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**HECTOR FELLOW ACADEMY – PRESS RELEASE**

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**Hector Research Career Development Award: New grant for young and aspiring scientists on their way to a full professorship**

*Karlsruhe:* **The Hector Fellow Academy announced a new grant for outstanding Early Career Researchers: the Hector Research Career Development Award (Hector RCD Award). With the Hector RCD Award, the Hector Fellow Academy intends to promote and support the scientific careers of researchers in STEM areas as well as medicine and psychology during an important moment in their careers. Eligible are W1 professors and research group leaders with a proven record of academic excellence. The application period runs from September 1st to October 30th 2020.**

The Hector Fellow Academy has set itself the goal to advance emerging ideas and innovative approaches in the sciences. The Academy not only connects creative and outstanding established researchers, but promotes junior researchers as well. Since 2013, the Academy supports research projects of doctoral candidates with an above average master's degree.

"Now we want to complete our activities towards advanced young researchers", says Dr.-Ing. Judith Elsner, Managing Director of the Hector Fellow Academy. "That is why we offer the Hector RCD Award with a focus on junior research group leaders and W1 professors who have already sharpened their scientific profile." The award is aimed especially at women in science, explains Elsner. "We stipulate that at least half of the awardees per year will be female."

To maximize the impact on the awardee's careers, the Hector Fellow Academy has endowed the Hector RCD Award generously: the three to five scientists yearly accepted into the program will receive a onetime financial support for their research amounting to € 25.000. Furthermore, the Academy covers the costs for a doctoral position and provides an additional € 9,500 yearly for material expenses. Additionally, the awardees will become members of the Hector Fellow Academy for the next five years, giving them the opportunity to apply for other funding formats in the scope of the Academy. "We think that the endowment of the award is very attractive for excellent scientists. In addition to the young and the established researchers, with the award, we really look forward to support those who have

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already made the first steps in their scientific career, but have not yet reached their destination”, says Judith Elsner.

The application requirements for the Hector RCD are as follows:

- W1 professor (with or without Tenure Track) or junior research group leader in the natural or engineering sciences, medicine or psychology
- Doctorate or PhD-equivalent with outstanding results & completion less than seven years ago
- Employment at a German university or research institution supporting the application
- Content-related or formal authorization to supervise doctoral researchers

**For more information about the award, please visit:**

<https://www.hector-fellow-academy.de/en/hector-rcd-award.html>

**About the Hector Fellow Academy**

In 2013, Hans-Werner Hector, one of the founders of the software company SAP, established the Hector Fellow Academy with the objective to strengthen Germany’s position as a worldwide renowned location for science and research, to initiate pioneering socio-political discourse and to contribute to the solution of global challenges. Members of the science academy are excellent researchers from the area of natural and engineering sciences, medicine and psychology, who are appointed every year through the Hector Science Award. The academy offers the Hector Fellows not only a platform to exchange with fellow scientists and to work on interdisciplinary research projects. It also set oneself to pass the knowledge and experience of the members to the next generation. To do so, the Hector Fellow Academy funds positions for prospective doctoral researchers with an outstanding master’s degree. In 2020, the Hector Fellow Academy established the Hector Research Career Development Award (Hector RCD Award).

**More information:** <https://www.hector-fellow-academy.de/en.html>