

Call for applications from Gutenberg Graduate School of the Humanities and Social Sciences

## Research Proposal Scholarships

for prospective doctoral candidates in the humanities and social sciences

**Closing date for applications: December 15, 2024**

**Funding available from: April 1, 2025**

In order to attract qualified doctoral candidates in the humanities and social sciences to the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) and to support young researchers during the preparatory and early stages of their doctorate, the Gutenberg Graduate School of the Humanities and Social Sciences is calling for applications for research proposal (Exposé) scholarships from those commencing doctoral studies preparation. The scholarships are intended to enable candidates to prepare a strong proposal for their doctoral project within the six-month funding period, thus providing a sound basis for a doctoral scholarship application or doctoral position. Along with the financial support, a range of creative and practical guidance is also available (e.g. workshops on research proposal writing and doctoral studies preparation, along with other advisory, skills development and qualification opportunities).

### Who can apply?

Applications are welcomed from

- advanced students or graduates of all universities (whether in Germany or abroad) who either **hold a degree entitling them to commence doctoral studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University** or will soon obtain one
- advanced students and graduates from foreign universities who would like to do a doctorate at JGU and who have either already submitted or intend soon to submit an **application for recognition of their foreign qualifications**
- persons undergoing **aptitude assessment procedure/fast-track procedure** at JGU in preparation for admission to a doctorate.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate above average aptitude and strong motivation for undertaking a doctorate in the humanities or social sciences at JGU. (Further information on the relevant subject areas/research fields available can be found [here](#).)

At the time of application, the final thesis in the degree programme (e.g. master's degree) entitling the applicant to enter doctoral studies must already have been submitted. For courses of study where no final thesis is required, evidence that the applicant's studies have reached a level that clearly points to a successful completion of their degree course prior to commencement of funding must be submitted with the application.

At the time of starting the scholarship, candidates must be in possession of a degree which, in accordance with the applicable doctoral regulations, entitles them to undertake a doctorate at JGU in their chosen department or faculty (e.g. master's degree, First State Examination, Magister...).

This degree should not be more than three years old at the time of application. If more time has elapsed, the reasons for this must be given in the application. Legitimate reasons may include, for example, disability, family or care responsibilities, involvement in student bodies, refugee status/forced migration, or other circumstances that have hindered pursuit of the doctorate.

### Language skills

The accompanying programme is offered in German and/or English. The application and the proposal can be written in either German or English. Knowledge of German is desirable, but not a prerequisite for application.

### Selection criteria

Applicants will be selected on the basis of their qualifications and the motivation shown for pursuing a doctoral degree in the humanities or social sciences at the Johannes Gutenberg University, though equality and diversity criteria will also be taken into account.

The likelihood of the candidate receiving follow-up financing is also a consideration in the selection process.

### **Amount and duration of the scholarship**

Regarding the amount of the scholarship, JGU guidelines follow those issued by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) (§ 6 para. 1). Accordingly, the scholarship currently stands at **1.650 € per month** (includes basic scholarship plus lump sum allowance to cover research costs). In addition, where applicable, a childcare allowance and a subsidy for health insurance may also be awarded. The standard duration of the scholarship is **six months**.

### **Regulations and conditions**

The research proposal scholarship is subject to all regulations in the currently valid **guidelines for the awarding of scholarships at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz**. These can be found at <https://organisation.uni-mainz.de/senatsrichtlinien/>.

On taking up the scholarship, recipients are required to **attend workshops** in person organised by the GSHS on preparing for doctoral studies and writing a research proposal. It is expected that attendance at a total of seven workshops will be required during the funding period. Further advice and opportunities to add to their skills and qualifications, will also be available to funding recipients through the GSHS and its partners at the JGU.

Scholarship holders are also required to submit a short **final report** on the progress of the scholarship, the current status of their doctorate and any doctoral funding applied for or obtained; notice of any doctoral position acquired must also be included. This report is to be sent to the GSHS office no later than four weeks after the end of the scholarship period. All information in the final report is for internal use by the GSHS only and will not be made available to any third parties.

The GSHS also conducts a final survey on career progress around six months after completion of the programme. For the duration of their scholarship, holders will be accepted as junior members of the Gutenberg Graduate School of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Following registration as doctoral candidates, they can become full members of the GSHS.

Should the programme be terminated or cancelled early, the scholarship does not have to be repaid.

### **Application documents**

- [Application form](#)
- **CV in tabular form**
- **Covering letter** (1-2 pages.). We recommend that you indicate any type of further funding you are aiming for (e.g. scholarship, job) to follow the research proposal scholarship.
- **Certificates** for all university degrees, including Transcript of Records. If a degree certificate is not yet available, please include a current Transcript of Records
- **Brief outline of project** (max. 2-3 pages + max. 1 page. bibliography) including a working title for the doctorate and an indication of the discipline in which the doctorate is to be completed
- **Letter of recommendation from a university lecturer** (JGU or home university) (max. 1-2 pages). The letter of recommendation can either be enclosed with the application or sent directly to the GSHS office as a scan by the person recommending you.
- Confirmation from a JGU university lecturer with authorisation to supervise in the chosen doctoral field, and who is available to act as **mentor** to the applicant during the funding period. (This does not imply any decision on subsequent supervision of the doctoral project.) Confirmation of supervision by the mentor can be submitted in an informal letter and attached to the application as a scan.

**Information for mentors**

- If applicable, include an explanation of any factors that may have had an impact on the programme or course of studies or has caused the maximum period of three years between graduation and application to be exceeded.

Please send all documentation electronically by **15 December 2024** by email in a single PDF to [gshs@uni-mainz.de](mailto:gshs@uni-mainz.de). Please enclose all documentation in the order mentioned above.

Answers to frequently asked questions concerning our Research Proposal Scholarship and the application documents to be submitted can be found on our [FAQ page](#). Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the [GSHS office](#).

Stand: 08.10.2024