



# The German research landscape



AN INITIATIVE OF THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

Research in  
Germany  
  
Land of Ideas



# What to expect

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- A short introduction to Germany's research landscape
- Information sources for funding opportunities for PhDs, Postdocs and advanced researchers
- Useful links and contacts







# Facts | Structures | Financing Research in Germany



## Facts and figures



approx. 1,000 publicly funded research institutions



expenditure on R&D: €110bn = 3.2% of GDP



736,000 staff in R&D

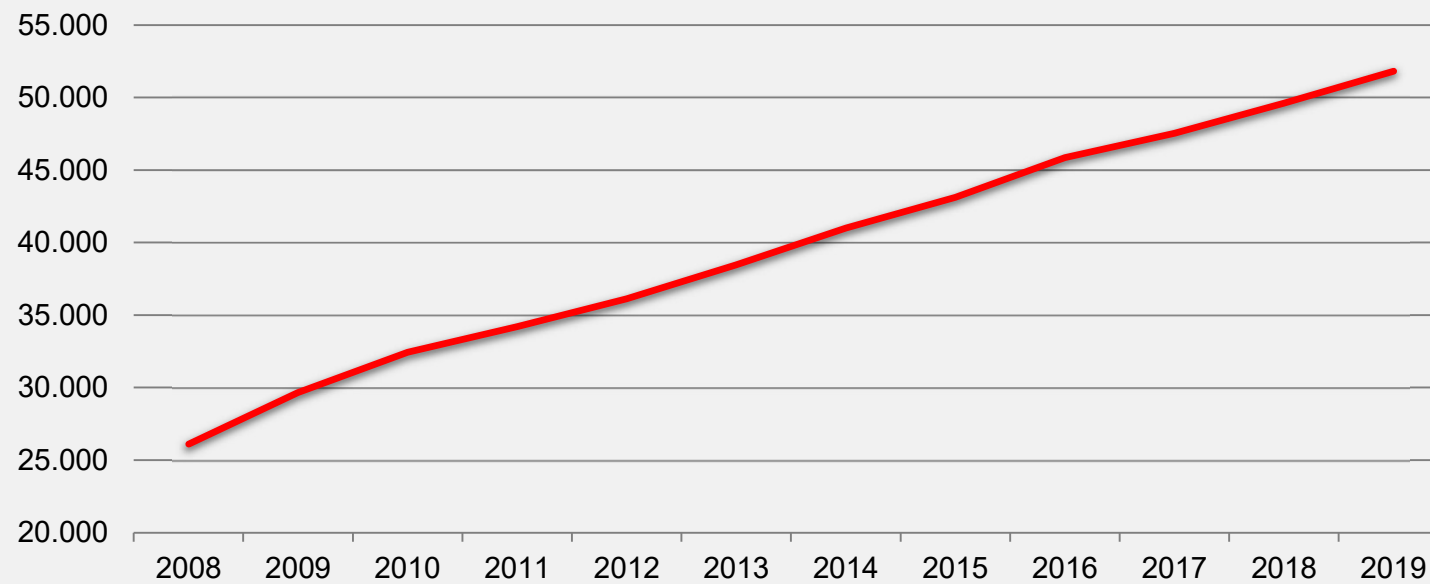


38,000 university collaborations with 163 countries





# Internationality of German universities



International academic staff at universities in Germany

Sources: Federal Statistical Office, *Wissenschaft weltoffen 2021*





# Pillars of the German research sector

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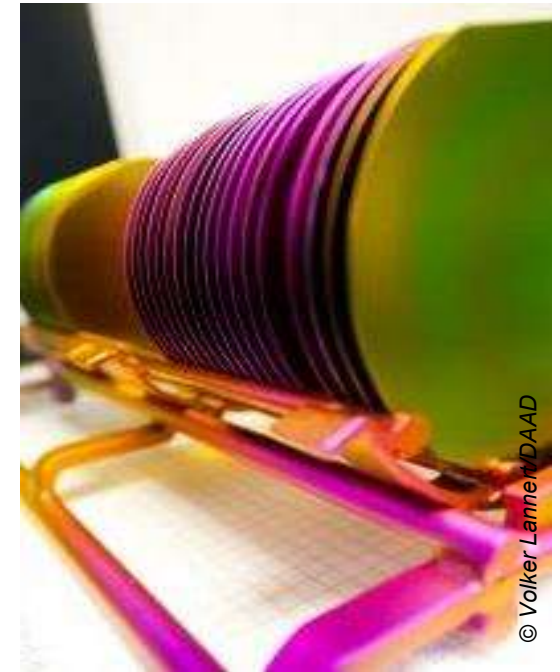
## Higher education institutions



## Non-university research institutes



## Companies and industrial research





**Diversity | Excellence | Investments**  
**Research institutions**





# Higher education institutions

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- 420 universities and other higher education institutions
- 156 entitled to confer doctorates
- more than 43,000 international doctoral students
- around 55,000 international academics
- Excellence Strategy: €533m per year for top-class research





