



# Wissen bewegen!

Elfriede Höhn Fellowships 2022-2024

## I Objective

The program "Wissen bewegen!" is organized and supervised by the Department of Educational Innovation of the Center for Teacher Education and Educational Innovation (ZLBI) at the University of Mannheim. The program supports employees of the University of Mannheim who, individually or as a team, want to explore and pursue new and creative paths at their university. In keeping with the program's title, the aim is to set knowledge in motion between different groups, disciplines, and areas - both within and outside the university. In this way, new knowledge communities are to be created. This can be implemented in interdisciplinary, intersectoral, international or other open project formats.

The program will award 2-4 two-year fellowships. The goal of the program is to enable the fellows to plan, test, and further develop evidence-based, courageous, open-ended, and potentially risky projects. The fellows are individually supported on their way and contribute with their engagement to the initiation and establishment of innovative formats at the University of Mannheim and beyond.

Each round of the call for proposals is under the patronage of a historical person of the University of Mannheim. Pioneers from the past are thus made visible and honored. The first Fellowships 2022-2024 are under the historical patronage of Prof. Dr. Elfriede Höhn (1916-2003). Elfriede Höhn was an elementary school teacher, engaged in sociopolitical activities, and a professor of educational science and educational psychology at the University of Mannheim from 1966 to 1982. She was also a passionate empirical researcher, enthusiastic teacher, (university) political activist, founder of senior studies, and much more. A rationale for her selection as well as a brief account of her career can be found in the appendix to this document.

## II Promotion offer

The program "Wissen bewegen!" is aimed at all employees from the various institutions and departments of the University of Mannheim. The program is thematically open. The fellowships are characterized by the fact that the fellows are supported both financially and ideally. The financial support can be used, for example, to finance student assistants and/or for material and travel expenses. The non-material support includes a brought program with impulses for self-directed further development and accompanying research of the own project or for publication of resulting materials and their communication to an interested public. Fellows are encouraged to draw on and benefit from existing structures within and outside the university. In addition, personal networking among the fellows is encouraged.

A total funding volume of 40,000€ is available per call. Depending on the number and quality of applications, the number of fellowships (max. four) and the amount of funding (min. 10.000€) will be decided.

In addition to individual applications, it is also possible to apply as a project team. To network interested employees, please refer to the networking pinboard, where both applications and bids as

well as project ideas can be shared, and team partners can be found:

[https://padlet.com/AnneSophie\\_Waag/k5goe7ouc7e2fr0a](https://padlet.com/AnneSophie_Waag/k5goe7ouc7e2fr0a)

### III General conditions

Applications for a fellowship are open to those who identify with the program's objectives and whose project proposal is in line with the program's orientation.

The following formal requirements are also placed on applicants\*:

- Deadline: Friday, January 7, 2022
- Connection to the University of Mannheim (enrolled\* doctoral student, academic or administrative employee, etc.)
- Active participation in the supporting program events
- Willingness to play an active role in the supporting program (e.g. with own expertise, further ideas, own networks)
- Willingness to publish the concepts, materials, and tools created during the fellowship as open educational resources (OER).
- Willingness to make one's own project visible to an interested audience (in the sense of science communication)
- Willingness to scientifically examine your own project, evaluate it and/or have it evaluated

Since each project is individually designed and poses certain challenges, the funding offer is largely designed to be flexible. Each applicant is encouraged to adapt the funding to be requested to the particularities and requirements of his or her own project. The chosen funding within this framework must be justified in the application.

The projects can be realized within the time frame of four semesters. This includes planning and preparation time as well as follow-up. It is possible, for example, to use the first semester of funding for planning and preparing the project and only start implementation in the following semester. It is also possible to spend the last semester of funding on preparing the materials as OER and/or creating a publication using the evaluation data.

