

Concept for Equal Opportunities

Ensuring a gender fair and family friendly environment with equal opportunities for all employees and adequate working conditions for young families is one of the key concerns of SAFE. From its start SAFE developed a number of affirmative measures to promote equal opportunities and to support families. The mission of SAFE is to create awareness for equal opportunities, empower individuals to combine family and career, counter gender stereotypes and accommodate where possible to individual life plans.

To date, there is a clear underrepresentation of women in research, especially in leading senior positions. SAFE is striving to counteract by continuously increasing the share of women among its research staff. The guiding principle of selecting the most qualified candidate for a position remains unaffected by this.

1. Measures to Achieve Equal Opportunities

a) Cascade Model

SAFE follows the common goal of the “Equality Standards” of the Leibniz Association and the "Research-Oriented Standards on Gender Equality" of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft to significantly increase the proportion of women at all academic career levels (full professors, junior/assistant professors, postdoctoral and doctoral researchers) by implementing a “cascade” model which sets targets for the proportion of women at each career level based on the proportion of women at the next more junior level.

If the share of women at a specific academic career level is below that at the next lower academic level, then SAFE targets to balance out the difference by increasing the proportion of women for the higher career level. The annual targets for each level, which will be laid down in the Program Budget, result from the addition of two figures: 1) the share of women among the research personnel on the respective level that is not going to fluctuate in the relevant period, plus 2) the target share of women among the fluctuating part of the research personnel on the respective level; the latter has to correspond to the proportion of women on the next more junior level. On the most junior level of the doctoral students the target share for new personnel (2) has to exceed the existing share (1) by at least 1 percentage point until the existing share (1) has reached 40 percent. Once this threshold is reached, the target has to be revised by the Scientific Board.

This model will allow to “cascade up” over time the proportion of women from the junior to the senior levels.

The SAFE Scientific Board will be informed twice a year about all relevant figures – for the whole institute as well as for each program area and research department – as well as the progress made in achieving this objective.

Has the target for one particular level not been achieved, all further recruitment decisions on this level have to be approved by the SAFE Management Board until the target is met. Independent from this, departments and program areas might not be permitted to fill a vacant position with a male candidate when they do not meet the institutional targets on doctoral student and postdoc level.

b) Coordinator Equal Opportunities

SAFE has implemented the positions of a Coordinator for Equal Opportunities and a Deputy Coordinator for Equal Opportunities who are elected by all female employees of SAFE and appointed by the Management Board for a term of four years; reappointment is possible. The Coordinator is a member of the Scientific Board where she advocates the idea of equal opportunities for women and men in strategic or operational business. She functions as first contact for female employees who are in need of support or have questions on matters related to equal opportunities.

c) Staff Recruitment Procedures

SAFE adheres to the rules for staff recruitment as stipulated in the German Gender Equality Act (Allgemeines Gleichstellungsgesetz) and can build on the extensive expertise of Goethe University in creating a gender-sensitive culture and environment. The recruitment procedures ensure that female candidates get fair chances based on their achievements in an unbiased way. To achieve this, the following measures are implemented:

- In areas where women are under-represented, female applications are given preferential consideration if qualifications are equivalent.
- In areas where women are under-represented, an equal share of women shall be invited to job interviews (provided that enough female candidates are available who meet the requirements for the position).
- SAFE management introduces transparent staff selection criteria for research positions that take into account differences in the employment biographies of women and men in order to assure a fair treatment of all candidates.

In addition to this, members of the SAFE Scientific Board will regularly be offered a special training (“anti-bias training”) for creating awareness about implicit biases and recruiting staff on a gender-fair basis.

d) Women’s Network

A women-to-women mentoring network within SAFE plays a crucial role in guiding new female employees in their career advancement. All female employees of SAFE are invited to regular meetings to discuss topics related to equal opportunities and to actively exchange views on strengthening this network. In order to provide valuable

contacts to SAFE's female researchers, all SAFE conferences in Frankfurt shall, whenever feasible, offer a "Women's Breakfast" for all female conference participants and all female researchers in SAFE.¹

e) Recruiting of Female Students for GSEFM Finance Track

In order to broaden the basis of potential female candidates for SAFE research assistant positions, SAFE offers three 1st-year-stipends every year only for women. In addition, SAFE runs an information campaign in the GU Faculty of Economics' Bachelor classes on a regular basis, addressing exclusively female bachelor students in order to attract them for the GSEFM Ph.D. program and the Finance track in particular.

f) Mentoring Program "Pro Professur"

SAFE is participating in cooperation with Goethe University in the mentoring program "Pro Professur" for young women in academia. Young professionals are supported in their career development. Over a period of 18 months, the program comprises the systematic promotion of skills for a successful application for a full professorship by special coaching and training. So far, this program is only offered in German.

2. Measures for a Family Friendly Environment

a) Staff Recruitment Procedures

All SAFE directors, responsible for recruiting research staff, are requested to take into consideration whether child care and/or the care for relatives has prolonged the qualification phase when screening applications. Parental leave and/or leave for family care have to be considered when evaluating the publication record so that the respective applicants are not disadvantaged.

If the job description does not require otherwise, a choice between a full-time or part-time position is offered.

b) Extension of Research Assistant Contracts and Stipends

In accordance with the Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz (WissZeitVG) and in cases where the fixed-term contract of research personnel is not due to third-party funding, it is automatically prolonged by the respective time of absence due to parental leave if the employee agrees to this prolongation. In addition, the contract can be prolonged by up to two years per child to allow for the times of taking care of children under the age of 18.

SAFE scholarships can be prolonged for a period of up to twelve months if the scholar has chosen to take parental leave or leave for family care.

¹ For childcare provision during conferences see 2c.

c) Childcare

SAFE supports young families in finding the right daycare provider. SAFE maintains several contacts to private childcare facilities. More information on the general childcare provisions in Frankfurt can be found at <https://www.kindernetfrankfurt.de>.

For cases where child care is needed on short term notice or for a short period of time, SAFE offers its employees a specially equipped “parent-child room”. The room is designed for children but also equipped as workplace.

SAFE also provides childcare to participants of SAFE conferences if needed thanks to a cooperation with the AWO parent service.

d) Part-time Work & Telework

SAFE offers flexible working arrangements that allow for various part-time schemes. Whenever the work schedule allows, meetings and seminars are scheduled such that part-time staff members are able to attend during their working hours.

Staff members who wish to telework partly or occasionally are allowed to do so if their teleworking does not compromise the interaction and communication with other staff members.

e) Absence to perform family responsibilities

Measures are in place to improve the reintegration of staff after a parental leave or a leave for other family reasons. Before resuming work (usually three months before the planned return), the employee will be contacted to discuss individual reintegration measures (such as training). Training measures that affect all staff members will also be offered to employees on leave.

f) Dual Career

SAFE provides special assistance to spouses and partners of new employees (professors and postdocs) by becoming a cooperation partner of the Dual Career Service Frankfurt. The Dual Career Service supports spouses and partners in their search for employment by giving them advice and using the dual career network with other universities and other non-university partners.

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