

STIBET I Contact Scholarships (*Kontaktstipendien*)

The scholarship and support program STIBET (Stipendien- und Betreuungsprogramm) is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and is allocated to German higher education institutions by the German Academic Exchange Service. It aims at improving the organizational support and financial assistance of foreign students and doctoral candidates from partner institutions of the FernUniversität. The STIBET program thus contributes to increasing the attractiveness and competitiveness of Germany as a place of study.

In the framework of the STIBET program, the FernUniversität in Hagen is seeking to award

three contact scholarships to foreign doctoral candidates.

What is funded?

Funding is available for research stays of up to six months for foreign doctoral candidates enrolled in a double doctorate program (*binationales Promotionsverfahren*) with the FernUniversität in Hagen. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the research stay may also be virtual. The virtual research stay requires a travel warning either from the applicant's home country or the German Federal Foreign Office.

Who is funded?

Funding is available to foreign doctoral candidates who are either already enrolled or currently in the process of applying for enrollment in a double doctorate program (*binationales Promotionsverfahren*) between the FernUniversität in Hagen and a partner institution abroad. Preference will be given to candidates enrolled or planning to enroll in structured doctoral programs of the FernUniversität. Please note that scholarships may only be awarded to candidates who neither possess the German nationality nor have acquired their university entrance qualification in Germany (*Bildungsausländer*) and who are registered doctoral students at the FernUniversität.

What is the amount of funding?

The scholarship amounts to EUR 1.200 per month for a maximum duration of six months.

How can I apply?

Doctoral candidates are expected to submit the following application documents in German or in English for the attention of Ms. Knitter, International Office (contact information below):

- Two- to three-page-long motivation letter including a timeline and explaining the relevance of the planned research stay at the FernUniversität in the framework of your doctoral project
- Two-page-long summary of your doctoral project
- Recommendation letter from your doctoral supervisor/from a university professor of the foreign partner institution
- Recommendation letter from your doctoral supervisor at the FernUniversität in Hagen
- CV in form of a personal data sheet
- Degree certificates and supporting evidence of academic qualification

- Copy of the double doctorate agreement (*binationales Promotionsabkommen*) or evidence that you have applied for a double doctorate program
- Proof of registration as a doctoral student at the FernUniversität (may be submitted at a later point and up to two weeks prior to your research stay in Hagen)

According to what criteria will my application be assessed?

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic qualification. In the case of equal qualifications, decisions will be made on the basis of the applicants' social situations. Additional selection criteria include complete application documents, the quality of the motivation letter, and the justification of the relevance of the planned research stay at the FernUniversität in Hagen. The award of scholarships is subject to the availability of resources.

What additional conditions are associated with the award of a scholarship?

Scholarships may not be awarded to finance activities for which you receive other financial assistance from any kind of institution in Germany or abroad. Successful applicants are responsible for ensuring that they comply with visa/residence regulations and that they have sufficient health insurance coverage in Germany for the duration of their research stay at the FernUniversität. Successful candidates are expected to submit a short experience report (around one page long, in German or in English) at the latest two months after the end of their research stay. The report is to be sent to Ms. Knitter (contact information below).

What are the deadlines?

The application deadline is 04.03.2022. You can expect a decision on your application at the beginning of April. Funding for a stay in Hagen within the framework of this call is available from 01.06.2022 at the earliest and until 28.02.2023 at the latest.

Where can I get more information?

Feel free to contact Ms. Cindy Knitter (phone: +49 2331 987-4245, email: international@fernuni-hagen.de), International Office, Universitätsstr. 27, 58097 Hagen, Germany.