KIT Graduate Excellence Program (GradExcPro)

Application Form

Thank you for your interest in GradExcPro. For more detailed information about the program, please visit the **GradExcPro website**.

In this form, you will be asked to provide information on your academic background, achievements and qualifications, indicate your preferred graduate school and supervisor(s), and outline your research interests/ideas. You will also be asked to review and sign the program's funding conditions and associated obligations.

Important:

- Please ensure that all information provided is accurate, reflects your own work and abilities, and that you **complete the application yourself**.
- To ensure a fair and transparent selection process, we kindly ask you **not to use generative AI tools** when preparing your application materials.
- Dates must be entered in the format **YYYY-MM-DD** (e.g., 2022-05-30).
- Please **submit the completed fillable PDF** rather than a scanned copy whenever possible.

1. Personal Information

Salutation	Please choose ...
First Name	
Last Name	
Date of Birth	
Nationality	

2. Academic Background

University entrance qualification
(e.g., Abitur, Germany; A-Level, United Kingdom; Baccalauréat, France; Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC), India; Gaokao, China; etc.)

Type of qualification	
Country of award	

Bachelor's degree

Degree (e.g., B.Sc., B.A., B.Eng.)	
Subject / field of study	
Start date	
Graduation date	
Final grade	
Grading scale	
Institution / university	
City, country	

Master's degree

Degree (e.g., M.Sc., M.A., M.Eng.)	
Subject / field of study	
Start date	
Date of completion (actual or expected)	
*IMPORTANT: By **February 1, 2027**, you must submit documentation confirming that you have completed all degree requirements and showing all final grades. If your official degree certificate is not yet available, you must submit it as soon as it is issued and before appointment to the position.*	
Final grade (or current average, if degree not yet completed)	
Grading scale	
Institution / university	
City, country	

Other academic degree *(if applicable)*

Type of degree	
Subject / field of study	
Start date	
Date of completion (actual or expected)	
Final grade (or current average, if degree not yet completed)	
Grading scale	
Institution / university	
City, country	

Additional context on your academic development *(optional)*

Please provide any additional information that may help us assess your academic achievements and research potential in context. This may include, for example, periods of childcare or other family responsibilities, part-time study, career breaks, or other circumstances that affected the time or opportunities available for your academic development (**max. 150 words**).

3. Academic Achievements and Additional Qualifications

Please ensure that all information reported in this section, including publications, conference contributions, other research outputs, achievements, and qualifications, is reflected in the submitted CV (including your complete publication list, indicating first-authorship and peer-review status, where applicable).

Awards and scholarships *(max. 3, if applicable)*

Award / scholarship 1

Name of award / scholarship	
Awarding institution	
Year received	

Award / scholarship 2

Name of award / scholarship	
Awarding institution	
Year received	

Award / scholarship 3

Name of award / scholarship	
Awarding institution	
Year received	

Publications *(if applicable)*

Publication type	**Total number**	**Number as first author**
Peer-reviewed publications		
Non-peer-reviewed publications		

Most important publication to date *(if applicable)*
Please provide the full reference, including title, authors, journal/publisher, and year of publication.

Full reference / citation	

Conference contributions *(if applicable)*

Type of contribution	**Number**
Conference talks (oral presentations)	
Conference posters	

Number of other research outputs *(e.g., patents, software, or other research-related contributions)*

Please specify	**Number**

Most relevant international experience
Please briefly describe relevant international experience, such as studying, working or conducting research abroad, international collaborations, or experience in an international environment (**max. 70 words**).

Most relevant work experience so far *(if applicable)*
Please briefly summarize your most relevant professional experience, including academic and non-academic positions, internships, or other employment. Indicate your role and main responsibilities (**max. 70 words**).

Other relevant experiences and achievements *(optional)*
Please describe other relevant experiences or achievements that you would like us to consider (e.g., voluntary work, civic engagement, extracurricular activities, awards, or other personal achievements) (**max. 70 words**).

Letter of reference provider details *(required)*
Please provide the details of the person writing your letter of reference.

Academic title, name	
Current academic position	
Institution	
City, country	
Email	
Website	

Please make sure to **upload the letter of reference** together with your other application documents. It should be written by a professor, junior professor, or associate professor who is familiar with your academic abilities and has previously supervised, taught, or worked with you (e.g., as the supervisor of your bachelor's or master's thesis).

