



Call for applications of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences

Start-up Grants for doctoral researchers of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences (6 to 12 months of duration)

The Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences offers Start-up Grants for qualified doctoral researchers at the initial phase of their project who shall have the opportunity to secure long-term funding for their PhD by raising funds for a full-time scholarship at a 'Begabtenförderungswerk' or another foundation. Beware: the award of grants is subject to the availability of funds.

Eligible applicants are:

Doctoral researchers of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences of the European University Viadrina at the initial phase of their project who are writing their PhD in one of the following fields: Literature, Linguistics, Social Sciences or Cultural History. Selection criteria will be excellent achievements in the study area proven by grading and an assessment from the supervisor as well as a proven civic engagement (selection criterion of all 'Begabtenförderungswerke'). Moreover, the Faculty expects applicants to have German language skills of at least B 2 as this is an application requirement defined by the 'Begabtenförderungswerke'.

Application documents (to be submitted in the order mentioned below and as **one** PDF file, max. 2 MB size; assessment can be submitted separately):

- cover letter, including contact details;
- CV detailing the civic engagement (please provide proofs) and including a list of publications if applicable;
- Maximum 8-page exposé of the PhD project (incl. time schedule) as well as a summary of the PhD project (half a page long);
- PhD admission (Promotionszulassung) and PhD agreement (Promotionsvereinbarung); if these are not yet available, they must be submitted by the time of commencement of the scholarship;
- a written assessment by the supervisor that approves the application: the assessment has to refer explicitly to the research quality of the PhD project;
- proof of completed university degree (usually M.A., to be submitted in a German or English language version);
- Applicants with mother tongue different than German: proof of German language skills of at least B 2 (language course certificate; study degree obtained in a German-speaking country etc.);
- statement of the current income situation and of the expected income situation during the funding period.



Period of funding:

6 months plus additional 6 months if the scholarship holder submits an application at a 'Begabtenförderungswerk' or another foundation awarding scholarships in due time (within the first 6 months of funding). Both the award of the initial grant of a duration of 6 months as well as the grant prolongation for 6 additional months are explicitly subject to the availability of funds.

Amount of funding:

1,350 Euro/month

An allowance for children or foster children may be granted. Please refer to children or foster children in your cover letter or CV. Please apply for the child allowance by using the acceptance form for the scholarship.

Acceptance of the scholarship:

By accepting the scholarship, the scholarship holder commits to submit at least one application for long-term PhD funding to a 'Begabtenförderungswerk' or to another foundation awarding scholarships within the first 6 months of funding. **For the period of funding, she/he commits to consult the staff in charge of graduate education at the faculty in view of the preparation of the application/-s and to hand in the application/-s to the faculty before submission to the 'Begabtenförderungswerk' / foundation.** The filing of applications which have not been consulted with Faculty staff before submission does not entitle to the prolongation of the scholarship.

Furthermore, the scholarship holder commits to devote his entire work force to the dissertation project. Secondary employments in the form of a scientific activity up to 10 hours/week or in the form of a non-scientific activity up to 5 hours/week are permitted. Income from such secondary employment will not be credited against the scholarship, provided that it does not exceed 500 Euro/month net. Equally, incomes from assets (unlimited) are exempted from such deduction. Please also note that the scholarship cannot be granted or can even be claimed back if another funding is already granted for the same purpose and the same period by public or publicly funded private organizations (i.e. double funding is impossible).

The selection decision is made by a commission that is appointed by the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences and headed by the Dean of the Faculty.

Application deadline: March 22nd 2026

Please submit your application electronically only (1 PDF file, size max. 2 MB; assessments/approvals can be submitted separately) and as subject "Start-up Grants" to the Dean of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences, Prof. Dr. Timm Beichelt:

prom-habil-kuwi@europa-uni.de

For further information, please contact:

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