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House of Young Talents – Young Academy

The University of Siegen awards scholarships to excellent doctoral researchers

Through the House of Young Talents (HYT), the University of Siegen announces a programme to support outstanding doctoral researchers with excellent, promising doctoral projects. The programme provides scholarships of 1500 EUR per month for a maximum of three years for up to 5 doctoral researchers at the beginning of their doctoral project from 1 April 2022 onwards to create the greatest possible freedom for their own scientific activities. The supervising professor must ensure continued funding from their own or third-party resources for a maximum of one more year or until the doctorate is completed, whichever comes first. In addition to the financial support, the HYT Young Academy supports the preparation for a scientific career through its own interdisciplinary event programme.

We ask interested master's graduates to submit their application

until 12 January 2022, 12:00 (noon)
to the address stipendien-hyt@uni-siegen.de

in electronic form (PDF).

If you or your mentor have any questions, we will be happy to advise you, if necessary, in person or by telephone. Please contact us for further information under stipendien-hyt@uni-siegen.de.

Who can receive a scholarship?

The call is cross-faculty and cross-disciplinary and is thematically open. Outstanding master's graduates who (want to) pursue a doctorate at the University of Siegen are to be supported. The excellence of the applicant is decisive for the selection. At least one of the scholarships advertised should be awarded to an international applicant, if possible. Excellent applicants from abroad, or with foreign university entrance qualification, are therefore expressly invited to apply.

The scholarship is linked to enrolment in a doctoral programme at the University of Siegen corresponding to the application. A further prerequisite is the willingness of a professor from the University of Siegen to supervise the doctoral project and thus to act as a mentor to the applicant.

The scholarship of 1500 EUR per month is intended to support excellent master's graduates in taking up their doctoral studies in Siegen. Therefore, funding can only be granted if the doctoral project was or will be taken up in the winter semester 2021/2022 or in the summer semester 2022. An application is not

possible if the doctoral project was started before (i.e. before 1 October 2021). An application is also not possible, if you were already employed as "wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin bzw. wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter" before 1 October 2021.

As a rule, direct transitions from the master's programme to the doctoral studies should be funded. Exceptions apply (with proof) for relevant non-university work, permanent or long-term health impairments, as well as child-raising or care phases between the master's degree and the start of the doctoral studies; also for applicants from abroad who have experienced delays as a result of immigration law requirements.

The third year of funding will initially be granted with reservations. 18 months after the start of funding, the scholarship recipient has to submit an assessable progress report that describes the current status of the doctoral project and addresses the milestones already achieved and those that are still open. At the same time, the mentor must submit a report on the status of the doctoral project and the prospects for completing the doctorate. On the basis of these documents, the selection committee decides whether the third funding year is finally approved.

An extension or re-awarding of the scholarship beyond the maximum period of three years is not possible. Funding will not be granted if the applicant has already completed a doctorate or has already received or is receiving regular funding from public or private institutions for the same project (double funding). If such further support is received, the scholarship ends at the end of the corresponding month. The scholarship also ends when the doctorate is finished or when the university is changed.

A relevant employment at the University of Siegen as "wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin bzw. wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter" or as "wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft (WHK)" is allowed in addition to the scholarship with a maximum of half of the regular working hours; a combination of such an employment with another employment is not permitted. Non-relevant employment (scientific or non-scientific) is only permitted to a limited extent (maximum 5 hours per week). Further details can be found in the guidelines of the scholarship programme.

Family component:

Scholarship recipients can get an additional supplement of 100 EUR per month per minor child living in the same household, up to a maximum amount of 300 EUR per month, which will be granted upon application and proof.

Additional funding:

In addition to the basic support, the HYT Young Academy also maintains a fund for material grants to cover the costs of

- research trips,
- participation in meetings and conferences,
- research-related purchases, or
- invitations of external guests, e.g. for lectures.

The costs are limited to a maximum of 1500 EUR per person per year. This is not a lump sum, but a maximum limit up to which costs for studies or activities supporting scientific careers can be approved and reimbursed against appropriate proof. Unused funds from one year can be transferred to the next funding year if this is announced in writing in advance for an appropriate purpose (e.g. travel abroad).

