

Kekulé Fellowship for PhD candidates - Guidelines

The purpose of this fellowship is to promote young outstanding scientists in chemistry and chemistry-related subjects.¹

Prerequisites:

- ▶ As a rule, German nationality or EU national working in Germany²
- ▶ Master/Diploma within the standard period of study³ (incl. Master thesis or diploma thesis) in chemistry or chemistry-related subjects with a degree that allows admission to a PhD degree. Semesters studied abroad are included in this calculation. Specialised knowledge in chemistry acquired prior to the university degree (e.g. University of Applied Sciences) must be appropriately counted towards the duration of studies. If the standard period of study is exceeded, an application is possible in exceptional cases (e.g. exceeding due to a stay abroad, voluntary industrial internship, etc.). This must be agreed in advance with the office (contact: forschung-fonds@vci.de)
- ▶ Excellent academic achievement throughout.
- ▶ Willingness to write a dissertation in an outstanding research group with a chemical orientation at a university or a non-university research institution (not in an industrial enterprise, e.g. start-up company).
- ▶ Application max. 4 months after beginning of the PhD project. Otherwise, the term of the Fellowship is shortened accordingly. If the start of the dissertation was more than 6 months ago on the deadline of application, no application can be submitted.

Benefits of the Fellowship / Conditions:

- ▶ The monthly instalments of the fellowship amount to EUR 1,850 (see page 3).
- ▶ To support the compatibility of family and career in science, an additional monthly lump sum of EUR 100 per child is granted. This lump sum is paid to supported parents upon presentation of the child's birth certificate.
- ▶ Reimbursement of expenses up to EUR 1,000 per year against presentation of receipts for scientific literature, computers including accessories and participation in scientific conferences that are directly related to the work on the PhD thesis.
- ▶ Relocation costs: If the beneficiary relocates to another university in a different city at the start of his/her work on the PhD thesis, a one-off relocation allowance of EUR 1,750 is paid.
- ▶ To support international mobility, a foreign allowance of EUR 500 per month can be applied for temporary research stays at foreign research institutions.
- ▶ The Fellowship runs for 3 years.
- ▶ It would be an advantage if the supported person were involved in teaching activities (e.g. 2 hours/week during the semester).

¹ The scholarship serves to promote research or academic training or further education by providing appropriate support to fulfil the research task or to cover living expenses in the context of training or further education and to cover training and further education requirements.

² In the context given here candidates of any nationality, who did their studies in Germany and also completed them in this country, are free to apply.

³ Extensions to the standard period of study due to the pandemic are not considered. The usual standard periods of study for the degree programme apply here.

- ▶ The beneficiary undertakes to accept funding from only one institution (prohibition of double funding) and to devote his/her research work primarily and regularly to the academic activity funded by this fellowship. Additional employment is permitted: up to a quarter of a full-time position in research or teaching at a university or non-university research institution, or up to a maximum of 5 hours per week in any other field.
- ▶ Furthermore, the beneficiary undertakes to notify the Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds immediately of any changes that affect the requirements or conditions of the Kekulé Fellowship, or of other circumstances relevant to the implementation of this fellowship. This applies generally and in particular to any situation that prevents the beneficiary from personally carrying out the funded work. The only exceptions to this obligation are absences of less than three weeks due to illness, or absences related to annual leave.
- ▶ Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds reserves the right to withdraw or suspend the Kekulé Fellowship if there are significant reasons that could damage the reputation of the fellowship, or if the beneficiary fails to meet his/her obligations. In cases where the fellowship is withdrawn, the Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds may require the beneficiary to repay the funds received (partly or in full) applying the principle of proportionality and considering all the circumstances of the individual case.

Applications must be submitted via the [funding portal](#).

- ▶ Applications must be submitted by the PhD student.
- ▶ Only one application per supervisor may be submitted per deadline.

The following documents (PDF) are required for the application:

- ▶ CV, list of publications (if applicable, incl. DOI)
- ▶ Statement explaining the choice of research group and topic (½ page)
- ▶ **PhD thesis proposal, to be prepared by the PhD candidate:** summary and objectives (1 page), introduction with references, current state of research and planned experiments (5-7 pages), timeline (spreadsheet, 1 page), bibliography
- ▶ Official confirmation from the university indicating the applicant's ranking within their cohort for both the Bachelor's and Master's degree (form available on the funding portal)
- ▶ Degree certificates with individual grades (bachelor and master or equivalent). For degrees obtained outside Germany, a Diploma Supplement is required.
- ▶ Electronic version of the Master/Diploma thesis
- ▶ Birth certificate(s) of the applicant's child/children, if applicable
- ▶ Letter of recommendation from the PhD supervisor **confirming that the applicant is among the top 10 percent of their cohort.** If the supervisor changed between the Master thesis and the PhD thesis, an additional letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the Master thesis is required. Recommendation letters must be uploaded separately by the supervisors after the application has been submitted.

Please note that applications can only be considered if all required documents have been received in full.

Deadlines for application: 1 March, 1 July and 1 November of any year.

According to § 3 item 44 of the German Income Tax Law, fellowships from non profit organizations such as Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds des Verbandes der Chemischen Industrie are income-tax free on the following conditions:

- a. The fellowships do not exceed the amounts necessary to perform a research task or to cover living expenses and the need for professional training, and the fellowships are awarded according to relevant guidelines of the donor;
- b. Beneficiaries of fellowships are not obliged to render any specific scientific or artistic service in return or to perform work as employees.

On the use of generative models in the application

Applicants must disclose whether and which generative models they have used, for what purpose and to what extent when submitting an application. They must ensure that the use of generative models does not infringe third-party intellectual property and does not result in scientific misconduct, e.g. in the form of plagiarism. The use of generative models when applying will generally be assessed neither positively nor negatively.

Data Protection Rules of Fonds der Chemischen Industrie

Applications for funding or prizes of Fonds der Chemischen Industrie im Verband der Chemischen Industrie e.V. (chemical industry fund within the German chemical industry association VCI)

By submitting personal data in connection with an application for funds or prizes of Fonds der Chemischen Industrie im Verband der Chemischen Industrie e.V., you consent to the electronic processing and storage of the data you have provided. This is done for the organizational processing of the funding procedures/award procedures and for communication on events of Fonds der Chemischen Industrie and the foundation Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds.

Furthermore, you agree to your name being published in the context of press releases about the granting of funds / award of prizes. Your data will be stored until you withdraw your consent by stating this withdrawal to us. Where we are under a legal obligation to store your data, these data will be deleted after expiry of the legally required record-keeping period. In the context of the approval procedure for funding or an award ceremony, your data will be passed on to third parties (reviewers) for the purpose of processing.

You can find the full version of our data protection rules (in German language) [here](#).

STIFTUNG STIPENDIEN-FONDS
DES VERBANDES DER CHEMISCHEN INDUSTRIE e. V.

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