FAQs on Graduate Funding from the German States
("Landesgraduiertenförderung")

1. For how long can I receive funding?
For a maximum of 24 months. The scholarship will be granted for 12 months. The Central Awarding Committee will make a decision concerning an extension for another 12 months upon application.

2. How much is the funding?
The basic scholarship covers a monthly payment of 1,100 Euros. This amount includes a fixed rate fee for costs of material and travel expenses.

3. When does the funding period begin at the earliest?
The funding period has to begin on 1st of January. The deadline for application submission is at the beginning of October of every year (for the exact date please look at the current call for applications).

4. Can I determine the start date of the funding period?
No. The start date may not be changed at a later point in time. Application decisions will usually be made in mid-November. Please note that overlapping funding is not permitted and that you should therefore remember to cancel any funding you have been receiving in good time.

5. When do I have to submit my application documents?
Please submit your complete application documents at the beginning of October (for the exact date please look at the current call for applications).

6. When do I have to submit my application for a continued scholarship?
Applications for continued scholarships have to be submitted by 1st October of every year. Exception: If the funding has been paused, please submit your application 6 weeks before the scholarship period ends, at the latest.

7. Can the funding period be suspended?
In exceptional cases, yes. The terms and conditions and requirements must, however, be checked in individual cases.

8. Can I work while being funded by the Graduate Funding from the German States (LGF)?
Generally yes. The following conditions do, however, apply:
LGF § 4 Employment and the Consideration of Earnings:
(1) Work carried out by scholarship holders must predominantly focus on their doctoral research project. The scholarship may not be awarded to an employed individual unless the employment is compatible with the funding and does not exceed a certain scope and volume. Research work and research assistance for teaching at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in the subject of the doctoral research project are considered to be compatible with the funding. Scholarship holders may be employed outside the KIT if the position is related to the subject covered by the doctoral research project. They must inform their supervisor before commencing employment and the supervisor will decide whether the position in question is related to the doctoral research project. The maximum workload of the employment may not exceed 40 hours per month.
(2) The additional income received by a scholarship holder may not exceed 10,000 Euros per annum (net). For every child according to § 2 subsection 3 this amount is increased by 1,000 Euros. Higher income disqualifies an applicant from the scholarship. Family allowance and child benefit from the German Federal Government will not be taken into consideration.

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9. May I receive a scholarship from another sponsoring body while receiving LGF funding?
You are not permitted to receive full scholarships from other sponsoring bodies during the funding period. For a research stay abroad the LGF funding may be suspended for a maximum of one year so that you can receive a full scholarship from a different sponsoring body.
You may, however, apply for partial scholarships for a research stay abroad during the LGF funding period, for example the KHYS Research Travel Grant, the KHYS Networking Grant or the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Additional Scholarship.

10. How much is the family allowance and what evidence do I need to submit?
LGF § 2 Support Rates:
Scholarship holders receive an additional family allowance of 160 Euros per month if they are responsible for a child under the age of 18. As evidence of this status, scholarship holders must submit written confirmation from the Residents’ Registration Office (“Einwohnermeldeamt”) stating that their child lives in their household. For scholarship holders with more than one child, the family allowance increases to a total amount of 210 Euros per month. A higher family allowance may be granted in exceptional cases. This decision is made by the Central Awarding Committee. If both partners receive a scholarship in accordance with the Law on Graduate Funding from the German States (LGFG) or if the partner of a scholarship holder receives a scholarship that meets the objectives of the LGFG scholarship, the family allowance will only be granted to one partner.

11. Can I apply for a Graduate Funding from the German States scholarship despite the fact that I have already reached an advanced stage of my doctoral research project?
The KIT considers Graduate Funding from the German States to be start-up funding. Candidates at an advanced stage of their doctoral research project generally have less chance of success.

12. What do I need to include with my application form?
(1) A short description of your work project, your work plan including your time schedule, which should be a maximum of 5 pages long
(2) The expert opinion of the supervisor of your research project (academic supervisor or associate professor). This should include a reliable answer to the question as to how you intend to finance your doctoral research in the case that your doctoral research period exceeds two years. In addition, the expert opinion must state to what percentage of the best students of his or her year the applicant belongs.
(3) Document “Guideline for assessment LGF” of the supervisor (does not replace the expert opinion).
(4) The expert opinion of a second academic supervisor or associate professor.
(5) Legally certified copies of your degree certificates (certificates from the preliminary and main study periods and/or Bachelor and Master certificates). Non-German degree certificates have to be submitted in an English, German or French certified translation.
(6) A letter of confirmation from the faculty stating that you have been accepted as a doctoral researcher and that you will receive academic supervision from a professor or associate professor
(7) Your CV (in table form), in particular listing information concerning your course of study up to now
(8) A declaration in accordance with § 5 subsections 2 and 3 of the LGFG relating to § 4 of the Statute of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) for the implementation of the Law on Graduate Funding from the German States (LGFG)
(9) Written confirmation from the Residents' Registration Office ("Einwohnermeldeamt") stating that your child lives in your household (if you have applied for a family allowance)

The documents (reference letter etc.) should address the “Central Awarding Committee (LGF)”. The paper version of your application has to be submitted to KHYS (Jana Schmitt) without staples and the digital version has to be in the order as indicated in the checklist.

