

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize

The Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize is the highest honour awarded in German research. The Leibniz Programme, established in 1985, aims to improve the working conditions of outstanding scientists and academics, expand their research opportunities, relieve them of administrative tasks, and help them employ particularly qualified young researchers. Up to ten prizes are awarded annually with a maximum of €2.5 million per award. The prize is awarded from a slate of nominations put forward by third parties. The prizewinner is selected by the Joint Committee on the basis of a recommendation from the Nominations Committee for the Leibniz Programme.

The Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize has been awarded by the DFG every year since 1986 for outstanding achievements in research. Since the programme started, 280 Leibniz Prizes have been awarded, including those announced today. Of these prizes, 97 were awarded in the natural sciences, 79 in the life sciences, 61 in the humanities and social sciences and 43 in the engineering sciences. Due to the fact that the Leibniz Prize and the prize money can be shared, the number of prizewinners is higher than the number of prizes: A total of 303 nominees have received the prize to date, including 273 male and 30 female researchers.

Six Leibniz prizewinners have gone on to receive the Nobel Prize: 1988 Professor Hartmut Michel (chemistry), 1991 Professors Erwin Neher and Bert Sakmann (medicine), 1995 Professor Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard (medicine), 2005 Professor Theodor W. Hänsch (physics) and 2007 Professor Gerhard Ertl (chemistry).

The prize brings its winner worldwide recognition, a substantial award of up to 2.5 million euros and above all the freedom to use this money over the following seven years to pursue their own scientific agenda, without any bureaucratic overhead - truly idyllic freedom.

The 2010 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize has been awarded to:

- Prof. Dr. Jan Born, Neuroendocrinology/Sleep Research, University of Lübeck
- Prof. Dr. Peter Fratzl, Biomaterials, Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces, Potsdam
- Prof. Dr. Roman Inderst, Economics, University of Frankfurt am Main
- Prof. Dr. Christoph Klein, Paediatrics/Paediatric Oncology, Hannover Medical School
- Prof. Dr. Ulman Lindenberger, Developmental Psychology, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Frank Neese, Theoretical Chemistry, University of Bonn
- Prof. Dr. Jürgen Osterhammel, Modern and Contemporary History, University of Konstanz
- Prof. Dr. Petra Schwille, Biophysics, Dresden University of Technology
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Treue, Primate Cognitive Neuroscience, German Primate Centre, Göttingen
- Prof. Dr. Joachim Weickert, Image Processing/Computer Science, Saarland University

Professor Dr. Jürgen Rödel, Department of Materials and Earth Sciences, Technical University of Darmstadt, was one of the recipients of this award in 2009.