

Information Leaflet

Bridge Scholarships for Women – “Career Bridge Doctorate – Postdoc Phase”

Offered as part of the Federal and State Government’s Female Professors Program III

By offering the bridge scholarships “Career Bridge Master – Doctorate” and “Career Bridge Doctorate – Postdoc Phase” (funded through the Federal and State Government’s Female Professors Program III), the FernUniversität aims to support women during transitional phases in their academic development and thus help them advance their academic careers. The aim of this initiative is twofold: firstly, to bridge funding disparities between career phases, thereby attracting and retaining talented female scholars in academia. Secondly, the scholarship aims to provide recipients with an opportunity to prepare for their upcoming career and project phases according to their specific circumstances. This may involve activities such as targeted self-evaluation for academic career planning, the development and coordination of a project plan, initial steps in project implementation, or even the preparation of fundraising efforts for the next career phase.

Career Bridge Doctorate – Postdoc Phase

This scholarship targets qualified female early career academics with a doctoral degree who aspire to continue their academic career but lack follow-up funding for their own positions. The funding provides these early career academics with an initial stipend of €1,850 per month (plus a child supplement if applicable) for a duration of 6 months. This support offers recipients a bridging period during which they can prepare to secure **follow-up funding**. The scholarship can be extended by up to an additional 6 months upon application if the recipient applies for third-party funding aimed at securing corresponding follow-up funding during the initial funding period. Throughout the funding phase, the recipients are required to attend a target agreement meeting with their academic supervisor and receive further support: Scholarship recipients will receive guidance from the Graduate Service of the FernUniversität to clarify their personal goals at the outset of their scholarship (mandatory). Additionally, they may receive advice on academic career planning and individual target agreement meetings as part of coaching on personalized skills, requirements, and careers, as needed. The FernUniversität’s Research Service provides support and advice on the acquisition of third-party funding.

Eligible Applicants

- **Qualified female postdoctoral researchers at the FernUniversität** seeking to apply for their own positions at the FernUniversität in connection with a research project
- **Qualified external female postdoctoral researchers** seeking to apply for their own positions at the FernUniversität in connection with a research project

Scope of the Funding

- **Monthly scholarship:** €1,850 for 6 months (initially); plus a child allowance where applicable (€400 per month for the first child and €100 per month for each additional child). The scholarship can be extended by up to 6 additional months upon application if an application for third-party funding is submitted within the funding period.

- **Initial Consultation:** At the beginning of the funding period, scholarship recipients will receive (mandatory) individual guidance from the Graduate Service of the FernUniversität on clarifying personal goals and academic career planning. Additionally, the Graduate Service offers further coaching on skills, needs, and/or careers.
- **Advice on Target Agreement Meetings with Additional Support:** The Graduate Service of the FernUniversität can provide support in preparing for target agreement meetings with your academic supervisor.
- **External Coaching:** The initial consultation may identify needs for additional external coaching to acquire skills relevant for your upcoming career phase. These can typically be covered as part of the scholarship funding.

Eligibility Criteria/Conditions

- A compelling motivation letter and a well-thought-out plan for the funding period
- Above-average doctoral degree
- Endorsement of the grant application by your academic supervisors at the FernUniversität
- The planned project with the associated position must be located at the FernUniversität.
- Mandatory in case of funding:
 - At the start of the funding: Initial consultation with the FernUniversität's Graduate Service to clarify your own goals
 - During the funding period: Target agreement meeting with the academic supervisor
 - After the funding period: Final report (within 3 months of the end of the funding period)

Application Deadlines

Applications can be submitted on an ongoing basis during the term of the Female Professors Program III; decisions on the applications received are made every quarter by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Applications are possible **from 1 September 2023** (earliest start of funding: November 2023). As this measure is tied to the duration of the Female Professors Program III, the **final date for applications is 31 December 2024** (latest start of funding: 1 March 2025). Applications submitted after this date will not be considered. It is not possible to extend this deadline any further, even in exceptional circumstances (such as illness or due to additional caregiving responsibilities).

- Earliest possible application date: 1 September 2023 (funding possible from November 2023)
- Final application deadline: 31 December 2024 (final start of funding from 1 March 2025)

Application

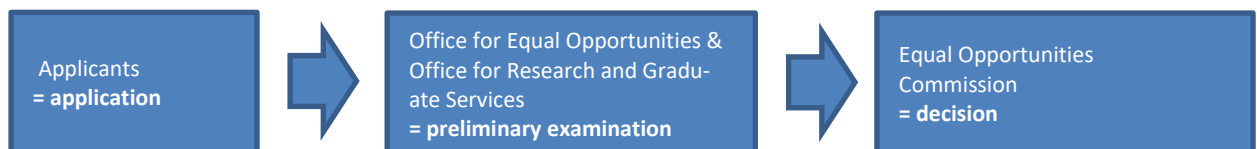
To apply for funding, the applicant must submit the following documents in electronic form as a PDF document (one file) by email (addressed to the Equal Opportunities Commission of the FernUniversität in Hagen, sent for the attention of Natascha Compes, Office for Equal Opportunities: see "Contact"):

- a) **Application letter** comprising a
 - Motivation statement outlining the trajectory for further scientific career advancement and qualification goals based on the current professional situation and future career aspirations
 - Presentation of your research interests; if applicable, details of your planned research project along with all associated research questions;
 - Comprehensive presentation of your planning for the funding period
- b) **Statement on the applicant's qualifications** containing a confirmation from the academic supervisor(s), prepared by a professor of the subject area at the FernUniversität in Hagen

c) **Application form** with the following **attachments**:

- Academic curriculum vitae in tabular form (including personal data and information on professional and academic career, main areas of work and projects, research stays, publications, lectures and presentations, memberships in networks and societies, reviewer activities, third-party funds acquired, and scholarships and prizes received)
- Doctoral degree: Copy of the doctoral certificate/proof of completed doctorate
- If applying for child allowance: child(ren)'s birth certificate(s)
- If you are planning on working in secondary employment during the funding period: evidence of the type of work and scope (max. 10 hours/week during the scholarship; no part-time work as a research assistant)

Application/Decision Process



Further Information and Contact

You will find the application form and further information on internal research funding on the [Internal Research Funding website](#). (site in German only)

Further information on the Female Professors Program III is available on the web pages of the [Office for Equal Opportunities](#). (site in German only)

If you have any questions about this funding initiative, applications for funding, or general questions about the Female Professors Program III, please contact:

Natascha Compes, Office for Equal Opportunities, ☎ -2179, ✉ natascha.compes@fernuni-hagen.de