

The Daimler and Benz Foundation Scholarship Program 2023 for the Promotion of Postdoctoral Students and Assistant Professors

With this program, the Foundation aims to strengthen the autonomy of our next generation of academics. The phase after completing a doctorate, in particular, is productive. The Foundation would therefore like to focus its scholarship program on this stage of the career path in order to support the academic careers of dedicated researchers. The scholarship program is aimed at young academics who have completed a doctorate, are in the early stages of their postdoctoral career, and have already attained a certain level of autonomy in their research. It is open to applicants across all disciplines (humanities, cultural studies, engineering and medicine as well as social, natural and life sciences), and there is no restriction on topics. Applicants must have their own research project as well as institutional ties to an academic institute within Germany, or to a German academic institute abroad.

Who can apply?

The scholarships are provided to support postdoctoral students at German research institutes, in particular assistant professors or academics in equivalent positions, such as independent heads of research groups made up of young researchers. Candidates must be in the early stages of their academic career. The Foundation has chosen not to give a precise definition of these “early stages”, as such a period may be assessed very differently depending on the academic discipline. Nonetheless, it should be clear from the application that the applicant has consciously decided to pursue an academic career and is ambitiously pursuing this goal.

The scholarship can only be requested to support the applicant’s own research project. It may be used either to expand an ongoing project or to facilitate an entirely new one.

The Foundation organizes regular meetings which enable the scholarship recipients to exchange ideas with one another and remain in contact with the Foundation. Applicants must be prepared to attend these meetings.

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Scholarship payments

The scholarship is granted for a period of two years and amounts to 40,000 euros. Scholarship recipients must report on the progress and results of their research in an interim report after one year and a final report at the end of the scholarship period. The scholarship is paid via the third-party funding office of the research institute where the applicant works.

The scholarship may be used at the applicant's discretion, primarily for the following purposes: research trips, conference attendance and the organization of the recipient's own conferences, temporary employment of research assistants, computers, laboratory equipment, and special chemicals. The scholarship is not to be used to finance the recipient's own living costs, however, nor may it be used to cover routine expenditure by the research institute (e.g. overhead projection material, printing costs, or consumables such as basic chemicals, paper etc.).

Any other grants received by the applicant will not affect the sum of the scholarship provided by the Foundation.

Application procedure

To apply, please submit the following documents; the font size must be at least 11 points:

1. Proof of institutional ties for the entire duration of the scholarship (e.g. confirmation by the institute's director or administrative office);
2. Title and brief description of the research project for expert assessment, with details of the planned methodology (maximum four A4 pages including literature references);
3. Title and brief description of the research project, written in readily understandable form for non-specialist assessors (maximum one A4 page);
4. A rough project time schedule, with information on the planned use of the scholarship (maximum two A4 pages);
5. Curriculum vitae covering the applicant's academic career (including publications, grants, awards, achievements in the area of scientific communication);
6. Copies of Master's degree or diploma and doctoral degree (provisional certificates will not be accepted); for foreign documents, please attach a certified German or English translation;
7. Two confidential letters of recommendation discussing both the applicant as an individual and the project for which they intend to use the scholarship. The Foundation does not prescribe the choice of authors for the letters of recommendation; they do recommend, however, to choose authors from two

different academic institutions. The letters of recommendation must use the official letterhead of the institution at which the author is employed. Informal or unsigned letters of recommendation will not be considered.

Applications may be written in German or English and must be received **in full** (i.e. including the confidential letters of recommendation) by 1 October 2022 (23.59 hours) via the online application portal (www.daimler-benz-stiftung.de).

The confidential letters of recommendation may only be uploaded via the online application portal. This can only be done after the applicant has entered the email addresses of the authors of the letters of recommendation in the place provided in the portal. An email with login information will then immediately be automatically generated and sent to the authors. From experience, the Foundation recommends that the applicant inform the authors of the letters of recommendation in good time about the exact procedure and deadlines for submitting the letters. The Foundation places great emphasis on observing all data protection regulations and protecting personal data.

After the application deadline, a preliminary selection will be carried out. The candidates chosen will be invited to attend a seminar at the offices of the Daimler and Benz Foundation in Ladenburg. This will give them the opportunity to personally introduce their projects to representatives of the Foundation, and to specialist and non-specialist assessors. Applicants must attend this selection seminar to be considered for a scholarship. Repeated application is not possible. The selected candidates are usually announced in February of the following year; the exact starting date of the scholarship is jointly determined by the Foundation and the recipient.

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