CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Incoming Fellowships
for Postdoctoral Researchers

Start of Fellowship: September 2016
1. Background

The BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg is a research-driven university with strong basic research and application orientation. In order to improve the performance of research activities in BTU's core research areas as well as beyond them the Graduate Research School (GRS) will award a number of “Incoming Fellowships” to distinguished international young researchers, which shall enable them to carry out a long-term research project of 24 months at BTU. Applicants are invited to choose their own topic of research and a suitable host department at BTU. Successful candidates are expected to make a substantial contribution to BTU's research profile.

2. Application

2.1 Requirements and eligibility

This call aims at highly-qualified incoming young researchers who have completed their doctorate or Ph.D. less than seven years ago.

Eligibility criteria:

- Eligible applicants are either German or Non-German nationals residing abroad who have not carried out any research in Germany for the last three years
- Eligible applicants have a proven research record of at least one year since obtaining their doctorate/Ph.D.
- Eligible applicants need to identify a potential host department at one of BTU's faculties and get a letter of endorsement from a professor (“advisor”) at BTU to support their application

2.2 Fellowship specifications

The BTU offers successful candidates a full-time employment contract including social security and health insurance as well as pension coverage at their chosen host department. Depending on their respective individual status successful candidates will receive an employment contract as research associate (“Akademische/r Mitarbeiter/in”) for the duration of generally twenty-four months (pay grade of the public service collective agreement for Federal States TVL E-13). Be kindly informed that according to legal requirements in Brandenburg the employment contract includes teaching responsibilities equivalent to four hours per week during the lecture period.

The GRS provides further funding opportunities to support, for example, conference presentations in Germany and abroad. BTU's Welcome Centre will provide additional support to find suitable accommodation, childcare/schools, and language courses.
2.3 Application documents and timeline

Applicants have to submit the following documents:

a) Letter of motivation
b) CV and list of publications as well as names and contact details of two expert reviewers (not from BTU)
c) Research proposal (for further information please refer to section 2.4)
d) Proof of completion of doctorate/Ph.D.
e) Proof of academic record to date (peer-reviewed publications, other published works, conference presentations, research projects, teaching activities, prizes, etc.)
f) Letter of endorsement by the advisor at BTU (for further information please refer to section 2.5)

All application documents have to be submitted in English. The final decision concerning the awarding of fellowships will be taken by the Vice-President Research together with the President and after consultation of and approval by the Research Commission of BTU's Senate. Applications have to be submitted via email until the 16th of May 2016.

2.4 Instructions for submission of the research proposal

The maximum length of research proposals is ten pages (Arial 11 or TNR 12, 1.5 line-spacing, justified text). The research proposal shall be structured as follows:

(i) Cover page (title, full name, contact details, date of submission)
(ii) Abstract (max. 400 words), 3-5 keywords
(iii) Table of contents
(iv) Description of the background of the issue
(v) Description of the specific research interest (“state of the art”) as well as the innovative content and objectives of the research project
(vi) Description of methods to achieve the objectives of the research project
(vii) Proof of research expertise in this particular field (e.g. previous works, preliminary research, etc.)
(viii) Working plan and list of specific requirements (e.g. infrastructure, equipment, etc.)
(ix) List of deliverables and outcomes (e.g. list of expected publications, projects resulting from the research stay)

Applicants are responsible to ensure that their application documents are complete. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.

2.5 Instructions for submission of letters of endorsement

The letter of institutional endorsement shall offer the selection committee a more comprehensive overview of the candidate. Unlike letters of recommendation, which usually intend to offer individualized and detailed perspectives of the candidate, the letter of endorsement shall highlight why and how the candidate's research project contributes to improving BTU's research activities in the specific area of expertise (e.g. quality, innovative content, etc.).
Additionally, the letter of endorsement shall also specify the infrastructure and equipment provided by the host department. The letter of endorsement shall be submitted in English together with the other application documents (except expert reviews) by the applicant.

### 2.6 Selection criteria

The main criteria are:

1) Originality and innovation potential of the proposed research project (significance for the advancement of the discipline, convincing choice of scientific approach and methods, prospects for academic development of the applicant, clear focus and feasibility of realization within the funding period and at the chosen host department, contribution to BTU’s research profile)

2) Quality of key publications specified in the application (originality, degree of innovation, applicant’s contribution in cases of multiple authorship)

3) Academic record and performance to date (mobility, determination, scope of research activities, academic achievements)

4) The applicant’s future potential (academic development and career prospects)

Applications are assessed by independent peer reviewers requested by the Vice-President Research. The final decision is taken by the Vice-President Research together with the President after consultation of and approval by the Research Commission of BTU’s Senate.

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<th>Submission of the proposals:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Please submit your proposal as one PDF file (max. 2 MB) to the Vice-President Research via</td>
<td>Robert Rode</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Mehren:</td>
<td>Graduate Research School (GRS)</td>
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