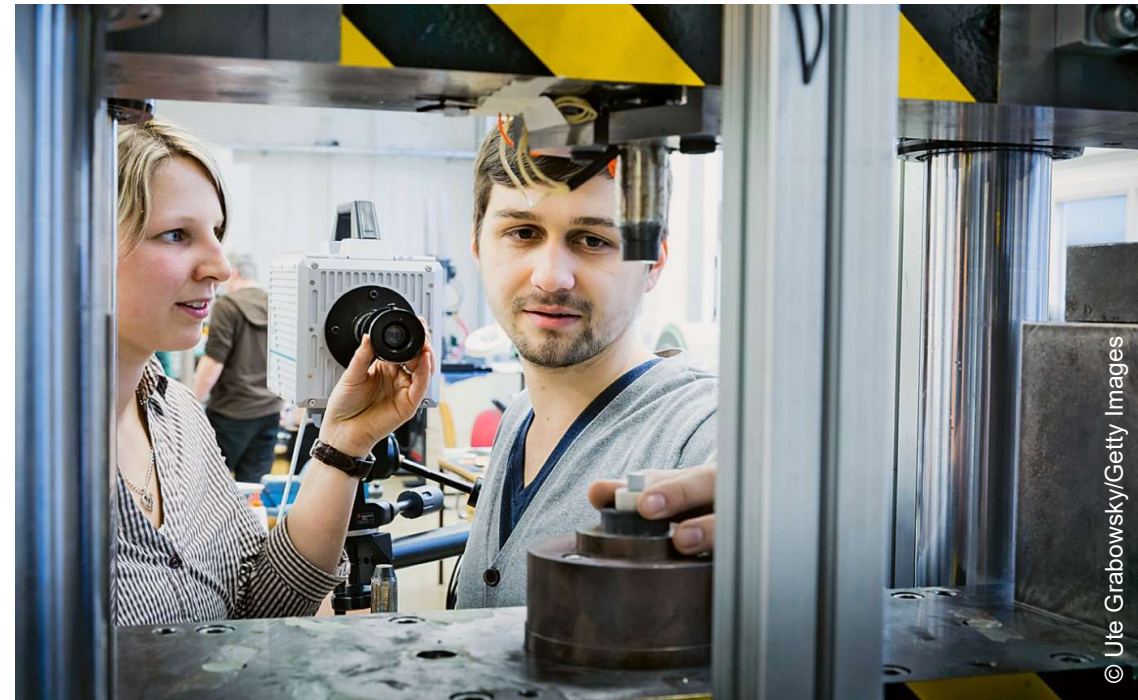


# Universities

International and strong in research

## 120 universities:

- entitled to confer doctorates
- unite research and teaching
- strong in research
- achieve top spots in numerous international rankings
- around 22,000 international collaborations





# Universities of applied sciences

Practical and regionally rooted

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## 203 universities of applied sciences (FH/UAS):

- combine practical science and application-oriented teaching
- entitled to confer doctorates in certain subjects/joint doctoral degrees
- regionally rooted
- practical qualifications
- cooperate with companies, associations, municipalities or social institutions at the local level







## The big four

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| Institution             | Institutes          | Budget | Staff in total |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|----------------|
| Helmholtz Association   | 18 research centres | €5.0bn | 43,000         |
| Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft | 75 institutes       | €2.8bn | 29,000         |
| Max-Planck-Gesellschaft | 86 institutes       | €2.6bn | 24,000         |
| Leibniz Association     | 97 institutes       | €2.0bn | 21,000         |