Non-material support:

The HYT Young Academy supports the first steps into a scientific career with its own event programme. Regular events for scholarship recipients (approximately eight per semester) are led alternately by their mentors or, if necessary, additional external lecturers in interdisciplinary groups. Speakers elected annually by the scholarship recipients can influence the programme. The HYT also provides support for the initiative of scholarship recipients (invitations of external guests, conference and research trips, publications).

Application:

The following documents must be submitted by the closing date as **one single electronic document (PDF)**:

1. Cover letter from the applicant describing the motivation of the application
2. Completed data sheet for the application for a scholarship at the HYT Young Academy (please download separately from <https://www.uni-siegen.de/hyt/academy/ausschreibungen/?lang=en>)
3. Description of the doctoral project (exposé; seven pages maximum, not counting title page and bibliography) including a schedule
4. Curriculum vitae of the applicant in tabular form, if applicable with list of publications and talks
5. Mentor's assessment of the applicant and his or her scientific perspectives and of the doctoral project, including a statement/plan for the continuation of the funding for at least one more year or until the completion of the doctorate; alternatively the mentor can send the report directly to the HYT after prior consultation
6. Copy of the certificate of the relevant degree (master's, diploma or similar); in exceptional cases (after consultation) a copy of the certificate may be submitted later
7. Complete list of grades (Transcript of Records)
8. Certificate of enrolment at the University of Siegen in an appropriate doctoral programme; if enrolment has not yet taken place, the certificate can be submitted later up to the end of the third month after the start of the funding
9. Applicant's declaration of commitment (see appendix)
10. Mentor's declaration of commitment (see appendix) ; alternatively the mentor can send the declaration directly to the HYT after prior consultation

If applicable:

11. Birth certificate(s) of the child or the children for granting the family component

The applicant is responsible for submitting the application in full and by the deadline. Applications received late or incomplete will be rejected for formal reasons. Applications must be submitted by e-mail to stipendien-hyt@uni-siegen.de. The total length of the application should not exceed 15 pages (not counting the degree certificate and the transcript of records).

Decision-making process:

Applications are reviewed by a selection committee with the participation of all faculties. In the final selection round, applicants will be asked to give a 10-minute presentation of their doctoral project to the committee. This round will take place approximately three weeks after the closing date for applications. The committee subsequently selects the applicants who will be funded. During the decision-making process, the equal opportunities officer and the disabled persons' representative can be involved as advisors.

Applicant's declaration of commitment

I commit myself

- to enroll in the appropriate doctoral programme (Promotionsstudiengang) and to apply to the appropriate doctoral committee (Promotionsausschuss) for admission within three months after the scholarship began (if both not already done) and submit to the HYT the relevant certificates;
- to submit to the HYT without being prompted a progress report (informally on approximately one page) signed by the mentor as well as a current certificate of enrolment for each semester (deadlines 31 March and 30 September) during the funding period;
- to submit to the HYT after 18 months an assessment progress report that describes the current status of the doctoral project and addresses the milestones already achieved and those that are still open;
- to participate personally and actively in the study and career supporting events of the HYT Young Academy;
- to immediately notify the HYT in writing of any changes in personal circumstances relevant to the scholarship, in particular the receipt of any other support, the ending of the doctoral studies or a change of university; and
- to inform the HYT immediately of the completion of the doctorate, even after the end of the scholarship, and to send a copy of the certificate.

Date, signature applicant

Mentor's declaration of commitment

I commit myself

- to act as primary supervisor of the doctoral project, even after the end of the scholarship, and actively support the applicant in their doctoral project if necessary and mutually agreed upon;
- to ensure further funding after the end of the scholarship from my own funds or from third party funds, e.g. by employing the applicant as a research assistant, for a maximum of one year or until the doctorate is completed (whichever comes first);
- to submit to the HYT after 18 months an assessment of the current status of the doctoral project and the perspectives for completing the doctorate;
- to conduct an event for scholarship recipients on an interdisciplinary or research-related topic of relevant to academic career development once per year during the scholarship period in coordination with the HYT; there are no additional obligations in case of several successful applicants of a single mentor;

Date, signature mentor