“Momentum – Support for first-time Professors” – FAQ

1. Who is eligible? .............................................................................................................. 1
2. As of when does the deadline count in the calculation of eligibility? ........................ 1
3. What else has to be considered when changing institutions? ......................................... 2
4. May the applicant’s position at the same university have already been funded elsewhere? ..................................................................................................................... 2
5. What periods of leave will be credited to the application deadline? ................................. 2
6. Are other functions / offices at the university counted towards the application deadline? ........................................................................................................................................ 2

Basic questions; Natural Sciences, Engineering and Life Sciences:
fließ@volkswagenstiftung.de

Humanities and the Social Sciences:
tepperwien@volkswagenstiftung.de

1. Who is eligible?

Applications are open to academics that research and teach at universities in Germany. Unfortunately, the Momentum initiative does not extend to universities of applied sciences and non-university institutions (even in a double-affiliation with a university).

2. As of when does the deadline count in the calculation of eligibility?

The date you took up your appointment as a tenured professor, not the date of the call. In particular, the following constellations are conceivable:

- You may also be eligible from the date your prior fixed-term professorship became a tenured position, provided this was done on the basis of an evaluation procedure.

- For holders of “professorships on probation”, the deadline will be calculated from the date of their appointment, as here no evaluation takes place. To be eligible for funding in the case of a positive decision, the fixed-term professorship must become a tenured position.
• If a change of institution took place within the 3-5 years after taking up the tenured professorship, the date of the first appointment counts, regardless of where this took place (even abroad).

• Holders of a Heisenberg professorship are also entitled to apply from the time of the positive evaluation of the professorship and the commitment to grant tenure. It should be noted here that in the case of a positive decision, the professorship must be tenured before the support can commence.

3. What else has to be considered when changing institutions?
If, before submitting an application, a change of institution takes place within the deadline period, the requested funds must be placed in relation to the appointment funds and their additionality explained separately. In addition, a supporting letter from the university management should be provided in such cases.

4. May the applicant’s position at the same university have already been funded elsewhere?
Yes, even if the university at which momentum funding is planned has already secured funding for the position of the applicant (e.g. Emmy Noether, ERC, temporary AR), you are naturally entitled to apply. It should be noted that this does not result in a reduction of the deadline. Also in this case, the three to five years after taking up the first tenured professorship count.

5. What periods of leave will be credited to the application deadline?
As is usually the case for measures of the Volkswagen Foundation, both the actual periods of parental leave taken by the applicant and longer absence due to illness or leave to care for relatives can be taken into account in the application deadline (3-5 years after taking up the first tenured professorship).

6. Are other functions / offices at the university counted towards the application deadline?
If the applicant has completed a term as vice-president or dean of a faculty at the university that entailed a high administrative burden, this period shall not be counted towards the application deadline of three to five years after taking up the first lifetime professorship.