an external letter of recommendation?

The second letter of recommendation should come from outside Heidelberg University. The reviewer should be external to Heidelberg University, i.e. should not conduct research or teach at UHD.

Can the letters of recommendation be written in English?

Yes, both letters of recommendation or either one of them may be written in English.

Which publications should be listed?

In the publication list included in application component 1, only submitted and accepted publications should be listed.

Where can I obtain the questionnaire (application component 6)?

The questionnaire is available for download as a PDF on the programme website. Please complete the questionnaire as part of your application and sign it at the end.

Should the questionnaire be submitted together with all the other application documents?

The completed questionnaire is part of the application (component 6) and must therefore be submitted together with the other application documents.

What are the teaching obligations of Olympia Morata Programme fellows?

The teaching obligations of fellows should be adjusted to accommodate the funding. The programme is intended to provide the funded early-career female researcher with 50% protected time free from teaching and other duties, ensuring sufficient time for her professional development and qualification.

How many grants are awarded in each call for applications?

The available funding may vary, so it is not possible to provide a binding statement on the number of positions to be funded.

Who makes the decisions on applications?

Applications received are evaluated and decided upon by the Senate Commission for the Olympia Morata Programme. The University's Equal Opportunities Officer chairs this selection committee.