

How to apply for a doctoral scholarship in jurisprudence

We are delighted that you have decided to pursue a doctorate in jurisprudence at the Faculty of Law of Kiel University. The Graduate Center is the central service unit for all doctoral candidates of the university. In the following we are going to show you how to apply for a doctoral scholarship in jurisprudence.

A doctorate is a major research project which will take a number of years to complete. It is very important that during this period you have sufficient funds at your disposal, i.e. enough funding so that you can spend most of your time on your research. There are different ways to finance your doctorate: You have a position (on the basis of an employment contract) with the university, you hold a scholarship or you work outside the university. If you are interested in a position you need to speak to your supervisor about it. Please note that you will need the 1. Staatsexamen to qualify for most of the positions. This guide only deals with the various aspects of applying for a doctoral scholarship.

A scholarship is designed to support you as a person. You will receive a monthly stipend for a fixed period of time. In addition you might receive a research allowance and, if applicable, an allowance for childcare. Please note that a scholarship does not constitute employment. This means that you are not bound by instructions, as would be an employee, and you do not have to teach. You also do not pay social security contributions, including pension payments, and you have to finance your health insurance completely on your own.

For a scholarship you have to apply personally. In many cases the application may be submitted electronically. You are required to submit a cover letter and various documents. These usually include an academic CV, an abstract of your thesis, references (at least one from the supervisor of your doctoral research project), a copy of your degree certificates and the acceptance letter from your faculty confirming that you have been registered as a doctoral candidate. The so-called Begabtenförderungswerke also expect proof of a substantial commitment to social or political causes. This commitment may take many forms – if in doubt, please contact the funding organization directly and discuss your activities with them.

Please make sure that you do not miss any deadlines and that you pay attention to specific conditions. These conditions, as well as the documents you are required to submit, may vary. Make sure that you have read the information provided by the funding organizations carefully. If you have any questions contact the funding bodies directly and ask.

Below you can find a list of funding organizations that provide funding for a doctorate in jurisprudence as well as information on databases that allow you to search for suitable scholarships.

All subjects:

- 1) The federal state scholarships: Kiel University awards a number of federal state scholarships financed by the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein to persons that already have a supervisor from one of the faculties of Kiel University. More information [here](#)
- 2) The Begabtenförderungswerke: The so-called Begabtenförderungswerke are foundations that award scholarships to persons that pursue their entire doctorate at a German university. Top grades are not necessary for an application, but the foundations expect that applicants demonstrate substantial political or social activities. You can find a list of the foundations [here](#)
- 3) The Fazit-Stiftung: The Fazit Foundation supports doctorates in all subjects with scholarships. You can find more information [here](#)
- 4) DAAD scholarships for research stays abroad: The German Academic Exchange Service awards scholarships for [short-term](#) and [long-term](#) research stays abroad.

Scholarships for a doctorate in jurisprudence (examples):

- 5) Loscheler Rechtsanwälte: Loschelder is a law firm specializing in business law. It awards two doctoral scholarships per annum. You can find more information [here](#)
- 6) VG Wort: The organization VG Wort awards scholarships for doctorates in copyright law. More information [here](#)
- 7) Stiftung Vorsorge: The foundation Stiftung Vorsore awards research scholarships dealing with the law of succession and precautionary measures. More information [here](#)
- 8) Gerda Henkel-Stiftung: The Gerda Henkel Foundation offers [scholarships for doctorates](#) in the history of law.

Databases that offer information on doctoral scholarships:

- 9) On the website [External Funding](#) of the Graduate Center you can find information on how to search for doctoral scholarships.
- 10) The [Stipendienlotse](#) (the scholarship pilot) of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research lists scholarships for a doctorate at a German university.
- 11) [Stipendium plus](#) is a hub for all Begabtenförderungswerke (see above).
- 12) [ELFI](#) is a large database containing information on all sorts of funding opportunities, including doctoral scholarships.

There is no uniform application process for all funding organizations. It is therefore necessary to research the various possible funding opportunities properly. There are a few general rules for applying for a scholarship, and we would like to draw your attention to them:

- You are expected to submit a complete application by the deadline mentioned by funding organizations; usually it is not possible to submit additional documents later on or to supplement an application already submitted
- The review process can take many forms: Sometimes a reviewer writes a written report, sometimes the applicant has to attend an assessment center
- Age limits are very much the exceptions; in the case of private funding organizations they are legal
- Kiel University will not finance you during the application process
- Persons that hold a Master's degree cannot be employed as student assistants