

STIBET I Contact Scholarships („Kontaktstipendien“)

The scholarship and support program STIBET („Stipendien- und Betreuungsprogramm“) is funded by the 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 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 FernUniversität in Hagen is seeking to award

3 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 FernUniversität in Hagen.

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 FernUniversität in Hagen and a partner institution abroad. Preference will be given to candidates enrolled or planning to enroll in structured doctoral programs of FernUniversität. Please note that scholarships may only be awarded to candidates who neither possess the German nationality nor acquired their university entrance qualification in Germany („Bildungsausländer“) and who are registered doctoral students at FernUniversität.

What is the amount of funding?

The scholarship amounts to 1.300 euro 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. Aust, International Office (contact at the end of page two):

- Two- to three-page long motivation letter including the timeline and explaining the relevance of the planned research stay at 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 FernUniversität in Hagen
- CV in form of a personal data sheet
- Degree certificates and supporting evidence of scientific 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 FernUniversität (may be submitted at a later point and up to 2 weeks prior to your research stay in Hagen)

According to which criteria will my application be assessed?

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of scientific qualification. In case of equal qualifications, decisions are made on the basis of the social situation of applicants. Additional selection criteria include comprehensive application documents, the quality of the motivation letter as well as the justification of the relevance of the planned research stay at FernUniversität in Hagen. The award of scholarships is subject to the availability of resources.

Which 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 cover in Germany for the duration of their research stay at 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 the International Office (contact thereunder).

What are the deadlines?

The application deadline is 20.03.2026.

You can expect a decision on your application in May.

Funding for a stay in Hagen within the framework of this Call is available from 01.06.2026 at the earliest and until 28.02.2027 at the latest.

Where can I get more information?

Feel free to contact Ms. Lena Aust (Tel.: +49 (0)2331 987 4245, E-Mail: international@fernuni-hagen.de), Department International Office, Universitätsstr. 11, 58097 Hagen, Germany.