### IV Application and selection procedure

1. Take advantage of our consulting offer and make an appointment with Anne-Sophie Waag ([waag@zlbi.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:waag@zlbi.uni-mannheim.de)) if you are interested in submitting an application.
2. Use the [application form](#) provided for this purpose to submit your project outline
3. Submit your application by email to [waag@zlbi.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:waag@zlbi.uni-mannheim.de) by 07.01.2022 inclusive.
4. Your application will then be peer-reviewed
5. The feedback on the decisions will be made by February 2022
6. The kick-off event will take place in March 2022

### Criteria in the appraisal

- Quality: relevance, timeliness, conclusiveness
- Originality: potential for new approaches and methods in higher education
- Transferability: Possibilities of transfer to other disciplines and fields.
- Funding scope: heterogeneous composition of projects and project implementers

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## Contact and advice

If you need advice or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Anne-Sophie Waag

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Department of Educational Innovation

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# Appendix

## Elfriede Höhn as the first sponsor of "Moving Knowledge! "

Elfriede Höhn was chosen as the first patron of the Wissen bewegen Fellowship because she embodies the spirit of this program well: she was courageous (among other things, she campaigned for the preservation of the study of psychology and thus stood up to renowned scientists of the time), she experienced setbacks (among other things She combined different professions (e.g. she was an elementary school teacher and later a professor) and was also active in other fields outside of academia (e.g. she founded the senior studies program at the University of Mannheim). She should serve as a role model here and remind us that we can also gain inspiration for new things in retrospect.

## Career of Elfriede Höhn

Elfriede Höhn first studied teaching and worked for several years as an elementary school teacher. In 1941, she began studying psychology in Tübingen. Only five years later, she passed her state exams in English and history and her doctorate in psychology. She then worked as a lecturer at the University of Tübingen. During this time, she was very committed to preserving the study of psychology and was also "thanks to her communicative skills and hands-on manner [...] the focal point of the institute, especially for the students" (Hofer, 2003, p. 131).

Her first habilitation attempt failed; also because she was in conflict with one of her reviewers going back several years (Hofer, 2003). This setback, however, did not stop Elfriede Höhn and she wrote another habilitation thesis, after the defense of which she was immediately appointed to the University of Mannheim. Here she worked as a professor of educational science and educational psychology until her retirement in 1982.

After her retirement, Elfriede Höhn was instrumental in the introduction of the Senior\*innenstudium. In 1986, she was awarded the Medal of Merit of the State of Baden-Württemberg.

An interview conducted on the occasion of her 80th birthday (Klein-Allermann, 1995) clarifies Elfriede Höhn's view of higher education, research and teaching. She states that any preoccupation with the history of one's own subject quickly teaches one "how many problems and solutions to problems there were before" (p. 3). It is not very "rational to pretend that one has to create the world anew, when there is already experience, for example, with regard to earlier solutions or also failures, which I can take note of" (p. 3).

Elfriede Höhn was also convinced that academics have a duty of care and should therefore also address problems that are "burning under the nails of practitioners" (p. 4). Furthermore, she recommends that lecturers regularly experience academic teaching through the eyes of prospective students. This way, she said, they can understand firsthand where barriers to understanding and motivational difficulties lie if they have no prior knowledge. She also thought little of the practice of criticizing alone. It is important to praise students and their achievements from time to time and to emphasize positive aspects. This motivates immensely (Klein-Allermann, 1995).

Elfriede Höhn passed away in Mannheim at the age of 87. In 2006, the Elfriede Höhn Lecture Hall in Mannheim's Baroque Palace was inaugurated by the University of Mannheim in her honor (<https://dorsch.hogrefe.com/stichwort/hoehn-elfriede>).

## Literature

- Dorsch - Encyclopedia of Psychology (2021). Elfriede Höhn. Retrieved Sept. 15, 2021, from <https://dorsch.hogrefe.com/stichwort/hoehn-elfriede>
- Hofer, M. (2003). Obituary of Elfriede Höhn. *Psychologische Rundschau*, 54(2), 131-132.
- Klein-Allermann, E. (1995). Traditions, themes, and trends. Educational psychology research from the perspective of a contemporary witness. *Empirical Pedagogy*, 9, 361-374.