

Sixth Call for Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes Evaluation Form

Name of the Evaluator:
Application Number:
(Abbreviated) Name of the proposed Institute:

Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes (LBI) are established via a tendering process starting with a call for proposals. The current sixth call of the Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft (LBG) focuses on the establishment of Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes which will conduct research in Health Sciences. These Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes are to be founded according to the principle of “people, not projects”. In the foreground are outstanding scientists (Institute Directors) who are able to introduce new areas of research and conduct research permanently of a high quality. Scientific excellence should be demonstrated not only by the Institute Director, but also by the research proposal presented by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute, through its combination of topic, personnel, ambition, and scientific approach.

The call has a two stage selection process consisting of a proposal and hearing stage. All submitted proposals are checked by the head office of the LBG for compliance with form-related criteria. Proposals that pass the formal review undergo a pre-selection by an international external expert jury. The expert jury makes the pre-selection on the basis of chapters 3 and 4 (Institute Director and team and Research Program Abstract) of the Proposal Form. Pre-selected proposals are reviewed by solely international experts in the respective scientific field. The reviewers are nominated by the expert jury in cooperation with LBG. Based on the assessment of the international reviewers, the expert jury recommends which applicants to invite to participate in the hearing. At the hearing the expert jury will discuss the research proposal and will give recommendations for its optimisation. Based on the hearing, the expert jury recommends which institutes to fund and the Board of Directors of the LBG will make the final decision.

LBI are established for a period of seven years. In the third year the LBG conducts a mid-term-evaluation, during which the LBI has to provide a detailed plan for the next three years. For the proposal, the applicants were asked to describe the research programme and the respective cost plan for the first four years in detail. We would appreciate your assessment of the presented four-year research programme, bearing in mind that it has to provide the basis for another three years of research.

We ask you to evaluate the attached proposal based on the questions set forth below. Please provide us with your written assessment including a clear recommendation if the applicants should be put forward to the next stage of assessment and be invited to take part in the hearing.

The identity of reviewers will of course not be disclosed to the applicants. We would also ask you to treat this application as confidential. Additional information about the concept of LBI and about this particular call is available in the guidelines for the application to establish a Ludwig Boltzmann Institute.

Please provide a score from 1 (poor) – 100 (world leading) for the categories “Profile of the Institute Director and research team”, “Research at the planned institute” and “Consortium”. Each of the categories has a distinct weighting in the final score, and details of the breakdown are shown below and the final score will be calculated based on this breakdown.

Categories	Weighting of score
Institute Director and team	50 %
Research at the planned institute	30 %
Consortium	20 %
Total	100 %

Assessment

[Numbering corresponds to that utilised within the Proposal Form]

3. Institute Director and team

3.1. Institute Director's personal profile and motivation / 3.2. Institute Director's track record / 3.3. Institute Director's statement on vision / 3.4. Institute Director's current lab census / CV Institute Director

- Please evaluate the scientific qualification of the Institute Director and their track record. Comment on the ability of the Institute Director to successfully execute the research plan.
- To what extent has the Institute Director demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking, innovative research?
- Comment on the Institute Director's motivations for establishing the new LBI and his/her statement on vision.
- To what extent has the Institute Director demonstrated or has the potential for sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists?
- To what extent does the CV of the Institute Director stand out from scientific community and shows excellence or innovation in their field?

Comments

3.5. Qualification of the research group leaders and adjunct PIs/ CVs of Research Group Leaders and Adjunct PI

- In case Research Group Leaders or Adjunct PIs have been identified at proposal stage, please evaluate their scientific qualification and motivation to contribute to the proposed institute.

Comments (optional)

3.6. Research Culture (Open Science, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and Training & Mentoring)

- Please evaluate whether the planned institute encourages open and inclusive lab cultures that actively share their scientific findings and provide effective mentorship and professional development to enable scientists from all backgrounds to thrive.

Comments

Score for Institute Director and team on a scale from 1(poor) -100 (world-leading):

5. Research at the planned Institute

5.1. State of Research, research questions and objectives / 5.2 Research Plan including methodology / 5.3 Relevance and Innovativeness/ 5.4. Work and Time plan

- Please evaluate the attractiveness of the proposed institute.
- How realistic is the implementation of the proposed objectives? Please compare the objectives of the institute to the current state of the art and evaluate the degree of innovation.
- Please evaluate the proposed research plan. According to your experience, to what extent does the research plan constitute a coherent, long-term oriented research agenda? If there is potential for improvement, please give advice to avoid that the programme lines form an accumulation of rather separated and weakly connected projects.
- Please evaluate whether the organisational structure supports the execution of the research programme.

Please focus on:

- Scientific quality and international competitiveness of the research plan
- Feasible research objectives (defined goals and the expected scientific output)
- Theoretical and methodological approach (state of the art, hypothesis, degree of innovation, timeframe, research lines, partners)
- Milestone plan
- Translational approach
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Integration into the international research community.

Comments

5.5. Implementation of the Open Innovation in Science/ Citizen Science/ Outreach aspects

- Please evaluate the planned institute's undertakings to implement the open innovation in science/ citizen science/outreach aspects

Comments:

Score for Research at the planned Institute on a scale from 1(poor) -100 (world-leading):

6. Consortium

6.1. Host Institution

- Please evaluate the contributions (expertise, know-how, resources and role) of the host institution considering their ability to carry out the research plan and to contribute to the development of the envisaged profile.
- How do you assess the motivation, the composition and the ability of the host institution to achieve the defined goals? To what extent will the consortium be able to implement a coherent and substantial research plan that may not be conducted by the host institution alone?

Comments

6.2. Partner Organisations / 6.3. Network partners

- Please evaluate the contributions (expertise, know-how, resources and roles) of the partners considering their ability to carry out the research plan and to contribute to the development of the envisaged profile.
- How do you assess the motivation, the composition and the ability of the consortium/the individual partner organisations/network partners to achieve the defined goals? To what extent will the consortium be able to implement a coherent and substantial programme that may not be conducted by the respective partners independently?

Comments

Score for Consortium on a scale from 1(poor) - 100 (world-leading):

Conclusion

Calculated total score for the proposal:

Based on the calculated total score, the Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft would select one of the three options below.

Recommendation for inviting to hearing					"Waiting list"					Rejection									
100	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5

In case the calculated total score would lead to **“recommendation for inviting to hearing”** or **“waiting list”** please express recommendations considering/summing up your comments above.

What should be changed in the application? What may improve the application?

What additional requirements and conditions should be included?

Are reductions of the costs possible? If so, where and to which extent?

Recommendation 1:

Recommendation 2:

Recommendation 3:

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Regarding proposals that would fall in the categories **“recommendation for inviting to hearing”** or **“waiting list”**, please summarise identified critical issues to be tackled either during the hearing or in the negotiation of the agreement between the institute director, the partner organisations and the Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft. This information is only provided to the Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft, and not to applicants.

Critical issue 1:

Critical issue 2:

Critical Issue 3:

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In case the calculated total score would lead to **“rejection”** please summarise the main weaknesses of the proposal.

Reason 1:

Reason 2:

Reason 3:

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