



Call for Proposals – September 2024

Athene Young Investigator

The Athene Young Investigator Programme was set up at TU Darmstadt to promote scientific independence at an early stage. The programme aims at experienced postdoctoral researchers at TU Darmstadt who strive for a position as university professor.

1. Who can apply?

The applicant shall have and experience...

- at least one year and at most five years of postdoc experience (compensation for maternity and/or parental leave, long sick leave, etc. is possible),
- a (current or prospective) position in a department at TU Darmstadt,
- funding for a doctoral position, either self-acquired or provided by the department (exceptions may apply),
- a doctorate completed with outstanding results,
- the engaged support of her/his supervisor with regard to her/his career goal “qualification for a professorship”
- scientific excellence by international standards (publications with significant own contribution, third-party funding experience, collaborations, honours and awards, etc.),
- pedagogical aptitude for academic teaching,
- potential abilities to take on leadership and project management roles,
- substantial international research experience or substantial experience in the research division of a commercial enterprise.

2. What do we offer?

Athene Young Investigators are appointed for a funding period of 3+2 years. They receive ...

- the right to supervise doctoral candidates and to act as an examiner in the doctoral examination procedure,
- a discipline-specific budget for self-determined use (research expenses, conferences, travel expenses, stays abroad including childcare, further qualification opportunities, student assistants, publication costs, etc.),
- opportunities for independent teaching,
- pay grade classification to EG 14 TV-TU Darmstadt (Note: The AYI-programme covers only the costs for the upgrade from pay grade 13 TV-TU Darmstadt to pay grade 14 TV-TU

Darmstadt. The basic funding for the position of the AYI must be secured by the research group/department),

- training courses for extracurricular qualification for Athene Young Investigators, specifically tailored to the needs of experienced postdocs.

3. Which documents are needed for submission?

Please submit your application (via your host department) to the Directorate for Research and Transfer, Unit Early Career Researchers, by **15 November 2024**.

Documents submitted by the applicant:

- Application form (see link in *Downloads* section)
- Curriculum vitae (in English)
- List of publications
- Copy of doctoral certificate
- Research concept (max. 5 pages not including references)
- Documentation on special achievements (e.g., scholarships, honours and awards)
- Documentation on periods of inactivity in research (e.g., parental leave, sick leave, childcare, care of family members), if applicable
- A letter of support from your supervisor indicating how she/he will support you in your career development and that you can act as an independent early career research group leader if appointed

Documents submitted by the host department:

- A letter of recommendation/support
- Information about the employment conditions of the applicant and the designated doctoral candidate (including information about: start and end point of employment, time limitations, source of funding; the doctoral candidate shall be named)
- A list of at least four recommendations for suitable international and national researchers from the field who could serve as reviewers for the applicant's research concept

Documents submitted by the host department in case of application success:

- A statement confirming that the newly appointed Athene Young Investigator received the right to supervise doctoral candidates and to act as an examiner in the doctoral examination procedure
- A statement about the plans for teaching: Which courses will the newly appointed Athene Young Investigator lead independently? Please take into account the specifications of the third-party funder

4. What are the selection criteria?

The selection process is overseen by the selection committee "Early Career Researchers" which consists of six professors (representing all science cultures at TU Darmstadt) and the Gender Equality Officer. The Vice President for Academic Careers acts as chair.

Selection criteria:

- Scientific excellence (publications, honours and awards, networking, etc.)
- Scientific independence
- Mobility (international and – where appropriate – intersectoral)
- Scientific potential
- Quality of the research concept
- Supervision and teaching skills

5. Next steps

Please submit your application (via your host department) to the Directorate for Research and Transfer, Unit Early Career Researchers, by **15 November 2024**. If you are shortlisted, your research concept will be evaluated by two external reviewers. Subsequently, we will invite you to a personal introduction (expected date: March 2025): You will be asked to give a 15-minute talk in front of the selection committee, presenting your achievements in research and teaching as well as your planned research project. A 20-minute interview with the selection committee will follow. Based on the external reviews and on the personal introduction, the committee will then decide whom to appoint Athene Young Investigator.

Contact and application

Technical University Darmstadt

Directorate for Research and Transfer (“Dezernat VI”)

Unit VI E: Early Career Researchers

Dr. Yvonne Bachmann

Phone: +49 6151 16-57295

E-Mail: yvonne.bachmann@tu-darmstadt.de