

Internal university announcement: Bridging grants and course completion grants for young academics at the University of Rostock

1. The objective

The University of Rostock aims to ensure that obtaining an academic qualification is compatible with family responsibilities and to break down structural barriers for doctoral and post-doctoral students with family responsibilities. To achieve these goals and support young academics with family responsibilities (those bringing up children, caring for relatives, etc.), the University of Rostock is announcing the grant programme for young academics. The bridging grants and course completion grants are designed to compensate for the multiple stresses and burdens caused by extensive family obligations that result in interruptions to the process of obtaining a qualification and extensions of the time required to obtain a qualification.

2. Who is entitled to the funding?

Funding will be awarded to young academics who are members of the University of Rostock and who are pursuing an academic qualification in accordance with the State Higher Education Act of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (LHG M-V). Applications are open to doctoral and post-doctoral students who are outside the funding period of their previous grant or the contractual period of their qualification position because of extensive family responsibilities (pregnancy, extended parental leave, childcare, care of family members etc.) and who have no other means of extension or bridging finance. Applicants are only entitled to funding until they submit their doctoral/post-doctoral thesis.

3. Duration and scope of funding

Grants are awarded for one to six months. Grants may be extended until the end of the full funding period of six months.

The funding levels for the grants are as follows:

- Doctoral students: €1000 per month
- Post-doctoral students: €1300 per month
- Child supplement: €150 per month (first child) or €100 per month (each additional child)

4. Application deadlines

There is no specific deadline for applications. Applications may be submitted at any time. The period between the application and decision or notification is approximately six to eight weeks. Applications for an extension must be submitted at least two weeks before the end of the grant period.

5. The grant award process

Once received, applications first undergo a formal review and then an assessment by the [Commission for Equal Opportunities and Diversity](#).

Selection is based on the reason for the delay and the feasibility of completing the qualification within the proposed timeframe.

The reasons for a rejection are generally not given.

A grant will only be awarded if it can be shown that all options for routine funding have been exhausted. Applicants will not be eligible for a grant if they are in receipt of another grant, are employed for more than 10 hours per week in research and teaching or for more than 5 hours per week in any other job, or if they are in receipt of class I and II unemployment benefits.

A grant is awarded subject to the availability of funds and may only be used for the purpose set out in the application. There is no legal entitlement to funding. The decision is final.

6. Documents to be submitted

- Completed and signed application form
- Letter of motivation explaining the individual circumstances that led to the delay of the qualification (maximum one page)
- CV in table format
- Proof of membership of the University of Rostock
- Description of the qualification, including current work schedule/timetable (maximum two pages; no thesis papers, no bibliographies or similar)
- A supporting letter of recommendation from the relevant personal supervisor confirming the accuracy of the information (in particular, the reason for the delay) and the feasibility of the timetable, sent separately by email to the Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Equality and Diversity Management (pi@uni-rostock.de).
- Letter of recommendation signed by *an additional* university lecturer
- Proof of the end of the previous funding (negative decision)

Applications for extension can be submitted informally and must provide a convincing justification with an amended timetable. It is not necessary to submit a new application in full.

7. Requirements for the award of a grant

Disclosure of the application documents/public announcement of the funding

The documents submitted by applicants are disclosed within the above decision-making panels. Funding recipients expressly agree to their name and research topic being disclosed in reports on the funding programme at the University of Rostock. This includes, for example, a mention on the University homepage and in other press articles.

Grant agreement

A binding requirement for the receipt of a grant is the conclusion of a grant agreement between the applicant and the University of Rostock. A grant agreement must be signed by both parties in order to receive the grant.

Acceptance of funding criteria & withdrawal

By submitting an application, applicants declare their binding acceptance of the above funding criteria. Applicants are free to withdraw their application or to stop receiving or to return the funding at any time. Any such withdrawal must be made in writing.

Payment schedule

The grant is paid into the account specified for the funding on the 15th of every month.

Repayment

If approval for funding is obtained on the basis of false information, the grant agreement may be terminated immediately by the University of Rostock. The amounts paid until termination must be repaid in full within three months. Grossly negligent conduct that puts completion of the qualification at risk shall also lead to the early termination of funding.

Evaluation & mandatory report

Any award of a grant includes the undertaking by the grant recipient to participate in evaluation of the programme and to submit a final report, not to exceed two pages, on progress with respect to the funding objective. The report must be submitted no later than one month after the end of the funding period and must be signed by both the grant recipient and the person supervising the qualification.

8. Contact

Please submit your application by post to the following address:

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