

## Information Sheet: Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund

### Funding line doctorate students, measure a) "career bridge Master – Doctorate"

#### 1. Eligibility for filing an application

You can apply for the career bridge Master – Doctorate if you are in the final phase of studying on a course which would entitle you to continue with doctoral studies at the time of the application or if you have already finished such a course. Your grades and study performance must be above average and your final thesis must be graded (or be predicted to be graded) as a first class honours degree.

You can apply for the career bridge Master – Doctorate while you are still in the final stage of your course. However, the basic requirement for the commencement of the funding is a completed university degree. As a rule, the period between university degree and the beginning of the career bridge Master – Doctorate should not be longer than one year.

The career bridge Master – Doctorate should be used to establish your idea for a doctorate in order to increase your chances of successfully applying for third-party funded scholarship programmes, doctoral programmes at Bielefeld University and for doctoral positions. Due to the fact that you are currently in the transition phase between studying and commencing your doctorate you must not be admitted to a doctoral programme at the time of application. However, you must show in your application in which doctoral programme and with which supervisor you intend to earn your doctorate.

#### 2. Funding levels

The career bridge Master – Doctorate is awarded for a period of up to 6 months with a monthly scholarship of € 1,000. Additionally, a child benefit supplement of € 250 per child will be paid. You may take employment for a maximum of 8 hours a week. However, the scholarship can not be granted if you receive a different kind of funding for the same purpose and the same period.

#### 3. Deadline for application and start of the funding period

For each financial year in question, two rounds of funding are designed to take place, the deadlines for application are **15 April and 15 October**. A decision on the funding rounds is intended to be made by the end of June or end of December respectively.

For the funding round of 15 April the earliest date the measures would start is 1 July and will have to have started by the end of that year. For the funding round of 15 October the earliest starting date will be the 1 January of the following year and they will have to have started by 30 June of the following year. In general, the measures should be completed within 12 months.

Please adjust the deadline for your application for the career bridge Master - doctorate so that you fulfil the requirements at the start of the funding period.

#### **4. Assistance on applications**

The application form for funding in the framework of Bielefeld Young Researchers' Fund can be downloaded here: <http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/nachwuchsfonds>

You should describe briefly and in generally understandable terms the idea of your doctoral project in your application. Care must be taken when formulating the application with respect to generally understandable formulations because they are not directed to those expert in the applicant's chosen field. Along with the project description you should design a short work and time schedule for the funding period in your application as well as explaining your motivation for this doctorate and your personal plans for the future.

Applications must be submitted by e-mail as one PDF-document to [nachwuchsfonds@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:nachwuchsfonds@uni-bielefeld.de). Please also note the list of documents to be submitted as an attachment - this can be seen in the application form.

#### **5. Evaluation**

Please arrange to provide a written evaluation from a qualified and relevant tertiary school instructor. You can find an outline and requirements for the evaluation at the following address: <http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/nachwuchsfonds>. The reviewer should personally email the review directly to [nachwuchsfonds@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:nachwuchsfonds@uni-bielefeld.de) and not to the student to turn in. Furthermore, it is very important that the deadline for application to be respected regarding this submission. Your application may run the risk of being disregarded if the review has not been sent in on time. It is advised to remind the reviewer of this to ensure the review be sent in on time.

#### **6. Award procedure and assessment criteria**

The Commission which awards Rectorate scholarships deliberates on submitted applications. The following criteria are relevant for such deliberation:

- Qualification of the applicant
- Final grade and duration of studies
- Quality of the application and comprehensibility of the briefly sketched idea for a doctoral project.
- Feasibility of the time schedule
- Sufficient institutional integration of the applicant in a working group/ unit/ institute at Bielefeld University

A preselection of the projects which are eligible for funding is made based on the application documents. Applicants who are eligible for funding after the preselection process are then asked to present their project idea and their motivation for a doctorate to the University Commission. Subsequently, the University Commission makes a recommendation to the Rectorate. The Rectorate decides on the allocation of funds based on the funds available and the quality of the applications.

#### **7. Funding report**

All those who have received financial support are requested to submit a brief funding report to the Vice-rector at the end of the funding period. In this final report, it should be explained for which steps the career bridge Master – Doctorate was used. In addition, the report should include whether or not the doctorate project will be pursued after the bridge scholarship Master – doctorate. If this is the case, the supervisor of the doctorate should be identified and a statement made as to how this will be financed.

#### **8. Information event on the application procedure**

Two **information events** on the application procedure are offered, you will find the dates on [www.uni-bielefeld.de/nachwuchsfonds](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/nachwuchsfonds). It is recommended for the applicants to attend one of the information events.

## **9. Contact**

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