SKILLS CAMPUS
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LEIBNIZ SCIENCECAMPUS "SKILLS OVER THE LIFECYCLE"

Call for Expressions of Interest: Professorial Fellowships

The Leibniz ScienceCampus "Skills over the Lifecycle" invites expressions of interest from internationally recognized scholars for professorial fellowships at the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) during the academic year 2027/28 or 2028/29.

The Leibniz ScienceCampus "Skills over the Lifecycle" is a newly established interdisciplinary research initiative bringing together scholars from economics, psychology, and related disciplines to advance the understanding of how skills develop, evolve, and shape individual life trajectories. The Campus studies both the malleability of skills—when and how cognitive and socio-emotional skills can be developed through interventions and policy changes—and the productivity of skills—how different skill dimensions influence educational attainment, labour market success, health, and overall well-being across the life course.

The research agenda combines complementary methodological approaches, including randomized controlled trials, natural experiments, longitudinal and administrative data analyses, and structural modelling. It covers different stages of life, from early childhood and education to adulthood and later life, with particular attention to the role of families, institutions, social environments, and public policies in shaping skill development and outcomes. The Campus has a particular interest in research addressing inequalities in skill formation and the role of skills in promoting social mobility and individual well-being.

The Professorial Fellowships provide internationally recognized scholars with the opportunity to spend a semester in Essen, engage with the ScienceCampus research community, and develop lasting collaborations with researchers at UDE, RWI, and associated institutions. Fellows are invited to contribute to shaping the emerging research profile of the Campus, initiate joint research projects, and participate in interdisciplinary academic exchange.

We welcome expressions of interest from scholars in economics, psychology, education, sociology, and related fields whose research contributes to the ScienceCampus themes. We are particularly interested in applicants whose work complements or extends the existing research agenda of the Campus, including topics such as skill formation, human capital development, cognitive and socio-emotional skills, education and labour market transitions, health and skills over the life course, inequality, social mobility, and the evaluation of policies and interventions.

Fellowship Conditions
Professorial fellows will receive:

- Remuneration at professorial level (German W-Besoldung scale), with pay grade depending on seniority
- Reimbursement of travel expenses
- Dedicated funds to support research-related activities
- Support with practical arrangements, including housing, transport, childcare, and other aspects of relocation

Fellows are expected to spend a full semester in Essen and actively participate in the academic life of the ScienceCampus. During their stay, fellows will be encouraged to engage with ongoing research projects, develop new collaborations, contribute to seminars and workshops, and—where appropriate and aligned with their interests—participate in graduate teaching activities at UDE.

Application Process
The application process consists of two stages.

Stage 1: Expression of Interest
Interested scholars are invited to submit an initial expression of interest consisting of:

- A cover letter outlining their interest in the fellowship and potential links to the research agenda of the ScienceCampus
- A CV
- A brief description of a proposed research project, collaboration idea, or contribution to the ScienceCampus research agenda (maximum 2 pages)

Applicants should indicate their preferred timing for a potential stay (any semester during the academic year 2027/28 or 2028/29.

Following review of the expressions of interest, selected candidates will be invited to submit a more detailed application in a second stage.

Eligibility Criteria
Applicants should:

- Hold a tenured academic position at the level of associate professor or above (or equivalent)
- Be eligible for sabbatical leave or equivalent research leave at their home institution
- Be available for full-time residence in Essen for one semester
- Conduct research relevant to the interdisciplinary themes of the Leibniz ScienceCampus “Skills over the Lifecycle”

Academic Environment

The Leibniz ScienceCampus brings together researchers from several departments of RWI and faculties of the University of Duisburg-Essen, creating an interdisciplinary environment at the intersection of economics, psychology, and related social sciences. Fellows will have the opportunity to interact with researchers working with diverse empirical settings and methodological approaches, including experimental, longitudinal, administrative, and historical data.

During their stay, fellows will be invited to participate in the Campus seminar series, workshops, and other academic activities. They will benefit from access to a strong international research network and the research infrastructure of UDE, RWI, and partner institutions.

The University of Duisburg-Essen, RWI – Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, and the Leibniz ScienceCampus "Skills over the Lifecycle" are committed to promoting international academic exchange, equal opportunities, and a welcoming and family-friendly environment for visiting scholars.

Submission and Contact

Application documents can be uploaded here: **Expression of Interest: Professorial Fellowship 2027/28 or 2028/29 ↗**

More information about the Leibniz ScienceCampus is available on our **website ↗**

For questions, please contact
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