



Junior Group Leader for Photonics

To foster excellence and diversity in optics and photonics the Abbe Center of Photonics (www.acp.uni-jena.de) of the University Jena seeks to fill the position of a Junior Research Group Leader (f/d/m) for Photonics commencing as early as possible. The appointee is expected to establish an independent research group in a modern field of optics. While this is an open topic call, connections between the new junior research group and the already existing groups in the laboratory for Nano & Quantum Optics are explicitly desired. The new junior research group will be associated to the Faculty of Physics and Astronomy of the University Jena and will be part of the Institute of Applied Physics.

This call is focusing on strengthening diversity in science. We are strongly committed to an increase in the number of women in leading positions in science, and therefore women are especially encouraged to apply.

Your responsibilities

- Establish an independent research area in photonics connected to the laboratory of Nano & Quantum Optics.
- Teaching in the education programs of the Abbe School of Photonics (www.asp.uni-jena.de) and the Faculty of Physics and Astronomy (MSc Photonics, MSc Quantum Science and Technology, MSc Photon Science and Technology, MSc Physics, BSc Physics) with a scope of 4 contact hours per week.
- Work on your own scientific qualification project.

Your profile

- You should already have proven your potential for excellent science by an outstanding quality of your Doctorate/PhD research in photonic science or related fields. A successful postdoc period is highly appreciated.
- You should demonstrate the ability to supervise students and the leadership potential to run a research team.
- Knowledge of German is an advantage, but due to the international character of the research environment not strictly necessary.

We offer

- You will be supported to establish your independent research program by access to the existing research infrastructure and personnel of the Abbe Center of Photonics, by access to internal funding calls, as well as by strong support to apply for additional external funding for your research.
- The Abbe Center of Photonics offers an outstanding interdisciplinary network of potential cooperation partners, combining university and non-university research as well as science and business.
- You will be actively supported in your endeavor to strengthen diversity in photonics by a consortium of international partners, including ANU-Australian National University, TUD-Technical University Delft, BPHOT-Vrije Universiteit Brussel, LENS-European Laboratory for Non-linear Spectroscopy, and ICFO-The Institute of Photonic Sciences.
- Remuneration is based on the provisions of the Collective Agreement for the Public Sector of the Federal States (TV-L E13), including a special annual payment in accordance with the collective agreement.

The position is offered as full-time (40 hours per week) and fixed-term position for a maximum of 5 years. In principle, the position is also suitable for part-time employment. The extent to which a part-time request can be granted, will be assessed on the basis of the needs of the service.

Candidates with severe disabilities will be given preference in the case of equal qualifications and suitability.

If you are interested in this Junior Group Leader position, you should apply to the official job advertisement, which will appear in the job portal of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena early 2026, where also the official application deadline will be posted. The evaluation process is planned for early spring 2026 such that the position can be started from summer 2026.

If you want to apply, please be aware that this is a pre-announcement of the official job advertisement, which will be published by the University Jena early 2026. Thus, watch out for updates on the official job advertisement at:

www.asp.uni-jena.de/open-positions

For further information on the position please contact Thomas Pertsch (thomas.pertsch@uni-jena.de).