The Vice-Rector for Research  Institutional Strategy

Announcement

**TUD YOUNG INVESTIGATORS**

**As part of the institutional strategy of the Excellence Initiative**

**Aim?**

With the measure *TUD Young Investigators* the TU Dresden is creating a new status for excellent, independent, junior research group leaders within the Dresden-concept. This is to counter the existing, structurally related disadvantages this group sometimes experiences due to its unclear status and the partly flawed or completely absent connection to a Faculty (critical points here are primarily the lack of entitlement to assess (co-) supervised doctorate work, the lack of or restricted possibility to gain experience in academic teaching and the often flawed information from the Faculties).

**Rights/Duties of TUD Young Investigators**

- Every *TUD Young Investigator* will be given a university teacher from the TUD as a mentor and direct contact. These mentors will be professors actively involved in teaching at the TUD with membership rights in a Faculty.
- Every *TUD Young Investigator* will be accepted by the Faculty as an assessor and examiner in doctoral procedures as an assessor and examiner, particularly with regard to the dissertations they (co-) supervise.
- Every *TUD Young Investigator* will participate in the teaching of their mentor’s Faculty. The specific organisation of teaching participation will be set in consultation with the respective mentor and the relevant Faculty, usually to an extent of two hours per week per semester. The academic qualification of the young researcher will always be at the forefront here.
- *TUD Young Investigators* will be integrated in their respective Faculty in such a manner that they will be invited to the public parts of Faculty Council meetings as guests.
- Additional agreements can be made individually with the Faculty.
- *TUD Young Investigators* will get the opportunity to take part in a range of training especially designed for them by the Graduate Academy, which will specifically address the needs of academics in this qualification phase and is being developed together with the target group.

**Who can become a TUD Young Investigator?**

Applications to be awarded *TUD Young Investigator* status can be made by young researchers with fixed term contracts to the TU Dresden or a partner institution of the DRESDEN-concept with their own budget and staff responsibility, who are academically...
independent and without affiliation to a professor, and autonomously head a research group with at least two academics (excluding the head). In addition to a completed doctorate with a grade of at least very good, evidence of performance suitable for postdoctoral lecturer qualification is necessary.

How does the process work?

Making an application to the University’s Governing Board for the award of TUD Young Investigator status requires the approval of the respective Faculty.

(1) Approval of the Faculty

To check the readiness of a Faculty of the TUD to admit someone as a Young Investigator, interested candidates should initially contact the respective Dean.

The approval of the Faculty is based on clarification of the following aspects (a sample form is attached):

a) the Faculty confirms its departmental responsibility,
b) the Faculty appoints as mentor a professor of the Faculty who actively participates in teaching with membership rights,
c) the general readiness of the Faculty to accept the candidate as an assessor and examiner in doctorate procedures, particularly for the dissertations (co-) supervised by them.
d) Form of the planned inclusion of the candidate in teaching, usually to an extent of two hours per week per semester,
e) the readiness to invite the candidate to the public parts of Faculty Council meetings as a guest,
f) further agreements with the Faculty, if applicable.

The form remains with the Faculty, which informs the Vice-Rector for Research of its approval/rejection and, in the case of an approval, of the modalities.

(2) Application to the University’s Governing Board

The candidate applies for the award of the TUD Young Investigator status to TUD’s University Board via the Vice-Rector for Research (a form sheet is attached).

The University’s Governing Board decides on the candidate’s application, informs the respective Faculty of the decision and requests an agreement is made between the candidate and the Faculty that includes the modalities agreed under (1). There is no right to be awarded TUD Young Investigator status.

In the case that approval is given by the University’s Governing
Board and a signed agreement with the Faculty is available, the candidate will be given a signed certificate by the Rector. TUD Young Investigator status begins on the day the certificate is issued and ends when the conditions specified above are no longer met.

**Contact**

Angela Böhm  
Graduate Academy | Qualification Program  
angela.boehm@tu-dresden.de