Announcement
Pre-Doc Award 2020

The Pre-Doc Award is a strategic measure of Leipzig University, included in the staff development concept and the strategic development plan (HEP 2025) in order to advance the careers of young academics. It aims at facilitating the transition of graduate students to doctoral studies and qualifying postdocs in their mentoring and supervising skills. It offers promising pre-doctoral candidates and postdocs an opportunity to work in collaboration on a research project. One aim of the Pre-Doc Award is that each team successfully acquires funding for the pre-doc candidate, e.g. via a scholarship or other third party funding. A second aim is to strengthen the career prospects of postdocs on their way to academic independence providing crucial experience in mentoring and supervising prospective doctoral candidates.

As of January 1st 2020, Leipzig University will provide

“20 Pre-Doc Awards” to fund the preparation of doctoral projects

Funding will be provided through a position as a research assistant
(WhK, Wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft, 19 hours/week) for 12 months

Eligible are graduate students (Masters, Diplom, or State Examination) from all research fields with excellent academic records who team up with postdoctoral researchers to propose a joint research resp. doctoral project. The application should clearly reflect the collaborative working relationship between the postdoc and the pre-doc candidate, i.e. both are expected to actively participate in conceptualizing and drafting the application. It is advisable to outline the application in accordance with the postdoc’s research profile. The specific objective of the award is to support the drafting of a proposal to acquire funds for either a scholarship for the pre-doc or a research project of the postdoc, which includes financial support for the pre-doc.

Application and evaluation procedure

The Pre-Doc Award addresses university graduates with excellent academic records, whose final exams (date of degree / certificate) dates back no longer than eight months and postdocs whose dissertation dates back no longer than eight years (e.g. parental leave periods subtracted).

The application (in English) has to include the following documents:

1) Jointly written statement summarizing the objectives of the joint work and detailing the working relationship
2) Project proposal (max. 3 pages), including:
   (1) hypothesis, (2) research objectives, (3) potential results, (4) work plan incl. work packages, milestones, timetable (table format) (5) plans for applying for third party-funding for the doctoral project/research project
3) CV of the pre-doc
4) CV of the postdoc
5) List of publications of the postdoc (and, if applicable, of the pre-doc)
6) Certificate of completion of the studies (degree) of the candidate
   (If the degree will be obtained after the application deadline, please hand in a transcript of records)
7) A signed statement from the potential faculty supervisor(s) acknowledging the support of the candidate’s pursuit of doctoral studies and of the proposed project spearheaded by the postdoc.
The Vice-Rector for Research and Young Academics will appoint a selection committee, which will decide on the projects to be funded. The committee will include the Vice-Rector for Research and Young Academics and his referent, three representatives from the Research Commission, the managing director and the referent of academic staff development of the Research Academy Leipzig, a representative of the Department for Research Services as well as the commissioner for equal opportunities. If applicable, the representative for employees with disabilities will also participate. Evaluation criteria are qualification of the pre-doc and the postdoc, the fit of the collaboration of postdoc and pre-doc, the scientific quality of the proposed research and the potential for acquiring third party funding for the pre-doc.

The Programme Details and FAQs can be found here: https://www.ral.uni-leipzig.de/en/home/postdocs/pre-doc-award/.

For further questions, please contact Dr. Nicole Koburger (Tel.: 0341/9737185, nicole.koburger@uni-leipzig.de) or Laura Matthes (laura.matthes@uni-leipzig.de).

Please submit your application, preferably via email, as one pdf-document to nicole.koburger@uni-leipzig.de and to laura.matthes@uni-leipzig.de. Application deadline is September 15th 2019.

Universität Leipzig
Research Academy Leipzig
Pre-Doc Award
Dr. Nicole Koburger
Wächterstraße 30, 04107 Leipzig

Students with disabilities are invited to apply and with equal qualification are given preference.

Notes on Data Protection

By submitting your application documents, you acknowledge your consent to the processing of the data contained therein for the Pre-Doc Award selection procedure. You have the right to revoke that consent at any time. The data that you provided in the application will only be used for the selection procedure and will be carried out in accordance with Art. 6 of the General Data Protection Regulation (DSGVO, Datenschutzgrundverordnung). The storage of data is subject to the relevant provisions of the DSGVO on archiving of data.

According to the DSGVO, you have the right to ask for information concerning the processing of your data from the data controller (i.e. the application addressee); you also have the right to rectification, erasure, restriction of processing, as well as the right to object to the processing of the data.

An application via email is considered questionable under data protection law. The applicant assumes full responsibility.