

About JQYA

The JQYA is an independent academy within Goethe University, which supports outstanding scientists embarking on their transition to scientific independence.

With the intention of inspiring researchers with established international reputations to join the academy, the JQYA provides a platform for intellectual exchange and critical discussion. It also offers researchers the freedom for academic research and diverse opportunities to shape and develop a unique scientific profile for themselves. Our academy program and the flexible and tailored support lines facilitate intellectual, interdisciplinary exchange and provide Fellows with the academic freedom to pursue highly successful academic careers.

The benefits include (I) insight into research approaches across disciplines, (II) greater awareness of the integration of individual research into a larger research context, and (III) improved understanding of specific research questions through interdisciplinary debates. Our Fellows gain access to a dynamic environment that addresses challenges concerning science and society within the context of the academy topic, and may inspire creative solutions with far-reaching scientific impact.

Academy Topic 26/27: Thresholds and Extremes

The JQYA's new topic *Thresholds and Extremes* explores the dynamics of internal differentiation, structural shifts, and reconfigurations in times of increasing complexity. As parts of a system drift apart, tensions rise, or existing orders evolve, the ambivalence of thresholds becomes evident: they may impose limitations or provide transition points for change; while extremes reveal the limits, potential vulnerabilities, and the resilience of the whole.

This topic facilitates interdisciplinary exchange on critical transitions, polarizations, and tipping points across ecological, social, technological, and epistemological contexts.

Central questions include:

- What happens when systems reach their limits—or move beyond them?
- How are thresholds marked, crossed, or transformed?
- What forms of knowledge emerge at the edges, in extreme zones, or in transition?

Thresholds and Extremes invites us to engage deeply with fundamental dynamics and challenges—from global fragmentation and aesthetic innovation to extremes in measurement; modeling and algorithmic decision-making to changing societal expectations and awareness. The topic encourages us to explore both fragility and resilience, as well as transitions, new beginnings, and the knowledge that emerges within dynamic and sometimes unstable systems.

Call for Fellows

We invite applications from advanced R2 and R3 Early Career Researchers from Goethe University, the RMU Alliance, and partner institutions, to join the JQYA and explore our new academy topic, *Thresholds and Extremes*, with us.

Through their participation in the academy program, our Fellows benefit from

- engaging in dynamic interdisciplinary debates,
- fostering scientific exchange with other postdocs,
- receiving dedicated support for their academic career, and
- accessing substantial funding for their research,

all while shaping the inner core of the academy for a period of 3 years.

Applications close on 31.10.2026.

The call for Associated Fellows is included in the annual call for Fellows, although applications are accepted throughout the year.

Support Lines

A. Scientific Development - open to all Fellows

- Advancement of professional qualification - through courses, workshops, and the annual Academy School.
- Use of the JQYA platform to organize or participate in conferences and workshops on subjects related to the current Academy Topic.

B. Fellowships

Early Career Researchers can apply as JQYA Fellows or as Associated Fellows. JQYA Fellows are additionally eligible for either a Sabbatical Fellowship or an Academy Fellowship.

JQYA funded activities must fall within the framework of the Academy's Topic. We do not allocate a fixed annual budget for each Fellow. Funds are distributed upon request.

Academy Fellowships - accessible to all JQYA Fellows

- Facilitation of international collaboration and research initiatives, e.g., research visits abroad
- Implementation of own research projects

JQYA Fellows receive up to €10,000 in total as earmarked funding for approved project applications.

Sabbatical Fellowships - available for JQYA Fellows of Goethe University only

- Release from teaching obligations for up to one semester
- Freedom for scientific research

The funds cover costs of teaching replacement up to €32,500 and are not passed on to the JQYA Fellows. Release from administrative or departmental management duties is not covered.

Associated Fellowships - accessible to Goethe University's researchers

- Facilitation of new (international) collaborative initiatives
- Implementation of own research activities within the framework of the Academy Topic

No additional funding will be awarded, although Associated Fellows are welcome to submit applications for joint research projects with JQYA Fellows and Members (Scientific Tandems).

Associated Fellows are also eligible for Goethe University's ECR Support, including funding for Infrastructure, Open Access, and International Liaison Fellowships. There is a special call for these applications twice a year, as part of [Goethe University's R3 Career Support](#) program.

Application as JQYA Fellow

Eligibility

For a JQYA Fellowship, the Academy accepts R3 researchers, i.e., independent group leaders and W1 / W1 TT assistant professors, as well as advanced R2 researchers from Goethe University Frankfurt, the Rhine-Main University Alliance (RMU), and partner institutions.

Application Process

Candidates must upload their application and all required documents in English via the online application form: https://uni-frankfurt-stipendien.aptecloud.valucon.de/datenabfrage/JQYA_26

The application should include:

- Motivation Letter
 - addressed to the JQYA Directors, on official letterhead and signed (maximum 2 pages)
 - showing your motivation for joining the JQYA
 - explaining how your chosen funding line (Academic Fellowship or Sabbatical Fellowship) will support your academic career, how you would use the JQYA funding and support, and outlining the project that will benefit from it
 - **if applying for a Sabbatical Fellowship**, please state your current teaching responsibilities and teaching load, and explain how you would use the teaching release time
- CV in accordance with the [DFG's new CV template](#) (maximum 4 pages)

Selection Process

The evaluation of the applications and selection of JQYA Fellows is conducted by the JQYA Distinguished Senior Scientists.

Up to 10 new JQYA Fellows are nominated each year based on the:

- Achievements and impact of the candidate's scientific research,
- Clearly defined compatibility/link with the Academy's Topic,
- Candidate's strong personal motivation to participate in the Academy Program.

Important Dates

- Application deadline: October 31, 2026
- Notification of applicants: February 2027
- Virtual JQYA Kick-off Meeting with all new Fellows and Members: April 19, 2027
- JQYA Academy Day, including the Award Ceremony: May 14, 2027

Application as Associated Fellow

Eligibility

Those eligible to apply for an Associated Fellowship are Early Career Researchers in the advanced R2 and R3 phase, i.e., advanced Postdocs, independent group leaders, and W1 / W1 TT assistant professors of Goethe University.

Application Process

Candidates are required to send their application including all documents, in English as a single PDF file to the JQYA office.

The application should include:

- Cover letter
 - addressed to the JQYA Directors, on official letterhead and signed (maximum 2 pages)
 - expressing your motivation for joining the JQYA as Associated Fellow
- CV in accordance with the [DFG's new CV template](#) (maximum 4 pages)

Selection Process

The evaluation of the applications and selection of Associated Fellows is carried out by the JQYA directors, based on formal criteria as well as the candidate's personal motivation to participate in the Academy Program.