

Kekulé Fellowship for PhD candidates - Guidelines

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

Prerequisites:

- As a rule, German nationality or EU national working in Germany* (see page 2).
- Master/Diploma after rapidly completed studies (max. 10 semesters including master/diploma thesis) in **chemistry** or a chemistry-related subject and qualification for admission to a PhD degree. Semesters studied abroad are included in this calculation. A special knowledge of chemistry acquired before university studies (e.g. University of Applied Sciences) counts as university study time. In special cases 11 semesters are permitted. For further questions please contact us.
- 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 dissertation was begun over 6 months ago, no application can be made.

Benefits of the Fellowship / Conditions:

- The Kekulé Fellowship beneficiary receives monthly payments of 1,850 EUR (see page 3).
- A material cost allowance of 1,000 EUR per annum is made available to purchase scientific literature, computers including accessories and to attend scientific congresses within Europe that are directly connected with 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 1,750 EUR can be paid.
- The Fellowship runs for 2 years.
- The beneficiary must be willing to participate in a teaching activity (e.g. 2 hours/week during the semester).
- The beneficiary undertakes to accept funding from only one donor and to mainly and regularly dedicate his/her work activities to the scientific work for which he/she receives funding within this Fellowship. Paid extra work of up to maximally 5 hours per week 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 performing in person 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 arising 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 already 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 one-off payment of 5,000 EUR for equipment and travel funds.

Applications must be made by the PhD supervisor to Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds (only one application per deadline is accepted). Application documents should be submitted by e-mail to stipendien-kekule@vci.de.

The following application documents are required:

- Completed personal data application form - available on request from **Dr. Sonja Wendenburg**: wendenburg@vci.de
Please be sure to include the name of your supervisor and the university or research institution where you are doing your PhD.
- CV in tabular form, list of publications (if applicable)
- 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.
- Please explain the choice of group and subject of the PhD thesis (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 citations, current status of research and planned experiments (5-7 pages)
 - time schedule (spreadsheet, 1 page)
 - bibliography
- Attestation from the university, stating the position achieved by the applicant in the ranking of students in the years when completing his/her bachelor and master, respectively (form will be sent with the personal data application form)
- Certificate of university degree with individual grades (bachelor and master or equivalent)
- Electronic version of the master/diploma thesis (pdf-file up to 10 MB)

Please note that applications can be considered only after all required documents have been submitted to the Secretariat of Stiftung Stipendien-Fonds.

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

* 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.

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.

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.

The full version of our data protection rules (in German language) is available at <https://www.vci.de/fonds/datenschutz/datenschutzbestimmungen.jsp>.

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

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