# Helmholtz Association

HELMHOLTZ



18 research centres



€5.0bn



16,000 researchers



11,600 international (guest) researchers





# Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft



75 institutes



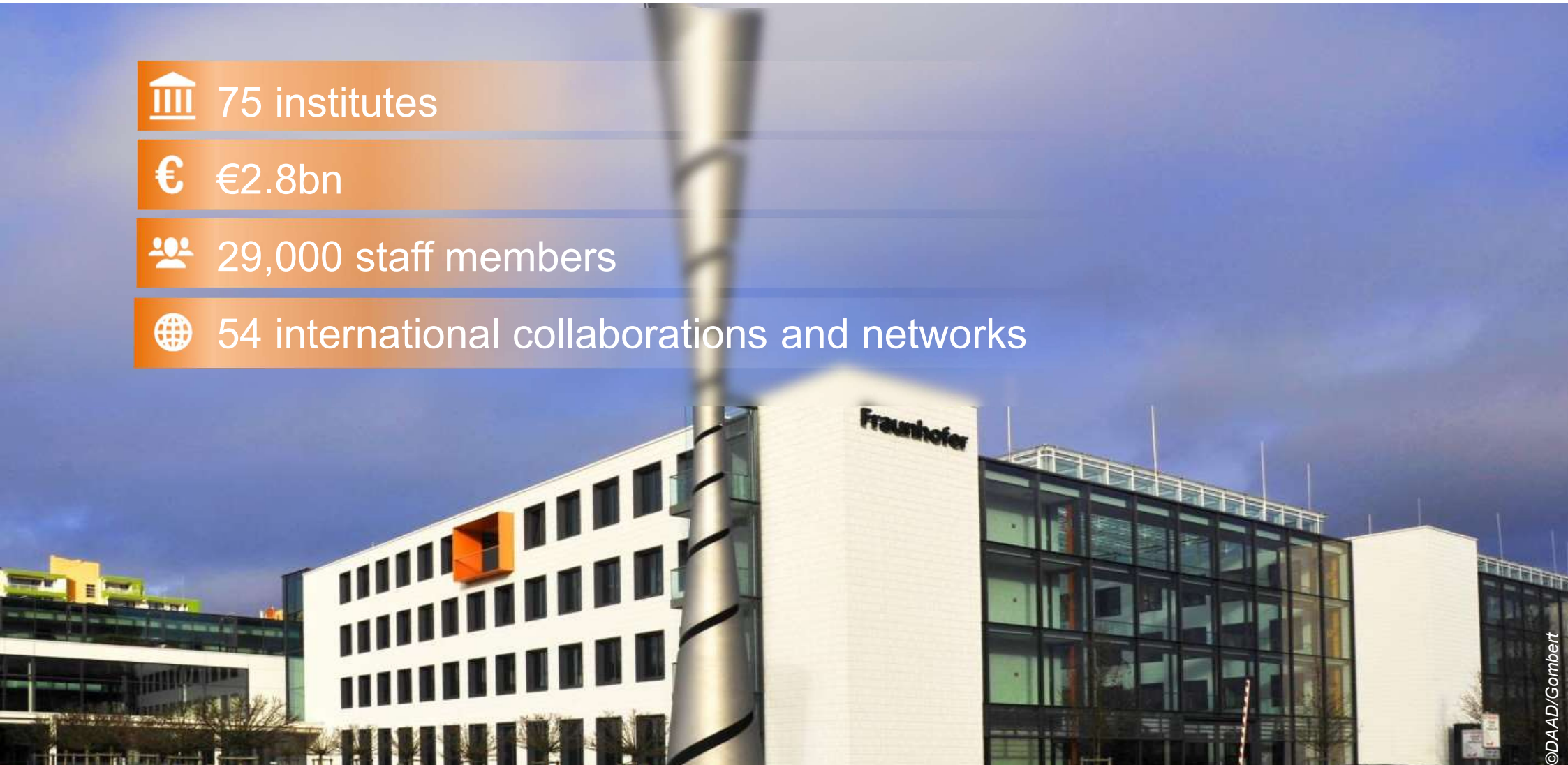
€2.8bn



29,000 staff members



54 international collaborations and networks





# Max-Planck-Gesellschaft



86 institutes



€2.6bn



15,240 researchers



54.6% international researchers





97 institutes



€2.0bn



11,700 researchers



26% international researchers



## Non-university research (II)

- 42 federal research institutions
- 143 state (Länder) research institutions
- 11 academies of sciences and humanities



