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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 from all faculties with excellent, promising doctoral projects. The programme provides scholarships of EUR 1,750 per month for a maximum of three years for up to five doctoral researchers at the beginning of their doctoral project from 1 April 2026 onwards to create the greatest possible freedom for their own scientific activities. The supervising professor (who functions as a mentor in the scholarship programme) must endeavour to obtain 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 also provides non-material support through its own interdisciplinary event programme.

We ask interested master's graduates from all faculties (or graduates with an equivalent qualification) to submit their application in electronic form (PDF) only

until 6 January 2026, 12:00 (noon)
to the address stipendien-hyt@uni-siegen.de

If you or your mentor have any questions regarding an application, we will be happy to help you, either 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 (or graduates with an equivalent qualification) who (want to) pursue a doctorate at the University of Siegen or have recently begun their doctoral studies (see below) 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 EUR 1,750 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 taken up recently, i.e. in the summer semester 2025 or winter semester 2025/2026, or will be taken up in the summer semester 2026. An application is therefore not possible if the doctoral project was started before 1 April 2025. An application is also not possible, if the applicant was already employed as "wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin bzw. wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter" or "wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft (WHK)" before 1 April 2025. As a rule, direct transitions from the master's programme to the doctoral studies should be funded. Exceptions apply 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.

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.

The third year of funding:

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.

Employment:

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 ten 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 EUR 100 per month per minor child living in the same household, up to a maximum amount of EUR 300 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 seminars.

The costs are limited to a maximum of EUR 1,500 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 are led alternately by their mentors and, if necessary, additional external speakers in interdisciplinary groups. A council 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; organisation of network formats, contributions to the scholarship recipients' colloquium).

Application:

To apply, the following documents must be submitted by the closing date as **one single PDF document** in electronic form only via e-mail to stipendien-hyt@uni-siegen.de:

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://u-si.de/Azm52>)
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; by prior arrangement, the mentor can also send the report directly to the HYT within the application deadline
6. Copy of the certificate of the relevant degree (master's, diploma or similar); in exceptional cases, for example in case the master's programme has not been completed yet or the certificate has not been issued yet, a copy of the certificate may be submitted later after prior arrangement; in this case, please enclose a current certificate from the respective examination office with your application, which also contains the expected overall grade and the current average grade
7. Complete list of grades (Transcript of Records) of the master's degree (so far)

8. Certificate of enrolment at the University of Siegen in an appropriate doctoral programme; if the 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 (please download separately from <https://u-si.de/Azm52>)
10. Mentor's declaration of commitment (please download separately from <https://u-si.de/Azm52>); by prior arrangement, the mentor can also send the document directly to the HYT within the application deadline

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 as well as the mentor's documents). Please enclose only the documents mentioned above with your application and no other documents (e.g. bachelor's degree certificate, letters of reference etc.). Should the selection committee require further documents, these will be requested separately.

Decision-making process:

Applications are reviewed by a selection committee with the participation of all faculties. In the final selection round, applicants will be invited to an interview with the selection committee, which includes a short (10 minutes) presentation of the respective doctoral project. The interviews will take place approximately one month 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.