4. Graduate School, Prospective Supervisors and Research Ideas/Interests

Graduate School selection

Please select the Graduate School that best matches your academic background and research interests. Briefly outline your proposed research idea and indicate potential supervisors whose research expertise aligns with your interests. For an overview of the participating Graduate Schools and their thematic profiles, please visit the **Participating Graduate Schools** page.

Please note: All preferred supervisors and submitted research ideas must align with the thematic profile of the selected Graduate School.

KIT Graduate School *Please select your desired Graduate School from the drop-down list.* Please choose ...
If you select "None", please explain why your academic background and research idea are not reflected in the thematic profiles of the participating Graduate Schools:

Choice of prospective supervisor(s) and research idea(s)

For each research idea, please explain why you have selected the proposed supervisor and how your research idea and broader research interests align with their research profile. **You do not need to provide a detailed description of your research idea here; you will be asked to do so in the next section.** To identify suitable supervisors, please consult the **GradExcPro Supervisor Database**.

First preferred supervisor and associated research idea/interest *(required)*

Name of preferred doctoral supervisor for my first research idea *(required)*	
Topic of my first research idea *(required)*:	
Explanation of supervisor choice and research fit (***100-150 words***) *(required)*:	

Second preferred supervisor and associated research idea/interest *(optional)*

Name of preferred doctoral supervisor for my second research idea *(optional)*	
Topic of my second research idea *(optional)*:	
Explanation of supervisor choice and research fit *(optional)* (***100-150 words***):	

5. Research Ideas (Details)

First research idea *(required)*

Please outline your proposed research idea in **400–500 words**, addressing the following questions:

- What research question or challenge would you like to address?
- Why is this research topic scientifically relevant and important?
- How would you initially approach this research question?

Second research idea *(optional)*

Please outline your proposed research idea in **400–500 words**, addressing the following questions:

- What research question or challenge would you like to address?
- Why is this research topic scientifically relevant and important?
- How would you initially approach this research question?

6. Conditions and Obligations Associated with a GradExcPro Funding Commitment

Please see **GradExcPro website** for further details.

I acknowledge that:

- a positive selection decision on a GradExcPro application constitutes a funding commitment. Following a positive funding decision, an employment contract will be concluded between me and the KIT host institute.
- the funding commitment becomes effective once I have been accepted as a doctoral researcher by the responsible KIT Department and my employment at a KIT institute has commenced.
- where applicable, the commencement of my doctorate and employment may be subject to visa requirements, export control regulations, and/or other applicable legal restrictions.

In the event that I am awarded a GradExcPro funding commitment, I agree to:

- promptly complete the initial **formal steps** required for the commencement of my doctorate, including acceptance as a doctoral researcher by the corresponding KIT Department.
- once my doctoral project has commenced, actively pursue my doctorate and give it sufficient priority throughout the funding period.
- actively participate in the activities offered as part of the GradExcPro support program coordinated by KHYS, including cohort activities, as well as those of the KIT Graduate School in which I am enrolled.
- submit all required reports and documentation on time.
- keep the contact information I have provided to KHYS up to date throughout the funding period and any subsequent reporting obligations.
- inform KHYS in a timely manner of any changes relevant to my funding commitment, including additional funding or scholarships, changes to my doctoral project or employment situation, interruption or termination of my doctorate, transfer to another university, or successful completion of my doctorate.

I further confirm that:

- all information and documents submitted as part of this application are complete and accurate.
- the research idea presented in my application reflects my own intellectual contribution, and any contributions by others are appropriately acknowledged.
- I am not receiving, and will not simultaneously receive, any funding that would constitute impermissible double funding of my doctoral project.
- I have not yet commenced my doctoral project at KIT, am not currently employed in a research position at KIT, and do not intend to commence either before the final selection decision.

☐ I have read, understood, and accept the conditions, obligations, and declarations stated above, as well as the information provided on the **GradExcPro website** and in the **GradExcPro FAQ document**.

☐ I have read and understood the **GradExcPro privacy notice** and consent to the processing of my personal data for the purposes outlined there.

Place **Date** **Applicant signature**

To facilitate processing of your application, please sign and submit the fillable PDF electronically whenever possible.