Procedure for the Selection of Pilot Schools

The pilot Schools will be selected at a one-day event by the end of July. The respective committee will consist of three members each of the MPG, the HRK (the German Rectors’ Conference) and the other German non-university research organisations. The committee will discuss the benefits and disadvantages of each initiative in order to make a final selection of three pilots. A broad spectrum of topics, structures and training aspects should be aimed at to ensure as much as possible is learned from the pilot phase.

The scientific excellence of participants is a prerequisite for the establishment of a pilot School. However, this factor alone is not sufficient, owing to the significant strategic components. A number of other criteria will also be taken into account when selecting the pilots. These include:

- A scientifically exciting topic with long-term viability
- Clearly recognizable enthusiasm of the team for the proposal
- Ideally not based on traditional disciplines but, instead, opening up a new scientific field, as the traditional disciplines are well represented at the universities
- Clear distinction from existing IMPRS or concept for their integration
- Immediate creation of a critical mass of scientific quality at global level through networking between leading researchers in Germany
- Involvement of the leading colleagues in the respective field from Germany
- Opportunity to begin without protracted start-up stage
- Existence of reliable agreements on cooperation with universities
- Proven existence of opportunities for students to sit degree examinations (doctorate, master’s degree where applicable)
- Identification of the first Fellows, existence of a plan on admission of further Fellows
- School-specific recruitment concept for high-achieving students from all over the world
- Existing concepts for geographically distributed lecturing and/or block modules
- Existing concepts for the integration of students at various locations
- Existing concepts for the mutual allocation of students and supervisors

An approximately five-page description of the key points of the respective School, in which the points set out above are to be addressed, for preparation of the selection meeting is to be submitted by July 1, 2017, to praeident@gv.mpg.de. The partners involved and a sample curriculum can also be included in an annex.