Selection Process

PhD students and postdocs who recently finished their PhD thesis in the research fields of smart polymers, additive manufacturing & engineering or biobased polymers are encouraged to apply for participation in the Leibniz Young Polymer Scientist Forum. A committee consisting of DWI Scientific Board members and experts from Evonik Industries will select and invite 20 candidates. At the end of May, all applicants will be informed about the outcome of the selection process and we will provide further information about the Forum.

Venue

DWI – Leibniz-Institut für Interaktive Materialien e.V.
Forckenbeckstraße 50, 52074 Aachen, Germany
www.dwi.rwth-aachen.de

Application Info

You can apply via www.dwi.rwth-aachen.de/polymerforum, providing the following information:

1) A short letter of motivation: Why are you the perfect candidate for the Leibniz Young Polymer Scientist Forum? (max. 1500 characters incl. spaces).

2) A short CV

3) An abstract describing your research interests, including information about your current PhD thesis or postdoc project (max. 2000 characters incl. spaces).

4) Three ‘keywords’ describing you and your research interests (Example: Antifouling applications; release systems; fan of statistics).

5) Please indicate two of the three main topics you would like to work on during the Forum. This information will help us to form the teams.

5) Your estimated travel costs.

Deadline for application: April 30, 2018

Costs & Financial support

The Leibniz Young Polymer Scientist Forum is free of charge for accepted participants. The organizers will also take care of accommodation and catering for the participants. Travel expenses for participants from Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium will be fully covered (Deutsche Bahn, 2nd class) and we will partially reimburse travel costs for participants from other European countries.

Contact

DWI – Leibniz-Institut für Interaktive Materialien e.V.
Dr. Janine Hillmer
phone: +49 241 80-233-36
polymerforum@dwi.rwth-aachen.de

We cordially invite PhD students working in one of the following fields to apply for this interactive discussion forum:

Smart Polymers
Additive Manufacturing & Engineering
Biobased Polymers
**Invitation**

You are a young polymer chemist, a chemical engineer or a biologist? You are crazy about your research, but you would also like to know more about industrial innovation processes? You are a team player and you truly believe that one can achieve way more by working together? You are both creative and open to your team-mates' new ideas? You would like to tackle big challenges in the fields of smart polymers, additive manufacturing & engineering and bio-based polymers?

The two-day *Leibniz Young Polymer Scientist Forum* provides a forum to sharpen current scientific questions, to identify new challenges and to team up in order to tackle these challenges. Of all applicants we will select 20 participants to form interdisciplinary teams. During the Forum, each team will be introduced to a specific research challenge in one of the three main topics. Short introductory talks will help you to get a better understanding of the research questions to be approached. Poster flash-talks, given by the participants, will help you to get acquainted with your fellow team-mates and to explore their research skills. Ample time will then be given to the teams to work on a particular challenge and identify a strategy, which will be presented on day 2 of the Forum. Exchange with experienced scientists as well as experts from industry will stimulate this process. In addition, participants will get the chance to gain insight in the application potential of scientific achievements and learn how to identify requirements for the implementation of an innovation process.

We cordially invite creative, dedicated PhD students and postdocs with a background in polymer sciences, biology or engineering to apply for this two-day event, taking place in Aachen/Germany on June 28-29, 2018.

We are looking foward to two days full of lively discussions!

Martin Möller  
for the Scientific Board of the  
DWI - Leibniz-Institut

Patrick Glöckner  
Evonik Industries

**Main Topics**

**I) Smart Polymers**
We are interested in ideas and concepts for polymers with additional functionality such as
- Thermally conductive, electrically insulating polymers
- Polymers for electrically driven actuators, or
- Polymers for non-biocidal antifouling surfaces and coatings
- Acrylamide-free superabsorbent polymethacrylates (SAP’S) that change properties when exposed to liquid

**II) Additive Manufacturing & Engineering**
We are looking for concepts like
- Solving the issue of interlayer adhesion at FDM/FFF printing
- Improved adhesion on PEEK resp. how to compatibilize PEEK

**III) Biobased Polymers**
New concepts for „natural protection of sensitive ingredients through functionalized polypeptides, oligo- or polysaccharides"
- Protection against water, oxygen, smell, taste
- Protection to enable controlled release e.g. in the gut

**Award**
A committee consisting of members of the DWI Scientific Board and experts from Evonik Industries will select the team with the best presentation. They receive the *Evonik Young Scientist Award*. The winning team will be invited for an ‘Evonik Day’, including a guided tour of the production facilities and discussion with young professionals and Evonik recruiters.

**Scientific Program**

**June 28, 2018**
11:00 Opening and Welcome
11:15 Dr. Patrick Glöckner, Evonik Industries  
Creating Value by Innovation
12:00 Lunch Break
13:00 Participants join their team and are being introduced to the challenges to be tackled during the Forum, Evonik short talks, Poster flash-talks given by the participants, Team work
19:00 BBQ and grand poster session

**June 29, 2018**
11:00 Team presentations
12:30 Lunch
13:30 Workshop ‘Presenting Science’
14:30 Award for the best team presentation
15:00 Evonik as an employer – How does the recruiting process work?
16:00 Departure

The organizers reserve the right to change the scientific program.