

## Kekulé Fellowship for PhD candidates - Guidelines

**The purpose of this fellowship is to promote young outstanding scientists in chemistry and chemistry-related subjects.<sup>1</sup>**

### Prerequisites:

- As a rule, German nationality or EU national working in Germany<sup>2</sup>.
- Master/Diploma within the standard period of study<sup>3</sup> (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](mailto: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.
- A material cost allowance of EUR 1,000 per year is granted for the purchase of scientific literature, computers including accessories and participation in scientific congresses 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.
- 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).

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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 of up to a quarter of a position in the area of research and teaching at a university or non-university research institution or a maximum of 5 hours per week in all other areas is permitted.
- Furthermore, the beneficiary undertakes to immediately notify Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds of any changes which affect the requirements for / conditions of the Kekulé Fellowship or of any facts which are significant to the implementation of this fellowship. This applies generally and, in particular, to any reason which prevents the beneficiary from personally performing the funded work. The only exceptions from this notification requirement are absence of less than three weeks due to illness and vacation-related absence.
- Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds reserves the right to withdraw or suspend the Kekulé Fellowship if there are important reasons damaging the reputation of the fellowship or if the beneficiary does not fulfil his/her obligations under this fellowship. In cases where the fellowship is withdrawn, Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds can demand the beneficiary to pay back (partly or in full) the funds received within the Kekulé Fellowship - applying the principle of proportionality and considering all the circumstances in the individual case.
- The PhD supervisor (in Germany) receives a research funding of EUR 5,000 for material and travel expenses.

**The PhD supervisor submits the application (only one application per deadline). The following application documents must be submitted by email to [stipendien-kekule@vci.de](mailto:stipendien-kekule@vci.de):**

- Personal data application form - available on request from [forschung-fonds@vci.de](mailto:forschung-fonds@vci.de). Please be sure to include the name of your supervisor and the university or research institution at which you are doing your PhD in the email.
- CV in tabular form, list of publications (if applicable, with DOI)
- Letter of recommendation by the PhD supervisor **including statement that the candidate is among the top 10 percent of his/her age group.**  
If there is a change of supervisor between the master thesis and the PhD thesis: additionally, a letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the master thesis.
- Justification regarding the choice of working group and topic (one half page)
- Subject of and work plan for the PhD thesis - to be elaborated by the PhD candidate:
  - summary and objectives (1 page)
  - introduction with literature references, state of research & planned experiments (5-7 pages)
  - time schedule (spreadsheet, 1 page)
  - bibliography
- Attestation from the university stating the position achieved in the year for the Bachelor´s and Master´s degree (Ranking form will be sent with the personal data application form)
- Certificate of university degree with individual grades (bachelor and master or equivalent), a Diploma Supplement is required for certificates that were not issued in Germany
- Electronic version of the master/diploma thesis (pdf-file up to 10 MB)
- Birth certificate(s) of your own child/children, if applicable

**Please note that applications can only be considered if the office has received all application documents 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.

Thomas Wessel  
Vorsitzender des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats  
der Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds

Ulrike Zimmer  
Geschäftsführerin  
der Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds

Fonds der Chemischen Industrie - Mainzer Landstraße 55 - 60329 Frankfurt