

Support of Equal Opportunity for Young Researchers at the Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science at the University of Potsdam provides funding to support equal opportunity among young researchers. Applications for support can be submitted for the following options for the **funding period July to December 2024**:

1. Support for doctoral candidates and master students (in the master's thesis phase), as well as scientific staff, whose contract or scholarship has been interrupted or expired prematurely due to the birth of a child or child care responsibilities, and cannot be extended by other means.
2. Provisioning of funds to hire a graduate assistant (WHK) in order to ease the burden of mothers or fathers currently completing their qualifications. This is meant to alleviate the workload of parents who are engaged in time-intensive work, for example in practical laboratory work.
3. Support for graduates of above-average talent to bridge the time between the completion of a master's degree and the initiation of a doctoral project, especially while formulating applications or preparing publications.

Support under options 1 and 3 is provided by means of graduate assistant (WHK) contracts for the applicants. Please see below for **application requirements for options 1 to 3**.

In principle, the funding provided by the Faculty should be **financed by at least 50% from the responsible W2 or W3 professorship, and by at least 35% from the responsible W1/junior professorship or junior group**. The head of the working group must provide explicit written support for the project, **guarantee reciprocal financing** with indication of the **Kostenstelle**, and explain why full support funding is not possible from other funding sources.

Please send all application documents by

7 April 2024

to Dr. Stefanie Mikulla (stefanie.mikulla@uni-potsdam.de), Dean's Office of the Faculty of Science. We also ask that letters of reference from supervisors be sent to this email address.

Please understand that only persons primarily employed by the University of Potsdam are eligible as supervisors. As a rule, subsidies for the same person are not possible more than twice. If you submit a repeat application, please attach a report about the period in which you have already received support (about half a page) to the application documents.

The call for applications for support of young researchers is subject to budgetary restrictions.

Funding via fixed-term WHK contracts is subject to the amendment of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act.

A short application containing the following points is expected from students and staff who are interested in one of the funding schemes mentioned above:

To option 1:

- Information according to **template for applications**,
- Proof that the previous **work contract** is expiring, and when, and an explanation of why follow-up financing is difficult,
- A letter of reference from the supervisor regarding the application, future potential, and **approval of reciprocal financing** with available funds, if applicable, and
- A **curriculum vitae** and graded **certificates**.

To option 2:

- Information according to **template for applications**,
- A letter of reference from the supervisor regarding the application and **approval of reciprocal financing** with available funds, if applicable, and
- A **curriculum vitae** and graded **certificates**.

To option 3:

- Information according to **template for applications**,
- A letter of reference from the supervisor regarding:
 1. The applicant's qualifications,
 2. The feasibility and scholarly significance of the planned dissertation,
 3. An explanation of why full funding from other sources is not possible at this time,
 4. **Approval of reciprocal financing** with available Faculty funds, if applicable, and
- A **curriculum vitae** and graded **certificates**.

The applications can be filed in English or German.

Link to the call for applications online:

<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/mnfakul/the-faculty/boards/commission-of-equal-opportunity/support-for-young-researchers>

The Commission of Equal Opportunity can only consider convincing, complete and punctually submitted documents (a PDF file with the application documents and a file with the supervisor's confirmation).