

Call for proposals of the University of Passau

## Thesis starter grant

for doctoral candidates

**Application deadline: 31 August 2023**

**Earliest funding start date: 1 November 2023**

The University of Passau considers excellent support for its young academics to be an important building block for excellence in research and teaching. In order to financially support their transition to a promising doctoral phase, the University awards thesis starter grants to particularly qualified graduates.

Thesis starter grants are used to obtain funding for commencing a doctoral project at the University of Passau. Specifically, they are intended to enable the recipient to prepare an exposition/funding proposal for use in applications sent to donor organisations or when applying for a third-party-funded position.

### Duration of the funding

Thesis starter grants come with a contract as a doctoral research assistant amounting to 30% of the regular working hours. In the case of funding, the contract is concluded for six months.

Subject to available budgetary funds, the funding period can be **extended by up to three months** to bridge the time until the start of funding by a donor organisation or other external funding source. In order to apply for an extension, the doctoral student must furnish **proof of application** to a doctoral funding body or an external third-party funder. This must be submitted to the Graduate Centre at least six weeks before the end of the funding period. There is no automatic entitlement to an extension.

### Who can apply?

- Students with above-average marks who are in the final phase of a degree programme that will qualify them for doctoral study (the graduation date must be on or before 31 March 2024) who are planning to study for a doctorate at the University of Passau.
- Recent graduates (the graduation date must be on or after 31 October 2022) with an above-average final grade who are planning to study for a doctorate at the University of Passau.

You are not eligible for funding if you are employed at the University of Passau during the intended funding period.

Funding can only begin once all exams and other assessments for the prior degree programme have been completed. A deferred start is possible in justified cases but must be within twelve months of completion of your prior degree programme.

### Selection criteria:

- Applicant's academic qualification and performance, proven in particular by outstanding academic achievements as well as prizes or other awards gained during their degree studies
- Scientific quality and clarity of the applicant's envisioned doctoral project
- Comprehensibility of the applicant's personal motivation for gaining the doctorate and how it will benefit their future career plans

### Required supporting documents:

- The completed Thesis Starter Grant Application Form
- Certificates of all university degrees obtained or proof of previous study and examination achievements if the certificate is not yet available at the time of application
- Applicant's curriculum vitae
- Letter of acceptance from the designated doctoral supervisor at the University of Passau

All documents must be received by the Graduate Centre by **31 August 2023**:

- The **applicant** must submit the application form and all required supporting documents electronically/upload.
- The **designated doctoral supervisor** must send the supervision acceptance letter either by e-mail to [graduierzentrum@uni-passau.de](mailto:graduierzentrum@uni-passau.de) or in paper-based form to: Universität Passau, Graduiertenzentrum, Nikolastr. 12, 94032 Passau, Germany.

For a detailed step-by-step guide to the application process visit our website.

If you have a specific question on the starter grant, please check our frequently asked questions. Of course you're welcome to get in touch with the Graduate Centre staff if your question isn't answered on our website.

The general terms and conditions, as set out in the guidelines of the University of Passau on the granting of thesis starter grants, apply.