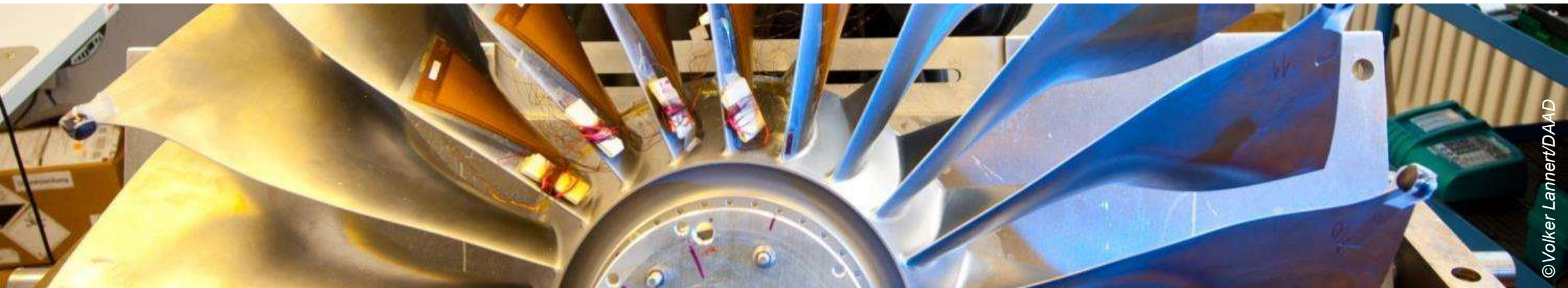




# Companies and industrial research

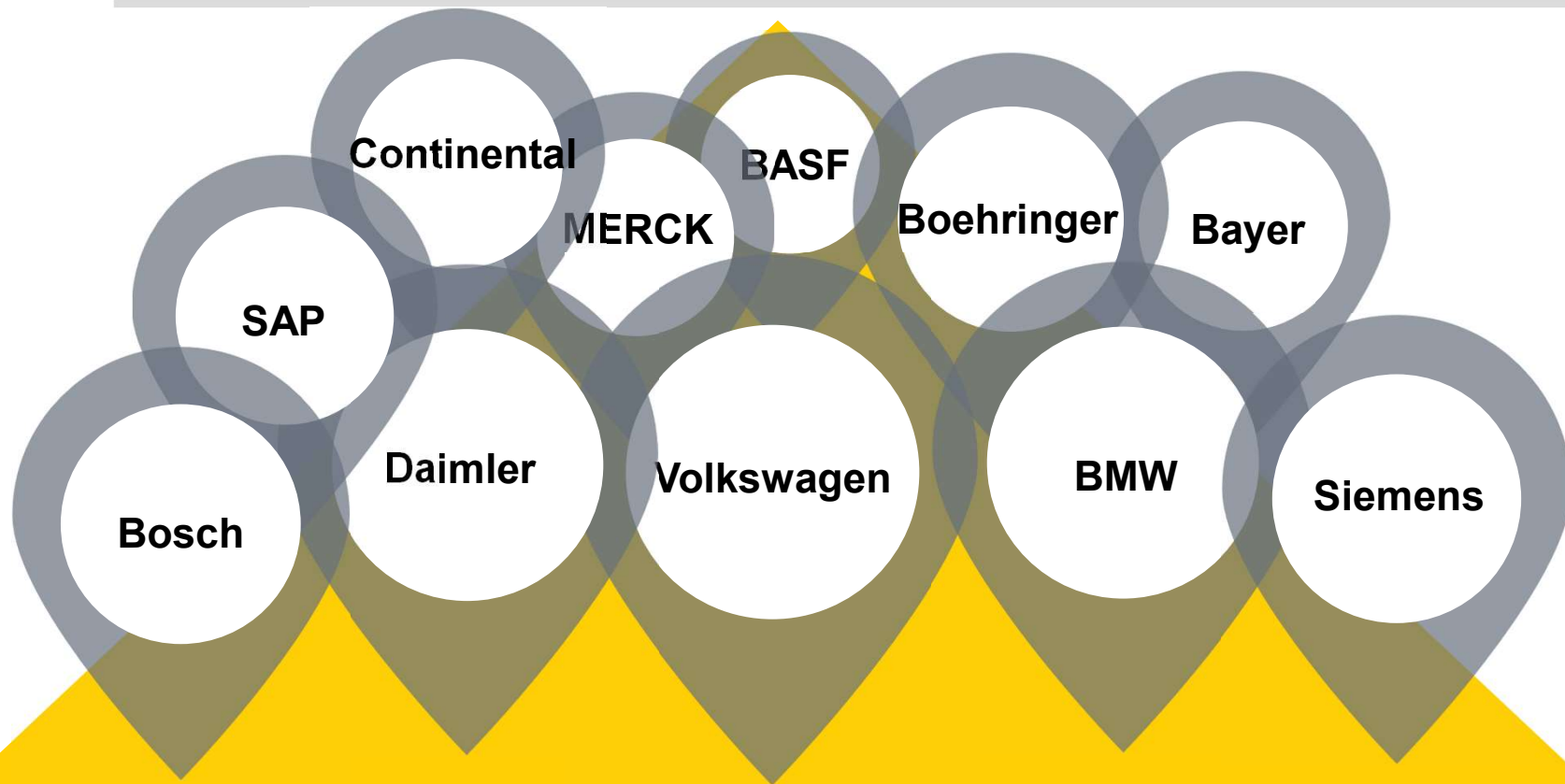
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- 69% of all R&D expenditure in Germany comes from business and industry
- innovation-driving sectors: automotive engineering, mechanical engineering, electronics, information and communication technologies, pharmaceuticals
- technology transfer – cluster formation, networks





# Innovation “made in Germany”



**11 German corporations among the top 20 European innovation drivers**

Source: EU R&D Scoreboard 2020





**Institutes | Graduate schools | Clusters**  
**Research locations**



# Subject-specific „Research in Germany“ brochures



PDF download:

<https://www.research-in-germany.org/downloads>



|                                                                                   |                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Research Training Groups                                                          | Helmholtz Graduate Schools                |
| Integrated Research Training Groups in Collaborative Research Centres/Transregios | Leibniz Graduate Schools                  |
| Clinical Research Units                                                           | International Max Planck Research Schools |
| Research Units                                                                    | Fraunhofer Institutes                     |
| Clusters of Excellence                                                            | Helmholtz Centres                         |
| Collaborative Research Centres/Transregios                                        | Leibniz Institutes                        |
|                                                                                   | Max Planck Institutes                     |

DFG-funded Priority Programmes and several Research Units are not shown on the map since they are not necessarily located at a single location; they are listed on pages 13 and 17. The map shows the headquarters of the non-university research institutions.






