Goethe Research Academy
For Early Career Researchers

Financial support for doctoral candidates with children

- Frequently Asked Questions -

Who will decide on my application?
Members of the central GRADE support unit will screen and summarize the applications. Formally, the GRADE Board of Directors reaches a final decision based on the supplied summary material and the original applications. The Board of Directors includes faculty members from different fields and also PhD and postdoc representatives.

When will I get feedback about my application?
The deadline for submission is April 30, 2020. We will try to process the applications as quickly as possible. The selection is made by the GRADE Board of Directors (see above). Therefore, it might take 45 weeks until a final decision is reached.

What are the criteria for the evaluation? What should I emphasize in my application?
The selection is based on an assessment of the candidates’ need for support. Therefore, it is important that you indicate special circumstances and explain in detail the care situation for your children (employment of partner, single parent etc.) in the corresponding section of the application form.

Why do I have to specify my current contract situation and details about other scholarships?
For persons with substantial employment, financial support can only be provided in the form of research assistantships. For candidates with small-scale employment, we will be able to award scholarships. To a certain extent, these scholarships can co-exist with other types of funding. Legal possibilities for an employment during a scholarship include:

- An employment of up to 16 hours / month with an income of no more than 6,000 € / year, if the content and purpose of the employment are clearly different from the scholarship
- Teaching assignments at the university
- An employment as a scientific assistant at the university of no more than 42 hours / month

Detailed guidelines can be found in the „Guidelines of the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main on awarding stipends to doctoral candidates and post-doctoral candidates“. We are required to check for and take into consideration any double financing.
What if my contract situation changes after the submission of my application?
The scholarships can be combined with other types of support under certain conditions (see above). Since we need to find a specific solution for each single case, it is important that you inform us about any changes concerning your positions, scholarships, and contracts after your application has been submitted. Otherwise, we cannot ensure that the scholarship can be disbursed.

What are the prerequisites for an application?
- Faculty letter of admission as doctoral candidate at Goethe University Frankfurt
- Dependent children with need for care