

Guidelines for the Award of Doctoral Scholarships by the Ad Infinitum Foundation

for doctoral candidates in German Studies at Goethe University Frankfurt a. M.

As of: November 25, 2022

=== Non-binding translation. Only the German version is officially approved and valid. ===

The AIF supports doctoral candidates at Goethe University in German Studies with a monthly scholarship of up to 1.350 Euro, to be awarded for two years. The scholarship serves to cover living expenses during the preparation of the dissertation. Two scholarships can be awarded each year.

In accordance with the focus of the Faculty of Modern Languages at Goethe University, the award of scholarships is based on a broad understanding of German Studies. Doctoral candidates in other disciplines at the faculty with a close relation to German Studies can also be supported.

Funding Criteria

The scholarships are aimed at young and highly gifted doctoral candidates who are in need of support. Scholarships are awarded to especially talented graduates after a speedy conclusion of studies during their doctorate in one of the disciplines mentioned above. The academic age of the candidates – i.e. time spent studying for a degree or doctorate and, if applicable, time as a research assistant – should **not exceed 8 years** at the application deadline. A commission of the Faculty of Modern Languages evaluates the applicants' particular aptitude for academic work and the quality of their proposed dissertation project.

Need of support is determined by a questionnaire similar to procedures regarding BAföG. In consultation with their supervisors, scholarship holders are permitted to earn additional income of up to 460 Euro per month (up to 9 h employment per week)¹. The income and financial circumstances of relatives liable to pay maintenance must be taken into account when assessing need of support.

Expectations towards the Candidates

Candidates have to be registered as doctoral candidates in German Studies or one of the related disciplines mentioned above.

Scholarship holders have the obligation to regularly inform their supervisor regarding the progress of the dissertation. This can be done in meetings, by submission of completed chapters of the dissertation, or by presentations in research colloquia. If the doctorate is abandoned, the scholarship ends. Scholarship holders are obliged to take note of and comply with the rules of good scientific practice drawn up by the German Research Foundation (https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/principles_dfg_funding/good_scientific_practice/index.html).

¹ Regarding employment, the "Guidelines of the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main on awarding stipends to doctoral candidates and post-doctoral candidates" also have to be considered, which contain stricter limitations for some cases.

Scholarship holders must inform Goethe University immediately if their financial circumstances change. The AIF expects a short report on the course and results of the dissertation and the doctorate after the end of the scholarship.

In case of a severe illness during the scholarship (confirmed by a medical certificate), the scholarship can be extended for up to 6 weeks.

Expectations towards Goethe University

Goethe University will pay out the monthly grant to the scholarship holders. Goethe University additionally supports the AIF scholarship holders through further qualification offers by GRADE, the central institution for the support of doctoral candidates at Goethe University. The use of the GRADE services is voluntary.

Goethe University proposes the selected candidates to the AIF three months before the beginning of the sponsorship. If the AIF does not object within 4 weeks, the proposal is considered approved.