

## **FAQ - Scholarship Program of the federal state of Bremen**

### **Q: To whom is the fellowship program addressed?**

A: Researchers from all research fields who have had to leave their home country due to armed conflict, political or religious persecution, or who are still in their home country but are unable to continue their scientific work for one of the above reasons, are eligible to apply. The time of a refugee must not be more than three years ago at the time of application.

### **Q: Who exactly is eligible for funding?**

1. doctoral candidates in the final phase of their doctoral studies who can reasonably demonstrate that they will complete it during the requested funding period,
2. postdoctoral researchers who have completed their doctoral studies.

### **Q: Who funds the program?**

A: The program is funded by the federal state of Bremen (The Senator for Science, Ports and Justice).

### **Q: How long is the funding period?**

A: The funding duration is one year (extension for PhD students by half a year possible, extension for postdocs by one year possible).

### **Q: How do I apply for the fellowship?**

A: The application is exclusively online via the application form on the Welcome Center page. (<https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/research/support-for-researchers/calls/fellowship-programme-for-at-risk-scholars>)

### **Q: What documents are required for an application?**

- A statement of academic qualifications, curriculum vitae, references and a list of previous publications;
- a letter of recommendation from the host university lecturer at the University of Bremen, outlining the scientific embedding in the research group as well as the prospects for integration into the job market that will arise following the funding;
- a description of the research project (max. 3 pages) plus a time schedule covering the period of funding;
- proof of personal vulnerability, either evidenced by a residence status in the context of an asylum procedure indicating a recognized vulnerability, or confirmed by a credible proof of vulnerability issued by a third party, e.g. Scholars at Risk (SAR), no more than 12 months prior to the submission of the application
- Evidence of language proficiency required for the successful completion of the research project, in consultation with the host university faculty member.

### **Q: What is the funding amount?**

A: The monthly funding amount is €1,500 plus family allowance for doctoral students and €2,000 plus family allowance for postdocs.

**Q: How much is the family allowance?**

A: The supplement is 200€ per family member (maximum family supplement is 600€).

Example:

- You come to Germany with your wife - you will receive your Funding amount plus 200€.
- You come to Germany with your wife and two children - you receive your Funding amount plus 600€.
- You come to Germany with your wife and three children - you will receive your Funding amount plus 600€.

**Q: When will I receive my monthly grant payment?**

A: The scholarship instalment is always paid at the beginning of each month.

**Q: How and when do I have to apply for my extension?**

A: The application for extension must be submitted at least three months before the end of the basic scholarship.

**Q: Do I commit to anything during the grant period?**

A: With the acceptance of the scholarship the scholarship holder has the following obligations:

- The scholarship holder will carry out the research project as described in his/her proposal.
- The scholarship holder will provide two reports to the International Office and its supervisor, after nine months and at the end of the program.
- The scholarship holder has to reimburse the scholarship completely or partially, if he/she violates the University of Bremen's "Regulations for the award of a scholarship within the fellowship program for at-risk scholars" from 04.02.2019.
- The scholarship holder confirms that he/she will not receive any other stipends or scholarships of other funding organizations or is being employed during the term of the scholarship according to Article 1. Any other funding or any employment during the term of the scholarship requires the permission of the University of Bremen.
- The scholarship holder agrees to respect and observe the principles of good academic practice as described in the "Regulations assuring good scientific practice" of the University of Bremen ("Ordnung zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis", <http://www.uni-bremen.de/rechtsstelle/rechtssammlung/verfahrensrecht/31-verfahrensrecht.html>) and in the recommendations of the German Research Foundation (DFG).
- The scholarship holder agrees to inform the International Office and the supervisor in case of changes in the scientific work or in case of illness or important other reasons that prevent a continuation of the scientific work;
- The scholarship holder agrees to publish the funded research results.

**Q: Can I apply for another fellowship at the same time?**

A: A further application to another funding program, e.g. the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, is possible. However, you can only receive one grant in the end, i.e. in the case of an acceptance, you have to decide which grant to accept.

**Q: Does the fellowship provide me with health insurance?**

A: As a scholarship holder you have to take out private health insurance in Germany, as you do not receive an employment contract with the scholarship.

**Q: Which private health insurance fits me best?**

A: There are many different private health insurances in Germany including DAAD, DEGiS, Mawista. Most of our scholarship holders have the DAAD insurance. The Mawista health insurance is more of a travel insurance, which covers much less benefits, such as the DAAD insurance. On the following page you will find a lot more information about the different insurances: <https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/research-alliance/welcome-center/health-insurance>.

**Q: What documents do I need before arriving in Germany?**

A: You absolutely need a valid visa before entering Germany, which you must apply for in your home country at the responsible embassy.

**Q: What are the first steps I need to take in Germany?**

A: As soon as you reach Germany it is important to...

1. take care of an apartment (at best you have already chosen a possible accommodation in your home country).
2. set up a German bank account, because only then you will receive the funding (there are also exceptions here with accounts from the EU area that have an IBAN number).

Also important is...

- the registration with the city
- the conclusion of a health insurance

We have an [Arrival Checklist](#) for you, on which you can read all the points in detail and clearly.

**Q: Who should I contact if I have further questions?**

A: For general questions about the scholarship program as well as questions regarding the application process, please contact Franziska Treviranus:

**Franziska Treviranus**

SFG 0330

Enrique-Schmidt-Str. 7

28359 Bremen

E-Mail: [franziska.treviranus@vw.uni-bremen.de](mailto:franziska.treviranus@vw.uni-bremen.de) / [scholars@uni-bremen.de](mailto:scholars@uni-bremen.de)

Telefonnummer: +49 421-218-57122