A man and a woman are working together in a laboratory. They are both looking through a horizontal metal bar, which is part of a larger piece of equipment. The man, on the left, is wearing a blue sweater and has a slight smile. The woman, on the right, is wearing a light pink sweater and has a neutral expression. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with various pieces of equipment and a green wall.

# **Cooperation | Talent | Internationalisation**

## **Tapping potentials**



# 🌸🌺🌻 Immigration Law



On 23 June 2023, the German Bundestag passed a new immigration law for skilled workers (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz). The new law will **come into effect beginning in November 2023**.



# Immigration Law

## What does that mean?

- Germany's new immigration law streamlines the visa application process, making it easier and faster for international researchers to obtain the necessary permits.
- The law provides longer stay options, allowing researchers to immerse themselves in their projects for an extended period.



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# Funding opportunities in Germany



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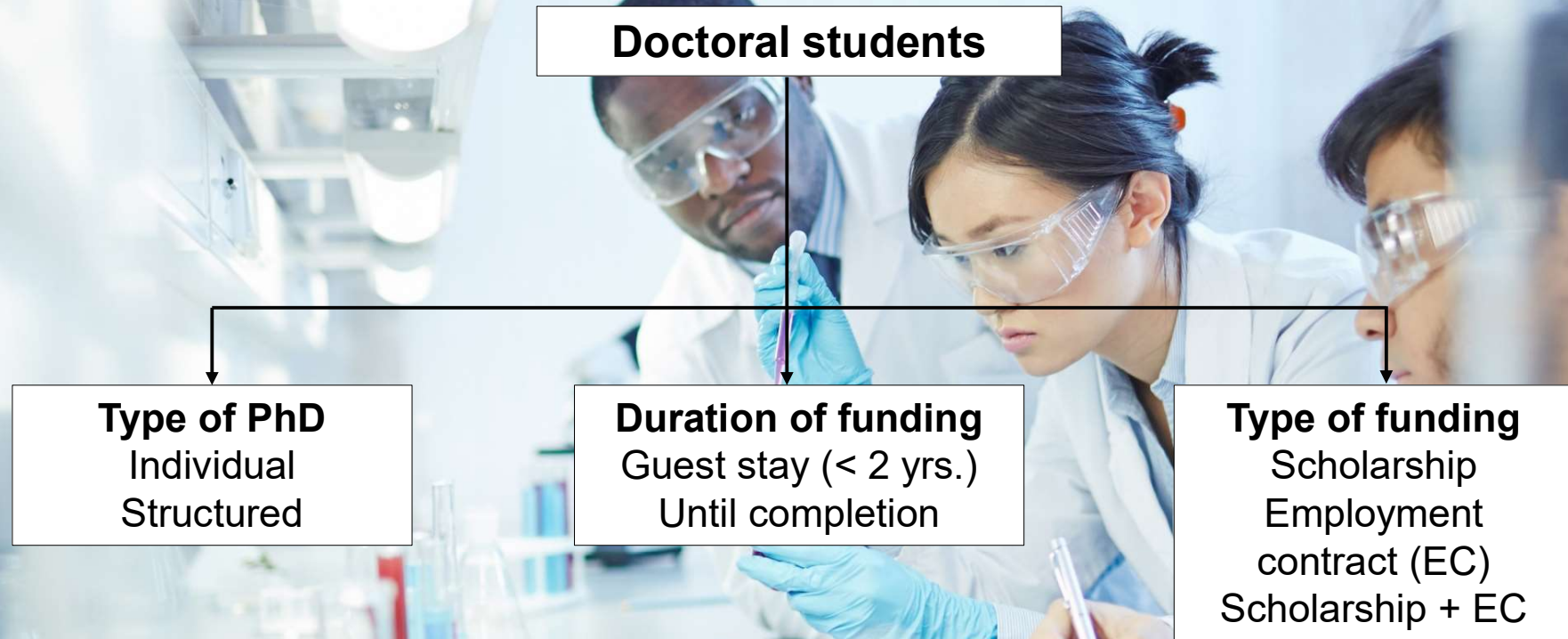




# Funding for PhD students



# Funding for international researchers







# Financing your PhD

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- no tuition fees, only administrative per-semester charges
- average living costs:  
approx. €867 (\$975) per month
- funding opportunities:
  - scholarship
  - paid PhD position
  - research associate contracts (part-time)
  - research job in a company
  - part-time job (as waiter/waitress or other casual work)



