The IASS was founded in 2009 as an institute for transformative sustainability research. It pursues a transdisciplinary approach that brings together all relevant forms of knowledge within and beyond science. In doing so, the IASS generates insights and guidance to tackle challenges arising in the context of global transformations towards sustainability and facilitates the transfer of knowledge through strategic dialogues with policymakers, business, and civil society. The IASS is funded jointly by the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Brandenburg. In January 2023, the IASS will join the Helmholtz Association, Germany’s largest scientific organization, and will be incorporated into the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam – German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ), while retaining its scientific independence. The GFZ is Germany’s national research centre for the study of the geosphere. It generates knowledge and develops strategies to deepen our understanding of global change, mitigate associated risks, and safeguard geo-resources for a sustainable future.

The IASS is currently seeking applications for the position of

Scientific Director (f/m/d)

Reference Number: IASS-WDSOZ-2022

The IASS seeks an outstanding and internationally recognized research personality with extensive scientific and practical experience in sustainability research and the shaping of processes of societal transformation at both the national and international levels.

Candidates should:

- hold a PhD and habilitation (or equivalent qualification) in a social science, with a clear focus on themes relevant to Sustainability Studies;
- possess specialist expertise in the application of qualitative and/or quantitative methods and experience in interdisciplinary research;
- have extensive experience in science-based policy advice as well as a firm understanding of national and international sustainability policy issues and relevant scientific and societal debates;
- bring scientific projects and ideas to the IASS that will contribute to the development of a forward-looking research programme in the field of transformative sustainability research; and
- have experience in transdisciplinary research projects.

This position offers outstanding opportunities to shape the future of the IASS. Key responsibilities include the further development and pursuit of transdisciplinary sustainability research in relevant and promising fields of transformation in science and policy, the integration of these activities within the Helmholtz Association’s Program-Oriented Funding framework (PoF); and the continued development of the IASS into a leading research institute.

To achieve these goals, the ideal candidate will possess:

- exceptional strategic expertise;
- experience in leadership roles at relevant institutions; and
- an outstanding capacity for teamwork in an interdisciplinary research environment.

We also anticipate that candidates will:

- have proven success in acquiring third-party funding;
- be experienced in interacting with policymakers at various levels (municipal/regional/ national/international); and
- have an excellent command of English and a good command of German to effectively pursue the interests of the IASS in the science-policy landscape.

Comprising three directors, the leadership of the IASS guides the institute's strategic and thematic development, determines its medium- and long-term research programme and is responsible for its implementation within the PoF framework of the Helmholtz Association, particularly in the research...
fields “Earth and Environment” and “Energy”. As part of the GFZ, the IASS is granted scientific independence, with its own budget, financial planning, and management structures operating under the GFZ’s Executive Board.

This appointment is initially limited to five years. The appointment may be renewed. This position will be remunerated in accordance with the federal W-Besoldung salary scale, with the possibility of performance-based supplementary remuneration. A joint appointment with a university will be sought.

The IASS offers a working environment in a challenging, dynamic, and international research context of considerable socio-political relevance with opportunities to forge innovative links between science, politics, and society. The institute is located in Potsdam, a leading centre for research on the Earth system, climate, and sustainability in Germany and in close proximity to numerous other renowned research institutions in Berlin. We support efforts to achieve a better work-life balance for our employees.

The IASS is committed to the goal of improving access to leadership roles for women. In accordance with Section 9 of the Equal Treatment Act of the State of Brandenburg (Landesgleichstellungsgesetz (LGG) Brandenburg), applications from women will be given preferential consideration when their level of qualification, competence and professional achievements equals that of male candidates.

Severely disabled candidates and those with a similar status will be given preferential consideration in accordance with German law (SGB IX) in case of equal qualifications and suitability.

In addition to the usual documents, your application should be accompanied by:

- an overview of the key stations in your professional development and the related research (approximately 2 pages);
- a comprehensive list of publications and a separate list of the five to ten most important publications;
- an overview of previously acquired third-party funding;
- a list of current and completed consulting activities in the fields of societal and policy consulting;
- a list of successfully supervised master’s theses, doctoral dissertations, and habilitations;
- an overview of relevant networks/contacts/affiliations in science, politics, business and civil society.

Please direct all inquiries regarding this position to the Chair of the IASS General Assembly and the Chair of the search committee, Prof. Dr. Dr. Karin Lochte via: karin.lochte@iass-potsdam.de

Please submit your application via e-mail* (in a single PDF file, max. 10 MB) (subject line “IASS-WDSOZ-2022”) by 20 May 2022 to:

Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Karin Lochte
Chair of the General Assembly of the IASS e. V. and of the search committee
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)
Berliner Straße 130
14667 Potsdam
E-mail address: Karin.Lochte@iass-potsdam.de

*Data processing: As part of the application process, your personal data will be processed by the members of a search committee, including employees of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Science, Research and Culture for Brandenburg, and relevant staff members of the IASS and GFZ. These activities will be conducted in accordance with Art. 6 (2) b) and e) GDPR. Please see our privacy statement for further information: https://www.iass-potsdam.de/en/privacy