



ESF Plus

PhD Scholarship Program

The aim of the funding is to exploit the individual educational potential of academic specialists, especially women, by expanding their skills with regard to a stable, green, sustainable and digital economy in the Free State of Saxony. Academic professionals are to gain improved career perspectives into Saxon's science and industry through the qualification of a doctorate.

The following forms of doctorate can be funded:

- **Federal innovation doctorates** that explore topics which are of special interest to the Free State of Saxony and which are expected to have an impact on the Saxon labour market. In this case, a justification from the university on the special interest of the Free State of Saxony in the research topic and on the expected effects on the Saxon labour market must be submitted.
- **Industry-sponsored doctorates** that are of common interest of an involved third party (companies) based in the Free State of Saxony and the Technische Universität Dresden. For the funding of an industrial doctorate, a co-financing by the participating third party of at least 850 EUR per relevant doctorate and month is required. The draft of a financing agreement between the involved third party and the TU Dresden must be submitted with the application. (i.e. at least 850 EUR/month must be covered by the third party, 850 EUR/month are funded as a lump sum by the ESF).
- **Doctorates improving the reconcilability of scientific career and family** that serve the continuation of the doctorate after a family-related interruption of academic research. Family-related interruptions within the terms of the guideline are interruptions of at least six months to take parental leave or to care for relatives in need of care. Proof must be submitted with the application.
- **Combination of industry-sponsored doctorate and doctorate improving the reconcilability of scientific career and family.** Corresponding proof of eligibility for funding for both forms of doctoral studies must be submitted with the application.

The listed forms of doctoral studies may also be carried out in cooperation between the TU Dresden and a "Fachhochschule" (University of Applied Sciences) as a cooperative doctoral procedure in accordance with § 40 Paragraph 4 of the Sächsisches Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz (Law on Freedom of Universities in the Free State of Saxony).

Eligibility

Eligible are:

- all prospective doctoral candidates at TU Dresden, provided that the doctoral thesis topic meets the above criteria.
- Doctoral students of the TU Dresden, if the funding serves the continuation of the scientific research after a family-related interruption (at least six months)

Not eligible are:

- Individuals, who have already been employed for at least three years as junior researchers in a junior researcher, junior research group or REACT research group funded by the ESF/ESF Plus. This does not include SHK/WHK activities in one of the above-mentioned research groups.
- Individuals, who have already received other doctoral funding before submitting their application (doctoral scholarships from organisations for the promotion of the gifted, foundations, state funding programmes, DAAD, etc.). This does not include those who fulfil the conditions for projects to reconcile family and academic career.
- For **Federal innovation doctorates**: Individuals, who already started the PhD project *(Please note: The acceptance as a doctoral candidate at the respective faculty is considered as the official start of the PhD. At the time of application, no acceptance at the faculty may have taken place.)*

Note: A proof of acceptance as a doctoral candidate at a faculty of the TU Dresden must be submitted in case of a positive funding decision to the European Project Center of TU Dresden (EPC) before the applied funding period begins.

*Sideline activities (as WHK/WM) can usually be combined with the scholarship if a **maximum of ten hours per week** is not exceeded. The sideline activities are not allowed to be related to the PhD project.*

Duration & Extent of Funding

The doctoral scholarship is granted **for a period of up to four years** until the submission of the dissertation. In the case of doctoral projects aimed at balancing family and academic career, total funding of up to four years may be made possible, considering any funding already received. In absolute and justified exceptional cases, the funding can be extended by one year (individual decision).

Within the **Federal innovation doctorates** and **doctorates improving the reconcilability of scientific career and family**, the monthly funding consists of a basic scholarship of **EUR 1,700.00** and, if applicable, a monthly child supplement of 100.00 EUR per child.

In the context of **Industry-sponsored doctorates** and the combination of an industrial doctorate and projects to reconcile family and academic career, the monthly funding amounts to **EUR 850.00, plus co-financing by the involved third parties** (min. EUR 850.00 per month). If applicable, a monthly child supplement of 100.00 EUR per child will be paid.

Earliest start of funding: June 1st, 2023

Latest start of funding: September 1st, 2023

Note: *In addition to working on their doctorate, doctoral candidates must develop their individual potential, including their knowledge of gender equality. Participation in the qualification field of gender equality is obligatory. In addition, performance must be achieved in one of the qualification areas of teaching, social skills and project management. The amount of teaching hours for the qualification area of teaching should not exceed two semester hours per week. Further information will follow in the event of funding.*

Application & Deadline

The complete application must be submitted **within the deadline as a digital PDF file** (exception: Letter of Recommendation) with the subject "ESF PhD scholarship program" to the e-mail address esf-promotion@mailbox.tu-dresden.de.

Please note: The original **SAB application cover sheet** (in paper form!) with all signatures and stamps must be submitted to the **Graduate Academy** (Mommsenstr. 07 | 01069 Dresden) **in addition**.

