

Staff Unit Research and Graduate Services

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Initialization scholarships

General aim

In order to support young academics in applying to third-party funded research, the University of Erfurt announces initialization scholarships.

These scholarships are meant to finance postdoctoral researchers that intend to apply to third-party funding, or participate in the application process of larger projects at the University of Erfurt.

Duration and scope of funding

Initialization scholarships are granted for a maximum of 12 months. Postdoctoral researchers receive a basic monthly grant of €1.600.

If applicable, a family allowance can be paid which amounts to €300 for one/the first child and €150 for any further child.

Beyond financial support, the University of Erfurt offers its scholar-ship holders the following benefits:

- counseling support in the process of formulating and submitting the third-party funding research proposal,
- internal funding programmes to support preparatory measures for submitting the third-party funding research proposal (e.g. co-financing of academic events),
- a qualification programme to promote interdisciplinary academic expertise, which involves free participation in workshops,
- a platform for communicating your own research to the general public (Science Fair, Science Slam, ...)

We require the following from our fellowship holders:

- linking of the project to the University of Erfurt
- regular presence at the University of Erfurt and active networking

Selection criteria

The scholarships aim at postdoctoral researchers with an excellent doctoral degree or habilitation. As appropriate, scholarships are granted to doctoral candidates, which graduated with excellent results and have already submitted their doctoral thesis, awaiting their defense.

To be eligible, applicants must

- prove that they have passed their doctoral examination by the beginning of the funding period
- either plan to submit a proposal for a third-party funded re-search project at the University of Erfurt, or take part in the conception of larger third-party funded projects.

Application documents

Your application must contain the following documents in the given order:

1. a cover letter (max. 2 pages) that shall include the following points
 - an explanation how your project fits into the research profile of the University of Erfurt with its research foci,
 - an explanation to what extent the proposed project contributes to the progress of your academic career,
 - if you deem it relevant for your application (voluntary information): information on special concerns, such as disabilities, chronic disease, family affairs, voluntary work, or other social criteria,
2. a CV in the German tabular format,
3. copies of relevant academic degrees:
postdoctoral researchers: PhD-certificate and, if appropriate, habilitation certificate
doctoral students: Master-certificate and a letter of the Dean's office confirming admission to the doctorate examination procedure,
4. a draft of your research project (max. 5 pages) with detailed information
 - on its content
 - on its realization at the University of Erfurt and

- on the planned project proposal for third-party funding,
- 5. a working schedule (max. 12 months) and preferred date of commencement,
- 6. a list of publications (only works that are published at the time of application),
- 7. a declaration of willingness (Bereitschaftserklärung), issued by a University professor who will guarantee the linking of your project to the University of Erfurt. Please use therefore our form sheet (see website),
- 8. a letter of recommendation or evaluation that is written by an (internal or external) university teacher in which s/he discusses the quality of your research project. Please note: The reviewer must submit the letter of recommendation or evaluation separately to Staff Unit – Research and Graduate Services. Please consider our advice for reviewers.

The documents declaration of willingness and letter of recommendation or reevaluation should be issued by different university professors.

Submission of application

All application documents must be submitted in the form of a complete PDF file with a size of no more than 5 MB. Join the documents in the above order, prefix a table of contents and email the PDF to nachwuchsfoerderung@uni-erfurt.de.

Deadlines and start of the funding period

Applications may be submitted at any time within the stated period mentioned on our website. Please estimate about six to eight weeks for the process of evaluation and decision of your application. Once an application is approved, financing starts at the beginning of the following month, but, in any case, not later than seven months after application deadline.

Contact

For any inquiries about the application and selection process, please contact:
Margrit Elsner
Email: nachwuchsfoerderung@uni-erfurt.de
Tel: +49 (0)361 737-5043

Legal Framework

The scholarship charter of the University of Erfurt provides the legal framework for awarding initialization scholarships. It is available at: <https://www.uni-erfurt.de/uni/hochschulrecht/satzungsrechtverwaltungsvorschriften/stipendium/stipendien/>

Privacy policy

By submitting an application, you agree to the processing of your personal data within the scope of the application procedure. Your data will be used to facilitate the processing of your application. You are entitled to withdraw your consent at any time without justifying your decision. To do so, notify the aforementioned entity or entities in writing or electronically. Please bear in mind that withdrawal of consent may disqualify your application.

For all further information on our privacy policy as per Article 13 of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), consult the privacy leaflet ("Datenschutzhinweise für Bewerber/innen" – currently only available in German) on our website:

<https://www.uni-erfurt.de/stabsstelle-forschung/forschungsfoerderung/modul-graduierenfoerderung/>