Please note that only the German version of this document is legally binding!

House of Young Talents – Young Academy

The University of Siegen awards scholarships to PhD researchers

Via its House of Young Talents (HYT), the University of Siegen offers a scholarship program in support of excellent doctoral (PhD) students. The program provides for up to 5 doctoral researchers at the beginning of their PhD project to receive scholarships of 1,500 Euros each per month for a duration of up to two years beginning on 1 April 2018. This two-year support is intended as start-up financing, the advising professor is expected to finance the necessary continuation, using funds of their chair, or from third parties, thus ensuring an overall length of funding commensurate with what is customary in the respective discipline. Beyond the material support, the HYT Young Academy, through working groups made up of junior researchers in related fields, with professional assistance from professors of the University, supports the first steps of an academic career.

We invite interested recipients of a Master’s or comparable degree to submit their application, jointly with the proposed advisor of the PhD project, in electronic form via the email address promotionsstipendien-hyt@uni-siegen.de until 12 January 2018 (inclusive)

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

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House of Young Talents, Hölderlinstr. 3, 57076 Siegen
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Decision-making process
Applications will be reviewed by an awards committee in which all faculties participate. In the final round, applicants will be invited to give a 10-minute presentation of their PhD project in front of the committee. The presentations are scheduled for the 1 February 2018. 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 Master’s study course completed, of the Master’s Thesis, and of the perspectives for the PhD project. The purpose is to sponsor excellent recipients of Master’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.

The scholarship of 1,500 Euros per month is mainly intended as a support for recipients of excellent Master’s degrees to take up a PhD project in Siegen. Therefore
support will generally be granted to successful applicants for two years (1 April 2018 until 31 March 2020) if the PhD studies have been taken up or are being taken up only in the winter semester 2017/2018 or summer semester 2018;

support will be granted, in case of success, for only one year (1 April 2018 until 31 March 2019), if the PhD studies have been taken up already in the winter semester 2016/2017;

can the scholarship not be applied for if the PhD studies have been begun earlier.

As a rule, the scholarship is intended to encourage the direct switch from Master to PhD studies and thus the Master’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 Master’s degree and the start of the PhD.

An extension or renewal of the scholarship is precluded. A scholarship is not granted if the applicant has already completed a PhD, or if they receive, or have in the past received, funding for a PhD project 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 10 hours per week dependent on the type of work).

The award guidelines specify the relevant details.

**Family component**

An additional family component of 300 Euros maximum per month will be granted on request if the scholar cares for children under the age of 18 who live in the same household (100 Euros per child).

**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 1,500 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 PhD researchers (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 promotionsstipendien-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
2. Draft describing the PhD project
3. CV (in tabular form) of the applicant, including a list of publications and presentations if applicable
4. Assessment of the applicant by the advisor, with statement on the perspectives of continuous financing until the completion of the PhD
5. Xerox of the Master'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. Documentation of enrolment with the University of Siegen in an appropriate course
8. Declaration of commitment of the applicant (see attachment)
9. Declaration of commitment of the advisor (see attachment)
If applicable
10. Child's/children’s birth certificate/s for granting the family component
Applicant’s Declaration of commitment

I commit myself

» to apply for admission for a PhD project with the pertinent PhD Committee (Promotionsausschuss) with all corresponding documents;
» to register in the pertinent PhD course before receipt of the bursary;
» 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 March 31 and September 30);
» 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);
» to secure the necessary continuation of funding after the expiry of the scholarship with means of the chair, or of third parties, e.g. by academic employment, or by continuing the grant, or by a combination, thus ensuring an overall length of funding commensurate with what is typical in the respective discipline; and
» to continue advising the project and thesis even after expiry of funding, unless compelling reasons make this impossible.

Date, advisor’s signature