

INFORMATION ON WRITING A REFERENCE LETTER

in support of an application for an initialization scholarship from the University of Erfurt

The University of Erfurt regularly awards initialization scholarships in order to accelerate the launch of projects that are externally funded. These scholarships are available to early-career researchers who are submitting their own application for external funding or are participating in a joint application. Funding applications must include an academic reference from a university teacher of the applicant's choice. The reference letter must confirm the quality of the research project and provide an assessment of the applicant's academic aptitude.

All references must be written in German or English. The referee must sign the letter and personally email it to the following address by **30. September 2020**: nachwuchsfoerderung@uni-erfurt.de.

Referees should discuss the following aspects in the reference letter:

Applicant's academic qualification:

- How do you rate the applicant's academic development to date?
- How do you rate the applicant's previous academic accomplishments and subject-specific experiences and expertise? Consider accomplishments achieved within and outside the context of higher education.
- Do the applicant's accomplishments indicate an aptitude for an academic career?

Quality, significance and feasibility of the project:

- How will the project help the applicant advance their academic career?
- How does the project improve the applicant's ability to establish themselves as an academic?
- Please comment on the quality and originality of the research project.
- Has the applicant taken relevant preparatory steps? Is the proposed research plan realistic in terms of its objectives and the envisaged completion schedule?