How to find initial financing for the PhD period

Jutta Klein-Hitpaß

Karlsruhe House of Young Scientists (KHYS)
About KHYS

- Founded in 2007 in the context of the “Initiative for Excellence”
- Central service unit

Main target groups
- Doctoral researchers
- Postdocs
- Those interested in doing a PhD at KIT

Objectives
- Support and advice of young KIT scientists
- Internationalization and interdisciplinary networking
- Quality assurance of the PhD conditions at KIT
- Identifying future trends in support of young scientists
Financing options

► Working contract with KIT: research associate, PhD position, research assistant → KIT Job Portal (German)

► Scholarship → KHYS list of scholarship programs

► Working contract with an external research institution or industrial company

Please note

► Often doctoral researchers receive funding from different sources during the PhD period

► They have to take care of transitional or continued financing well in advance

The KHYS Doctoral Researcher Survey 2013 showed the following KIT figures:

► Financing by means of at least a part-time job at KIT: 83%

► Scholarship: 8%
Financing – Working contract vs. scholarship

**Working contract**

- Social security payments covered (health insurance, retirement pensions, unemployment insurance)
- Unemployment benefits (ALG I) when working contract expires
- Lots of tasks = less time for dissertation; more involvement in university structures
- Make sure that you have enough time for your dissertation

**Scholarship**

- Social security payments not covered (health insurance mandatory; at least €150/month)
- No unemployment benefits after scholarship
- Often fewer tasks = more time for dissertation; less involvement in university structures
- Useful to enroll at KIT
Scholarship programs

Specific programs at KIT

► **Landesgraduiertenförderung** (Graduate Funding from the State of Baden-Württemberg)
  
  ► **Scope:** €1,100/month for a maximum of 2 years
  
  ► **Deadline:** October 12, 2015; financing starts January 2016
  
  ► Application process handled by KHYS

► Scholarships by **KIT PhD programs** (e.g. GRACE, KSOP, MICMoR)
  
  ► **Scope:** €1,365/month for up to 2 years
  
  ► For the application process contact the respective program

Scholarship programs for doctoral researchers from abroad

► **DAAD** (German Academic Exchange Service) funding for doctorate

► Scholarships from national foundations from the graduate’s country of origin
  (e.g. China Scholarship Council, CONICYT in Chile)
Example No. 1: Carl Zeiss Stiftung

**Target group:** doctoral researchers from the fields of natural sciences and engineering

**Scope:** €1,500/month for a maximum of 3 years

**Deadline:** presumably early December 2015 (annual call for applications)

**Conditions:**
- Thematic focus of call for applications varies each year
- It’s not possible to apply directly to the foundation; applications have to be handed in at KHYS
Example No. 2: Scholarships by the Verband der Chemischen Industrie

**Target group:** doctoral researchers from Germany or the EU in the field of chemistry or related fields

**Scope:** €1,750/month for a maximum of 2 years

**Conditions:**
- Duration of course of studies: maximum of 10 semesters
- Application at the latest 3 months after start of doctoral research project

A) **Chemiefonds-Stipendium**
- Master and doctorate in same working group
- Deadline: March 1; July 1; and November 1 of every year
- Application has to be made by the supervisor

B) **Kekulé-Stipendium**
- Master and doctorate at different universities
- Deadline: any time
- Application by the doctoral researcher
Example No. 3: DAAD Research Grant

**Target group:** foreign doctoral researchers from all fields (except medicine)

**Scope:** €1,000/month for a maximum of 3 years (in exceptional cases 4 years) plus payments towards health, accident and personal liability insurance cover

**Deadline:** depends on the country of origin

**Conditions:**
- Applicants who have been resident in Germany for longer than 15 months at the application deadline cannot be considered
- Funding for individual doctoral studies or for participation in a structured doctoral study program at a German university
13 “Begabtenförderungswerke”

- Avicenna-Studienwerk
- Cusanuswerk
- Ernst-Ludwig-Ehrlich-Studienwerk
- Evangelisches Studienwerk
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
- Friedrich Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit
- Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung
- Hans-Böckler-Stiftung
- Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
- Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung
- Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes
- Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft

For an overview go to: www.stipendiumplus.de

Preconditions: above-average achievements, social commitment, strong personality

Scope: €1,150/month for 2 years (extension possible); comprehensive supporting program
Other scholarship programs

► Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds
► Dr. Jost Henkel Stiftung
► Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt
► Evonik Foundation
► Reiner Lemoine Stiftung
► Etc.

► No longer available: Scholarship program by the Deutsche Telekom Stiftung
Scholarship databases

► Overview on our website
► DAAD scholarship database
► Stipendienlotse (Federal Ministry of Education and Research; German)
► Scholarship portal of the EU
► Scholarship database of e.fellows.net (German)
► mystipendium.de (German, free of charge registration necessary)
► Scholarship database for programs for women of the KarriereWegeMentoring project (German)
KHYS – We’re happy to help!

Karlsruhe House of Young Scientists (KHYS)

www.khys.kit.edu

Please get in touch with us.