

Landesgraduiertenstipendien

The FSU annually awards scholarships, so called Landesgraduiertenstipendien, funded by the State of Thuringia. The funding period of these scholarships is three years, you can apply for an extension for one year. Further extensions are possible: for child care, care for close relatives, in case of chronic diseases and disability. As of 2020, the scholarship is 1400,- EUR per month and (if applicable) extra payments for child care.

The Landesgraduiertenstipendien are announced once a year in summer. The scholarship is paid from the beginning of the following year. The number of scholarships granted varies from year to year - in recent years, it was about 10 -12 each year. From 2019 on, less scholarships may be given due to the extension of the funding period and the increase of the scholarship money.

Click [here](#) to view the announcement of 2020. The application deadline was 30 September 2020. Earliest start of funding is 1 January 2021. More general information, information on the legal framework and grant procedure is contained in the Thuringian Act on State Scholarships, the [Thuringian Landesgraduiertenförderungsverordnung](#) (in German).

How to apply

Applications are submitted online. Application deadline is 30 September 2020. Please add these documents to your online application (upload as pdf at the application website):

1. CV (with photo)
2. Exposé of your PhD project, containing the aims, their derivation and reasons, current research, methods, the schedule of your project and relevant literature (5-10 pages without the bibliography), Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.5
3. abstract of the written exam paper (if applicable) on 2 - 3 pages
4. scan of your university degree (with transcripts)

Further parts of your application:

- a confidential reference by your supervisor ([German/English](#)), containing information about the PhD project and the personal and scientific qualification of the applicant.
Please ask your supervisor to submit the form directly to .
- a confidential, formless reference by a second professor. Please ask the professor to submit the form directly to .

Links & Downloads

- [Application portal](#)
- Form for supervisors ([German/English](#))
- [Landesgraduiertenförderungsverordnung](#) (in German)

Assessment procedure

The assessment of candidates has two steps. Firstly, applications will be evaluated by the respective faculties. Depending on the faculty, an awards commission is appointed, independent assessments are requested or hearings are conducted. Then, the scholarships are awarded by a commission of the university senate. Members of this commission are the non-student members of the senate's research committee and the representative for equal opportunities. The awarding commission is headed by the Vice-President for young researchers and diversity management.

Frequently asked questions

How many scholarships will be awarded?

The number of scholarships granted varies from year to year - in recent years, it was about 10-12 each year. Each faculty can grant 1-2 scholarships.

What are my chances?

The number of applications varies from faculty to faculty. Based on experience, more applications are submitted for the social sciences and humanities than for the natural sciences. However, a small number of applications does not guarantee that you will receive a scholarship - the quality of the individual application is decisive.

What are the evaluation criteria?

The three essential criteria for scholarships are: excellent grades, a short study duration, and a high-quality exposé.

I have studied longer than the normal period. Is this a problem?

Carrying out your studies in a timely manner is a prerequisite for obtaining a Landesgraduierten-Stipendium. However, if you did study longer, you should clearly state the reasons for that (e.g. in your application, curriculum vitae, or an additional explanation).

I have applied before. Can I reapply?

It is possible to reapply. However, the new application - especially the exposé - should indicate the further development of your dissertation project.

Who decides on the allocation?

The allocation process involves a two-step assessment of the candidates. Firstly, applications will be evaluated by the respective faculties. Depending on the faculty, an awards commission is appointed, independent assessments are requested or hearings are conducted. For further information please contact your dean's office.

Then, the scholarships are awarded by a commission of the university senate. Members of this commission are the non-student members of the senate's committee for young researchers, the representative for equal opportunities and the diversity officer. The awarding commission is headed by the Vice-President for young researchers and diversity management.

Who can be a supervisor?

Appointed or habilitated faculty members of the University of Jena (e.g. professors, assistant professors, and associate professors) as well as the heads of junior research groups (e.g. Emmy Noether groups) may be supervisors. Simply having a doctoral degree is not enough to supervise a doctoral candidate.

What is a reference letter? Who can write one?

Reference letters should focus on your character and academic qualifications - your planned dissertation project is secondary. The person writing the letter should therefore know you personally and be able to assess your previous academic achievements. The letter can be submitted by someone from the University of Jena or another university.

I do not have a degree certificate yet. Can I apply anyway?

Yes, if you cannot provide your degree certificate until application deadline, you may submit a transcript of records and a confirmation by the reviewer about acceptance and rating (final mark) of your master thesis. Please note: The degree certificate must be submitted until the final meeting of the awarding commission, otherwise your application cannot be considered.

What should be included in the exposé?

The exposé should: describe the issue (including derivation and justification), the current state of research, the methodological implementation, and the planned timing. It should also cite any relevant literature.

What form should the exposé have?

The exposé should be 5-10 pages long (excluding bibliography). Please use 11-point Arial with 1.5-spaced lines.

I was not required to submit a thesis during my previous studies. What should I submit instead?

If your studies did not include a thesis, you can submit a summary of a seminar paper.

When will I find out if I get a scholarship?

You will receive a written notification in early december. Please do not enquire earlier than this.

When will the funding start?

The first scholarship payment will be made in January.

Is there any support for families?

Yes. Scholarship holders will receive since 2017 a monthly family allowance of € 300 for one dependent child and €150 for each additional dependent child.

Information for current scholarship-holders

Support of research stays abroad

To realise research projects in foreign countries, the DAAD supports scholarship holders with an additional fund. The funding includes an increase to your existing scholarship, a onetime travel grant, research and conference costs as well as insurance costs. You can also apply for other costs e.g. tuition fees. The funding can be granted for research stays abroad lasting at least 30 days up to 12 months. Applications must be submitted at least 8 weeks before the start of the stay abroad.

[Further information \(in German\)](#)

Annual progress report

Scholarship holders have to submit an annual progress report. This report shall give an overview of the contents and progress of work over time so far. It also has to include a project map and schedule for the entire doctoral project. Moreover, the supervisor has to submit a statement concerning this matter directly to Graduate Academy.

[Content of the progress report and sample \(as a docx\)](#)

Final report

At the end of the scholarship period, the holder must present a final report. If the scholarship runs out before the dissertation has been handed in, the supervisor must provide an opinion on the final report.

[Content of the final report and sample](#)