© Wenzel/DAAD





# Funding for PhD students

| FUNDING PROGRAMME                                            | DURATION                         |                       | TYPE OF FUNDING       |                   | TYPE OF DOCTORATE              |                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                              | Research stay<br>(up to 2 years) | Complete<br>doctorate | Grant/<br>scholarship | Work<br>contract* | Individual<br>doctoral project | Structured doc-<br>toral programme |
| Collaborative Research Centres (DFG)                         |                                  | ■                     |                       | ■                 | ■                              | ■                                  |
| DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships                                |                                  | ■                     | ■                     |                   | ■                              |                                    |
| Green Talents (BMBF)                                         | ■                                |                       | ■                     |                   |                                |                                    |
| Individual Doctoral Projects at Fraunhofer Institutes        |                                  | ■                     |                       | ■                 | ■                              |                                    |
| Individual Doctoral Projects at Leibniz Institutes           |                                  | ■                     |                       | ■                 | ■                              |                                    |
| Individual Doctoral Projects at Max Planck Institutes        |                                  | ■                     |                       | ■                 | ■                              |                                    |
| International Max Planck Research Schools                    |                                  | ■                     |                       | ■                 |                                | ■                                  |
| Internat. Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Institutes      | ■                                |                       | ■                     |                   |                                |                                    |
| Leibniz Graduate Schools and ScienceCampi                    |                                  | ■                     | ■                     | ■                 |                                | ■                                  |
| Max Planck Schools (Joint initiative)                        |                                  | ■                     | ■                     |                   |                                | ■                                  |
| MSC Doctoral Networks                                        | ■                                | ■                     |                       | ■                 |                                | ■                                  |
| PhD Fellowships (Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds)                 |                                  | ■                     | ■                     |                   | ■                              |                                    |
| Research Grants – Bi-nationally Superv. Doct. Degrees (DAAD) | ■                                |                       | ■                     |                   | ■                              |                                    |
| Research Grants – Doctoral Programmes (DAAD)                 |                                  | ■                     | ■                     |                   | ■                              | ■                                  |
| Research Grants – One-Year Grants (DAAD)                     | ■                                |                       | ■                     |                   | ■                              | ■                                  |
| Research Training Groups (DFG)                               |                                  | ■                     |                       | ■                 |                                | ■                                  |
| Travel Grants (Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds)                   | ■                                |                       | ■                     |                   | ■                              | ■                                  |

\*Provided by a university/non-university research institute

*Important note: Funding through the programmes listed here may be limited to certain countries of origin. Please always check individually whether you are eligible to apply.*

A photograph of two people at a desk. On the left, a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing red-rimmed glasses and a red turtleneck sweater, is looking towards the right and speaking. On the right, a man with dark skin, wearing a white shirt, is looking down at papers on the desk with his hand near his face. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

## **Funding for postdocs**



# Funding for international researchers

## Postdocs

### Positions

E.g. research associate,  
young research group  
leader, junior professor

### Duration of funding

Guest stay (< 1 yr.)  
Long-term (> 1 yr.)

### Type of funding

Scholarship  
Employment  
contract (EC)  
Project funding





# Funding for postdocs

| FUNDING PROGRAMME                                       | DURATION                     |                                 | TYPE OF FUNDING      |                   |           | CAREER LEVEL/FUNDED POSITION |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
|                                                         | Short-term<br>(up to 1 year) | Long-term<br>(more than 1 year) | Fellowship/<br>grant | Work<br>contract* | Funding** | Postdoctoral<br>researcher   | Junior research<br>group leader | Junior<br>professor |
| Bilateral Exchange of Academics (DAAD)                  | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Collaborative Research Centres (DFG)                    |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 |           | ■                            | ■                               | ■                   |
| DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships                           | ■                            | ■                               | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Emmy Noether Programme (DFG)                            |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              | ■                               |                     |
| ERC Consolidator Grants                                 |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              | ■                               |                     |
| ERC Starting Grants                                     |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              | ■                               |                     |
| ERC Synergy Grants                                      |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Fraunhofer Attract                                      |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              | ■                               |                     |
| Georg Forster Research Fellowship (Humboldt)            | ■                            | ■                               | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Green Talents (BMBF)                                    | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           |                              |                                 |                     |
| Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups                     |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              | ■                               |                     |
| Humboldt Research Fellowship                            | ■                            | ■                               | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Initiation of International Collaboration (DFG)         | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Internat. Climate Protection Fellowship (Humboldt)      |                              | ■                               | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Internat. Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Institutes | ■                            | ■                               | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Leibniz Junior Research Groups                          |                              | ■                               |                      |                   | ■         |                              | ■                               |                     |
| Lise Meitner Excellence Program (Max Planck)            |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              | ■                               |                     |
| Max Planck Grants for Advanced Postdoctoral Training    |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Max Planck Research Group Leader                        |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              | ■                               |                     |
| MSC European Postdoctoral Fellowships                   |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Philipp Schwartz Initiative (Humboldt)                  |                              | ■                               | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Research Grants (DFG)                                   |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Scientific Networks (DFG)                               |                              | ■                               |                      |                   | ■         | ■                            | ■                               | ■                   |
| Travel Grants (Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds)              | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                                 |                     |
| Walter Benjamin Programme (DFG)                         |                              | ■                               | ■                    |                   | ■         | ■                            |                                 |                     |

\*Provided by a university/non-university research institution

\*\*Generally includes the researcher's own salary and expenses for staff and consumables

*Important note: Funding through the programmes listed here may be limited to certain countries of origin. Please always check individually whether you are eligible to apply.*

A man with glasses and a dark shirt is looking down at a film reel he is holding. He is in a room with shelves of film reels and books. The text "Funding for established researchers" is overlaid on the image.