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13. Do I have to submit my "Acceptance as a Doctoral Researcher at the Faculty" or is the written letter of acceptance of supervision from my academic supervisor sufficient?
The written letter of acceptance of supervision from your academic supervisor is not sufficient. You must submit your "Acceptance as a Doctoral Researcher at the Faculty".

14. May my work plan including my time schedule exceed 5 pages?
No. Please keep to the specified guidelines.

15. Is there an age limit?
No.

16. Do I need to be enrolled at the KIT in order to be granted a scholarship?
No, you do not need to be enrolled in order to apply for a scholarship. You do, however, need Acceptance as a Doctoral Researcher at a KIT Faculty. Registration with KHYS is also obligatory for the acceptance of your application.

17. How likely is it that I will be granted a scholarship?
This question cannot be answered in advance because it depends on the number and quality of applications.

18. Where can I have copies of my certificates legally certified?
Certificates from the KIT can be legally certified at the Students' Office. Other certificates and documents need to be certified at the responsible public authorities (for example at the registry office).

19. The certificates have to be legally certified. How about other certificates of languages courses or internships?
You can hand in other certificates, but you don't have to legally certify them.

20. Do I have to add an application photo to my CV?
There are no advantages or disadvantages for you, if you hand in an application photo.

21. How to submit the letters of recommendation in digital form?
In case you received sealed letters of recommendation please forward them directly to us. We will complete your digital application.

22. What is the procedure for granting the scholarships?
The applications will be checked by KHYS and then be forwarded to the Central Awarding Committee. At a meeting, the committee decides on the awarding of scholarships and continued scholarships and on applications for suspension.

23. When and how do I find out whether I have been granted a scholarship?
After the respective meeting on the granting of scholarships, applications will be processed in the following order:
1. Approvals
2. Rejections
A specific date cannot be specified because the processing time depends on other factors such as the number of applications. We will, however, try to inform you of the outcome of your application as soon as possible (by e-mail or post). Due to data privacy laws we are unable to provide you with any information about the decisions made by the Awarding Committee over the phone. Please therefore refrain from calling us about such matters.

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24. Do I have to write a progress report or a final report?
You don't have to write a progress report. If you are a scholarship holder and you want to apply for a continued scholarship, you have to submit a work report including the work and time schedule of the research completed so far and a work and time schedule for the work concerning issues that still have to be solved.
However, six months after the funding period has finished you have to submit a final report (1-2 pages). The following aspects have to be considered: objectives and impact of the research work, progress of work up to now (which steps have been realized yet?), which steps are required to complete the work?

If applicable, you could provide information about published papers during the funding. If you have already passed your PhD oral exam, a copy of your PhD certificate is also adequate as a verification (it doesn't have to be legally certified).

25. Who should I contact if I have any questions? Who should I contact if I want to report changes in my income situation or in the case of delay?
Please contact the Karlsruhe House of Young Scientists (KHYS) via e-mail at lgf15@khys.kit.edu.

26. Are PhD students from Campus Alpin allowed to apply?
Yes, they are. But they need as any other applicant the acceptance as a doctoral researcher by the respective KIT department.

27. How Do I Get a KIT Account with a “∂kit.edu” E-mail Address?
For Employees of KIT: Doctoral students employed by KIT will automatically be given a KIT account upon activation, together with a KIT registration name of the type “ab1234” as well as an e-mail address of the type firstname.familname∂kit.edu.
For Scholarship Holders or External Doctoral Students: All doctoral students paid from other funds (e.g. scholarship holders and external doctoral students) may also be given a KIT account with an electronic mail address of the type firstname.familname∂kit.edu via their advisor. First, contact the responsible person of your institute. In most cases, the head of your institute/division will decide, who will be given a KIT account.
Technical installation of your account via the so-called Guest and Partner Administration (GuP) will usually be accomplished by the administrators of your institute. This KIT account (for employees or via GuP) will be maintained, even if you enroll as a doctoral student with the Students’ Office and will also be given an account with the mail address “@student.kit.edu”.

28. I do not have a second assessor for my dissertation yet. Which person should I name in the respective column of the „keydata“ file?
You should name the person, which gave you the second expert opinion for the application.

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