

Information for Applicants

Module: W (*WiMi*) – Research Assistants

Under the CONNECT and STRUCTURE funding lines, initiative grants are available that include support for appointing new research assistants (pre- or postdoc) to perform the following tasks in relation to the planned joint research project:

- Research support during the conceptional and design phase of the application.
- Preparatory tasks of an academic/scientific nature, such as literature research, fieldwork, laboratory investigations.
- Communication with other researchers concerning the project.
- Preparing the content for project meetings and processing the outcomes of the meetings.
- Supporting lead PI in organizational matters in the context of preparing the application for third-party funding.¹

Employment contracts must be for a minimum of six and maximum of 18 months and each contract must be for at least 50% of the regular working hours (0.5 FTE). The end of the employment contract should align with the probable submission date for the proposed application for third-party funding. The initiative funding for this module can be used to fund more than one contract under the above conditions when the project justifies the employment of multiple research assistants.

Please note that research assistants also have teaching obligations dependent on the number of their contracted hours.² As initiative grants come from the central university budget, applicants should consider, before submitting an application, whether the proposed research assistants can be employed on a (new) fixed-term contract on the basis of the Academic Short-Term Labor Contract Act (*Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz*). Please contact the relevant member of the Research Funding Service (Team VI C) to discuss the options and for an estimate of personnel costs.³ Contact information can be found at [link](#).

¹ The proportion of research tasks must be at least 50% (as opposed to administrative tasks).

² Currently up to 4 contact hours (LVS) for full-time employees (see “The Teaching Obligation Ordinance,” *Lehrverpflichtungsverordnung*).

³ Otherwise, the usual regulations on fixed-term employment contracts at Freie Universität Berlin apply ([link](#)).