## Funding for established researchers





# Funding for international researchers

**Experienced  
researchers**

**Positions**

E.g. experienced postdocs,  
professors, research group  
leaders

**Duration of funding**

Guest stay (< 1 yr.)  
Long-term (> 1 yr.)

**Type of funding**

Scholarship/prize  
Employment  
contract (EC)  
Project funding





# Funding for established researchers

| FUNDING PROGRAMME                                          | DURATION                     |                                 | TYPE OF FUNDING      |                   |           | CAREER LEVEL/FUNDED POSITION |                          |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
|                                                            | Short-term<br>(up to 1 year) | Long-term<br>(more than 1 year) | Fellowship/<br>award | Work<br>contract* | Funding** | Experienced<br>researcher    | Research<br>group leader | Professor |
| Alexander von Humboldt Professorship                       |                              | ■                               |                      |                   | ■         |                              | ■                        |           |
| Bilateral Exchange of Academics (DAAD)                     | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships                              | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| ERC Advanced Grants                                        |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         | ■                            |                          |           |
| ERC Synergy Grants                                         |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         | ■                            |                          |           |
| Fraunhofer Attract                                         |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              | ■                        |           |
| Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award (Humboldt)                | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award (Humboldt)         | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| First-time professorial app. of excellent women scientists |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              |                          | ■         |
| Georg Forster Research Award (Humboldt)                    | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| Georg Forster Research Fellowship (Humboldt)               | ■                            | ■                               | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| Heisenberg Programme (DFG)                                 |                              | ■                               | ■                    | ■                 |           | ■                            |                          | ■         |
| Helmholtz Distinguished Professorship                      |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              |                          | ■         |
| Humboldt Research Award                                    | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| Humboldt Research Fellowship                               | ■                            | ■                               | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| Initiation of International Collaboration (DFG)            | ■                            |                                 | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| Internat. Visiting Researchers at Max Planck Institutes    | ■                            | ■                               | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| Internat. Visiting Scholars at Leibniz Institutes          | ■                            | ■                               | ■                    | ■                 |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| Leibniz Programme for Women Professors                     |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              |                          | ■         |
| Lichtenberg Endowed Professorships (VolkswagenStiftung)    |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         |                              |                          | ■         |
| Max Planck-Humboldt Research Award                         |                              | ■                               | ■                    |                   | ■         | ■                            |                          |           |
| Philipp Schwartz Initiative (Humboldt)                     |                              | ■                               | ■                    |                   |           | ■                            |                          |           |
| Research Grants (DFG)                                      |                              | ■                               |                      | ■                 | ■         | ■                            |                          |           |
| Scientific Networks (DFG)                                  |                              | ■                               |                      |                   | ■         | ■                            | ■                        | ■         |

\*Provided by a university / non-university research institution

\*\*Generally includes the researcher's own salary and expenses for staff and consumables

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# Need more information?

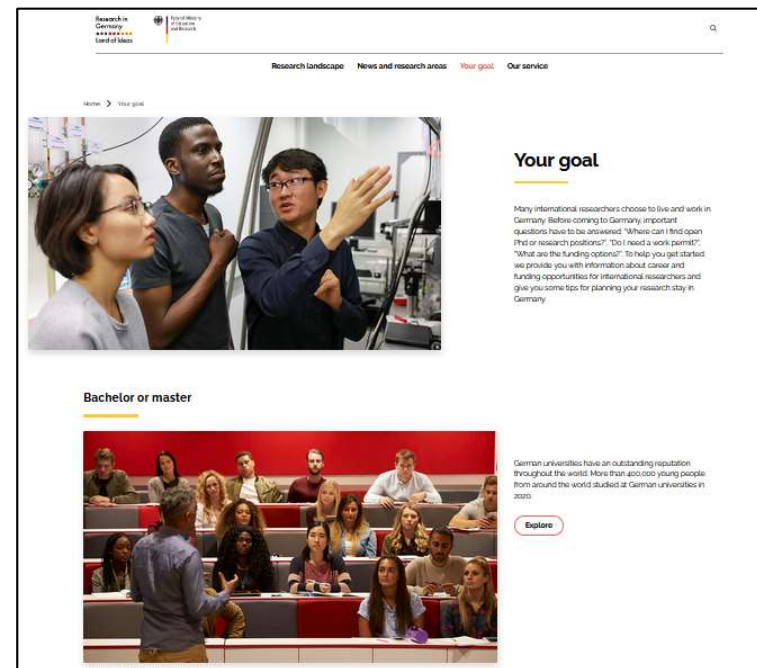
## Brochure “Funding your research in Germany”



