Frequently Asked Questions

Pre-Doc Award 2020

Pre-doc Requirements

Am I eligible to apply as a candidate if my graduation was more than eight months prior to the time of application?
Yes, this is not grounds for disqualification. However, the Pre-Doc Award does not represent “re-entry funding”. A well-developed project proposal and a cover letter explaining the reasons for the delay are required.

May I apply if I have not yet finished my master degree?
Yes, but you need a completed degree due the signing of the contract. The contract signing usually takes place in mid-December. In case your final thesis is not submitted until the application deadline, please hand in a brief declaration explaining how you can ensure that your graduation is completed by the time of the contract signing (i.e. a confirmation about the date of the defense of your thesis).

Is a later start of the contract possible?
There are few exceptions in which the contract start and therefore the contract signing can be postponed. Exceptions so far are made for students of teaching profession in Saxony (Lehramtsstudenten), because their graduation is collectively bound to a certain date after the application deadline. Further exceptions were made in some international cases.

Can I apply as a candidate if I am already on the doctoral candidate list of a faculty?
No. If a candidate is already on the doctoral candidate list of a faculty, then he/she no longer has the status of “pre-doc”.

May I apply when I have acquired my degree outside of Leipzig University?
Yes. The goal is to start a PhD project at Leipzig University. The postdoc should work at Leipzig University and the candidate should gain acceptance to a doctoral candidate list of a faculty at Leipzig University.

May I apply as a candidate, if I plan to do the promotion itself with another university?
No, the Pre-Doc Award aims to support young researchers, but also to encourage them to continue their research at Leipzig University.

Can I apply without a postdoc?
No, that is not possible.

Postdoc Requirements

Is it necessary for the proposed postdoc to have the right to supervise dissertations?
No, because the faculties at Leipzig University have differing criteria for determining who can supervise a doctorate.

May also a Jun.-Prof. apply in the postdoc part?
Yes.

May a postdoc who participated in the Pre-Doc Award in earlier cohorts apply again?
Yes.
What if the postdoc’s contract with Leipzig University ends before the funding period of the pre-doc ends?
You may apply in that case, but the postdoc should plan to continue to supervise the pre-doc from elsewhere. Please, also find a substitute in the faculty. All sides should agree on a just-in-case procedure.

Application

How much detail should the application include on the plan for acquiring third-party funding?
The plan should be detailed as much as possible, since the selection committee needs to be convinced of the seriousness of the proposed project. To outline steps and ideas about where and when to apply for third party funding is almost as important for the Pre-Doc Award programme as the planned research itself.

Will applications be accepted with a missing signed statement from the supervisor acknowledging support of the candidate’s pursuit of doctoral studies and of the proposed project?
Yes. Ideally, the signed statement should be included with the application. However, if the statement cannot be obtained by the deadline, it is okay to submit it shortly after.

Implemental Details

Is it possible to receive an increase in the Pre-Doc Award for the reward period?
Yes, in principle, it is possible for the Pre-Doc Award to be increased to 1.0 FTE (full time equivalent) by way of third-party funding. In this case, a short and informal written explication of the involved postdoc is required. However, as the primary aim of the Pre-Doc Award programme is preparing a successful funding application, this option is not preferred and the PhD preparation phase should not be compromised. To secure the doctorate preparation phase, the postdoc and the candidate agree on further details in a supplementary agreement in case of an increase.

Is it possible to have a second WHK-contract at the University of Leipzig at the same time?
No. If you have a 19-hour per week contract (Pre-Doc Award), you cannot have a second employment at Leipzig University. It is also not possible to extend the Pre-Doc Award funding phase by reducing the weekly hours.

Is it possible to receive an additional scholarship during the Pre-Doc Award funding period?
This mainly depends on the scholarship provider. Usually, the funding bodies of scholarships allow that the scholar works for 8-10 hours per week. In case, you consider applying for a scholarship as well, please directly address the scholarship provider to ask whether it accepts a WHK job at 19 hours per week. Your contact person for related questions: Anett Konrad (Department of Finances and Human Resources), anett.konrad@zv.uni-leipzig.de, +49 341 97-33067.

Is it possible to leave Leipzig temporarily during the Pre-Doc Award funding period?
Yes, but it is necessary that you mention these plans in your application and illustrate why it will not negatively affect your joint work on a research project to acquire funding for your promotion or why it will even benefit these plans.

Are the candidates promotion students during the Pre-Doc Award funding period?
No. An exception can be discussed for those from abroad (non-EU) who need the status of a promotion student to get a visa.

A note for the institutions in which the tandems will work:
On the front page of the “request for employment” form (ANTRAG auf Einstellung einer Hilfskraft an der Universität Leipzig) „Pre-Doc Award 2020“ shall be noted.