Application deadline: November 20th, 2022

Note: Additional supplements are only possible **within the application period**. Incomplete applications, applications sent by e-mail or applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Please note: The required Letter of recommendation must also be submitted to the Graduate Academy by the deadline. The expert opinion can be submitted by the supervising professor or Young Investigator (first supervisor) electronically to esf-promotion@tu-dresden.de or by post to: Graduiertenakademie, Förderprogramme, Mommsenstraße 7, 01069 Dresden.

Approximately one week after the application deadline you will receive an acknowledgement of receipt of your application. Please refrain from telephone inquiries in this time.

Application Documents

Checklist for a complete application:

- **SAB Application Cover Sheet***
Submission of the SAB application cover sheet **digitally** with all other application documents **via e-mail AND additionally in original (paper format!)** to the Graduate Academy
- **Tabular resume** (CV) incl. list of publications, previous teaching activities and description of the scientific career (**with signature!**)
- **Copy of the latest university degree** (if applicable, a copy of a certified English translation of the certificate if it is in a foreign language)
- If completion of studies (graduation) **after** submission of application:
 - **Confirmation of Enrolment**
 - a current **overview of grades** (if applicable, a copy of a certified English translation)
- **Outline of the research project incl. work plan and time schedule**
- **Annex 1***: Statement of reasons for the specific eligibility and relevance of the research project
- **Letter of Recommendation*** to be submitted **by the potential supervising professor or Young Investigator at TU Dresden** with whom the supervision agreement was/will be signed.
- **Annex 2*** for **Federal innovation doctorates & Doctorates improving the reconcilability of family and scientific career**: Justification by the potential supervising professor or Young Investigator at TU Dresden regarding the special interest of the Free State of Saxony in the research topic and the expected effects on the Saxon labour market.
- **Annex 3*** for **Industry-sponsored doctorates**: Letter of intent of co-financing by the involved third party (at least 850 EUR/month) together with confirmation of the requirement for the cooperation agreement that may follow at a later date
- In the case of plans to **reconcile family and academic career**: Proof of family-related interruption (birth certificate, parental allowance certificate)
- If applicable, **statement of family situation**:
 - Copy of child tax benefit notice
 - Declaration of resident's registration office that one/several child/ren are living with the applicant in a common household (if no claim for child tax benefit exists due to citizenship)
 - In the case of a specific additional burden (e.g. family member to be cared for): Proof from the long-term care insurance fund of the need for long-term care and care.

* Documents (as downloads) available online on the GA program website.

Note: The **application documents** have to be submitted **in German only or with a certified translation in German**. Documents in English will not be accepted according to the requirements of the funding authority. Exception: Letter of Recommendation and last university certificate can be submitted in English.

Selection Procedure

The selection of applicants for an ESF PhD scholarship takes place in a two-stage selection process. The prioritisation of the submitted funding applications is carried out by the Executive Board of the Graduate Academy on behalf of the Rectorate of TU Dresden. After successful prioritisation, the applications will be submitted to the Sächsische Aufbaubank (SAB) by the European Project Center (EPC). After evaluation by the SAB and the Sächsische Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft, Kultur und Tourismus (SMWK), the European Project Center (EPC) is responsible for the administration of the funded doctorates.

Special recognition will be given to doctoral projects which

- are practice-oriented or interdisciplinary research,
- involve the development of competencies in the field of the European Green Deal,
- include the development of competences in the field of digitisation
- are realised by women in the MINT or KI fields, or
- are based in the cultural field.

If the planned projects contribute to the implementation of the ESF Plus principle of sustainable development with special measures, these will also be considered in the evaluation.

Further selection criteria:

- Qualification of the applicant
(academic achievements, publications, prizes/awards)
- Quality of the Letter of Recommendation
- Gender parity in representation
- submission of complete application documents within time

Legal basis: [Richtlinie des Sächsischen Staatsministeriums für Wissenschaft, Kultur und Tourismus zur Förderung von aus dem Europäischen Sozialfonds Plus mitfinanzierten Vorhaben in den Bereichen Hochschule und Forschung im Freistaat Sachsen für die Förderperiode 2021 bis 2027 \(ESF Plus RL 2021-2027 Hochschule und Forschung\)](#) vom 1. September 2022 und [Richtlinie des Sächsischen Staatsministeriums für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Verkehr mit allgemeinen Bestimmungen zur Förderung von aus dem Europäischen Fonds für regionale Entwicklung \(EFRE\), dem Fonds für den gerechten Übergang \(JTF\) sowie dem Europäischen Sozialfonds Plus \(ESF Plus\) mitfinanzierten Vorhaben in der Förderperiode 2021 bis 2027 im Freistaat Sachsen \(EU-Rahmenrichtlinie\)](#) vom 9. Dezember 2021.

A fundamental legal right to claim funding does not exist.

Contact

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Website:

Get your questions answered!

Arrange an individual consultation appointment regarding our GA funding programs at graduiertenakademie@tu-dresden.de.

We look forward to receiving your inquiry!



GRADUIERTEN
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Kofinanziert von der
Europäischen Union



Diese Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch
Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des vom
Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushaltes.