

## Financial Support for Early Career Researchers 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 May 31, 2024. 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 4-5 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' workload through childcare and general neediness. 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

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?**

- For doctoral candidates faculty letter of admission as doctoral candidate at Goethe University, for postdocs and scientists in the R3 qualification phase confirmation of employment at Goethe University or scholarship with clear connection to Goethe University
- Dependent children with need for care

### **Is external childcare OK for the application?**

External care in a day-care center or through other types of care is no exclusion criterion. It can also be full-day care. We have set no limit to the proportion of external care. Therefore, you can also receive the support if all parents or legal guardians are working full time.

### **Do the children have to live in my household?**

If you are involved in childcare for your kids just part of the time or on single days, this is sufficient for an application. The children do not have to live permanently or primarily in your household.

### **Can I submit an application if I have received a GRADE family support before?**

Our aim is to support as many early career researchers with children as possible. We therefore ask for your kind understanding that a renewed application is only possible after a 2-year break. If your application was not successful last year, you are welcome to participate in the current round.