PDF download:

<https://www.research-in-germany.org/downloads>

## [www.research-in-germany.org/ funding](https://www.research-in-germany.org/funding)





## Sources of information

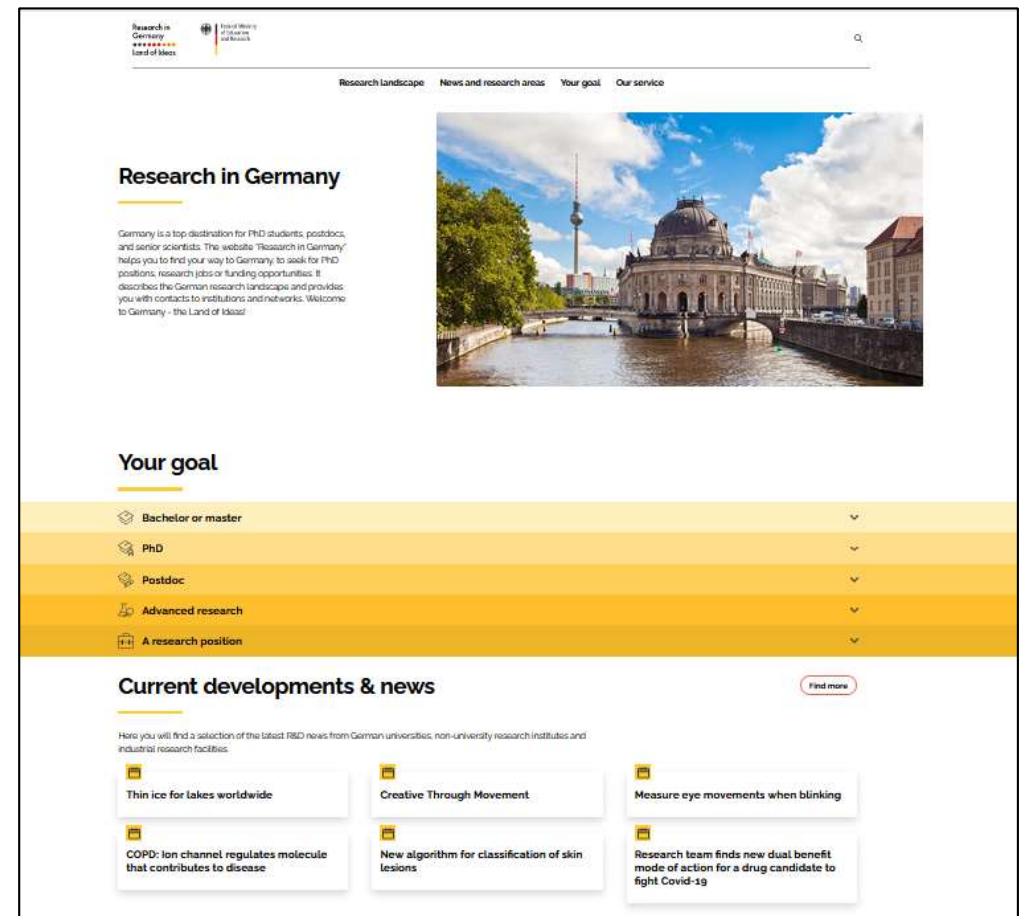




# Need more information?

## If you want to find research jobs, funding opportunities or guidance

- **We offer:**
- Facts and Figures on Germany's research landscape
- Specific information packages on PhD, Postdoc and Advanced research customised to your needs
- Useful information you need to plan your stay in Germany.
- Research News and Events





# Need more information?

## Brochures

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PDF download:

<https://www.research-in-germany.org/downloads>

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Land of Ideas



## Get in contact

Don't hesitate to contact us via

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- **Social media:** LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- **Website:** Contact form: <https://www.research-in-germany.org/en/Footer/contact-us.html>







# Useful links

## Finding a research position

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- PhDGermany  
**[www.phdgermany.de](http://www.phdgermany.de)**
- Research in Germany  
**[www.research-in-germany.org/career](http://www.research-in-germany.org/career)**
- EURAXESS  
**[www.euraxess.de](http://www.euraxess.de)**
- Academics  
**[www.academics.com](http://www.academics.com)**





# Websites and databases

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- [www.research-in-germany.org](http://www.research-in-germany.org)
- [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)
- [www.euraxess.de](http://www.euraxess.de)
- [www.gerit.org](http://www.gerit.org)
- [www.higher-education-compass.de](http://www.higher-education-compass.de)
- [www.dfg.de/excellence\\_strategy](http://www.dfg.de/excellence_strategy)



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# Thank you!

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## Any questions?

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