

As of: 10.08.2023

Information Sheet

Bridge Scholarships for Women – “Career Bridge Master’s – Doctorate”

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 to help them advance their academic careers. The objective 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 individual 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 Master’s – Doctorate

Qualified female master’s students can apply for a bridging scholarship to help them **prepare for a doctorate at the FernUniversität**. Funding is provided for a bridging scholarship of €1,350 (plus child supplement if applicable) for a maximum period of six months. Recipients should utilize this time to prepare for a doctorate at the FernUniversität, for example, by conducting a focused assessment of their career aspirations and objectives, refining their doctoral research idea, formulating an individual development plan for their doctoral journey, and, if necessary, carrying out preliminary project preparation activities. During the funding phase, 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.

Eligible Applicants

- **Qualified master’s students and graduates of the FernUniversität in Hagen** who intend to pursue a doctoral degree and have obtained confirmation of supervision at the FernUniversität in Hagen.
- **Qualified external Master’s students** who intend to pursue a doctorate and have been accepted for supervision at the FernUniversität in Hagen

Scope of the Funding

- **Monthly scholarship:** €1,350 for a maximum of 6 months; plus a child allowance where applicable (€400 per month for the first child and €100 per month for each additional child).
- **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 (“Individual

Development Plan for the Doctorate”): https://www.fernuni-hagen.de/imperia/md/content/swn/5064_brosch%C3%BCre_entwicklungsplan_zur_promotion-din-a4_web1.pdf).

- **External Coaching:** The initial consultation may identify a requirement for additional external coaching to acquire skills relevant to 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 examination results in completed university studies
- You intend to complete your planned doctorate at the FernUniversität
- Endorsement of the grant application and confirmation of supervision by your academic supervisors 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 June 2025** (latest start of funding: 1 September 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)
- Last possible application date: 31 June 2025 (final start of funding from 1 September 2025 for max. 6 months, no extension possible)

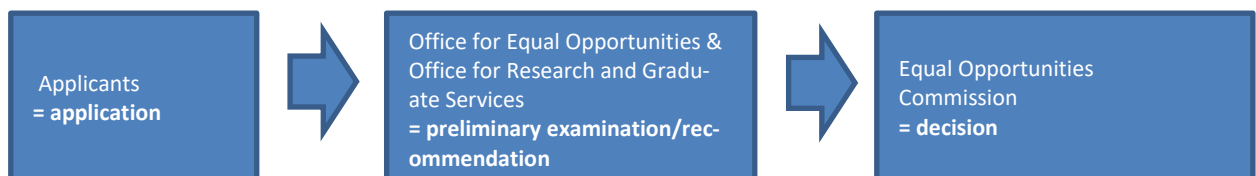
Application

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 goal “doctorate” based on your current situation and taking into account 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**:

- Curriculum vitae in tabular form (including personal data and information on professional and academic career, stays abroad, lectures and presentations, scholarships and prizes received)
- Master's degree: Copy of your master's degree certificate/proof of completed studies from the respective examination office
- 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