House of Young Talents – Young Academy

The University of Siegen awards scholarships for Master students

Via its House of Young Talents (HYT), the University of Siegen offers a scholarship program in support of excellent Master (MA, MSc) students. The program provides for up to 14 Master students at the beginning of their study courses to receive scholarships of 400 Euros each per month for a duration of up to two years beginning on 1 April 2018, and to provide an interdisciplinary platform of support enabling the entry into academic research. Beyond material support, the HYT Young Academy, in working groups made up of junior researchers in related fields, with professional assistance from professors of the University, accompanies the first steps of an academic career.

We invite interested recipients of a bachelor’s or comparable degree to submit their application, jointly with the advisor of their bachelor’s thesis, in electronic form via the email address

masterstipendien-hyt@uni-siegen.de

until 12 January 2018 (inclusive)

If you have questions, we will be happy to assist you:

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Decision-making process
Applications will be reviewed by an awards committee in which all faculties participate. The selection of the applicants to be awarded bursaries will be taken by the awards committee.

Eligibility and criteria
The call transcends faculties and disciplines and is also open as regards subject matter. Decisive criterion is the quality of the Bachelor’s study course completed, of the Bachelor’s Thesis, and of the perspectives for the Master’s course. The purpose is to sponsor excellent recipients of Bachelor’s degrees who are pursuing, or intend to pursue, a PhD project at the University of Siegen. The excellence of the applicants’ achievements and prospects is decisive. Receipt of the grant is subject to the condition that the successful applicant is enrolled in a Master’s study course at University of Siegen commensurate with the application.

The scholarship of 400 Euros per month is mainly intended as a support for recipients of excellent Bachelor’s degrees to take up a Master’s degree study course in Siegen. Therefore
» support will generally be granted to successful applicants for two years (1 April 2018 until 31 March 2020) if the applicant will be in the 1st or 2nd Master Term in the summer semester 2018;

» support will be granted, in case of success, for only one year (1 April 2018 until 31 March 2019), if the applicant will be in the 3rd Master Term in the summer semester 2018;

» can the scholarship not be applied for if the applicant is in a higher than 3rd Master term in the summer semester 2018.

» As a rule, the scholarships is intended to encourage the direct switch from Bachelor to Master studies and thus the Bachelor’s degree not to have been completed earlier than 31 March 2017 (date of the final examination). Exceptions are possible if there has been (documented) relevant extra-university employment, long-term illnesses or childcare phases between completion of the Bachelor’s degree and the start of the Master’s degree studies.

An extension or renewal of the scholarship is precluded. However, a later application for the separate PhD scholarships of the HYT Young Academy is possible. A scholarship is not granted if the applicant has already completed a Master or comparable degree, or if they are receiving, or have in the past received, funding for a Master study course from public or private institutions (double funding). With the receipt of other funding, the grant ends, as in the case of a termination of the project, or a change of enrolment, or of the university (effective at the end of the month succeeding the event).

Employment simultaneous with the receipt of the scholarship is generally possible (up to 19 hours per week).

The award guidelines specify the relevant details.

**Additional funding**

Besides the basic scholarship, the HYT Young Academy additionally maintains a fund to support relevant and appropriate costs the recipients of the scholarship incur for

» research travel
» participation at conferences or similar events
» research-related procurements
» invitation of external guests

The use of such funds is restricted to 750 Euros per scholarship year per person. This is not a lump sum; costs for activities promoting study or academic career can be granted on presentation of pertinent expenses up to this limit.
Non-material support
The HYT Young Academy offers its own events. Regular sessions in interdisciplinary groups for the Master students (ca. 10 times a year, in groups studying related subjects) will be directed by professors successful with their applications and by additional persons contacted by the HYT. Personal initiative (travel for research and presentations/conferences; publications) is very much encouraged and will be logistically supported by the HYT.

Application
The following documents must be received as a combined electronic document (PDF). Late or incomplete applications will be rejected on formal grounds. The relevant time is that of the receipt of the PDF via email at the address masterstipendien-hyt@uni-siegen.de. The extent of the application should not surpass 15 pages (exclusive of certificates and transcript of records).

1. Motivation letter of the applicant describing the aims of study and career
2. CV (in tabular form) of the applicant, including a list of publications and presentations if applicable
3. Assessment report on the Bachelor thesis
4. Assessment of the applicant by the mentor
5. Xerox of the bachelor’s or comparable certificate. In exceptional cases the degree certificate can be (after consultation) substituted for by the official transcript of records
6. Complete transcript of records.
7. If available: Proof of enrolment (matriculation) in a Master’s study course at the University of Siegen; if no enrolment has taken place yet, this can be done until the beginning of the scholarship
8. Declaration of commitment of the applicant
9. Declaration of commitment of the advisor

External applicants for a Master’s scholarship please note that you
  » should supply your assessment reports by staff of the external university.
  » can also apply without a mentor at the University of Siegen. Should the application be successful, the scholarship will be awarded for six months. To extend the funding to the full period, you will have to find a suitable mentor during this time. The House of Young talents will actively support this process. In case a mentor cannot be found, the scholarship ends after the first six months.
Applicant’s Declaration of commitment

I commit myself

» to actively pursue the Master studies in question;
» to present the HYT with a report of progress (informal, 1 page), countersigned by the advisor, for each term during the period of receipt of the scholarship (deadlines 31 March and 30 September);
» to participate, personally and actively, in the study-supporting events of the HYT Young Academy; and
» to report immediately to the HYT, in writing, all relevant changes in personal circumstances, especially the receipt of other funding, the termination of studies, the change of study course, or of the university.

Date, applicant’s signature

Advisor’s Declaration of commitment

I commit myself

» to direct a single session annually for the HYT Young Academy for the duration of the applicant’s receipt of the bursary, covering an interdisciplinary or generally subject-transcending subject of their own choice (if several applicants of one advisor are successful, this commitment is not multiplied);

Date, advisor’s signature