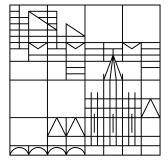


FAQs for ZUKOconnect fellowships 2024

Updated December 15, 2023

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1. Country and Citizenship requirements

Q: “I am unsure if my country belongs to **Africa, Asia or Latin America**. Is there a list of countries you could provide me with?”

A: “No. For the fellowship, we have only broadly defined the geographical areas without linking it to political borders. There is no official list of (in)eligible countries.”

Q: “I **currently work/live in a country outside of Africa, Asia or Latin America**, am I still eligible?”

A: “No. We do require the current residency/ workplace to be in an African, Asian or Latin American country. Specifically, this means you must have lived and worked in an African, Asian or Latin American country in the period just before starting the fellowship at the Zukunftskolleg.”

Q: “I **was born in an African, Asian or Latin American country but work in a different country in Africa, Asia or Latin America now**– am I still eligible?”

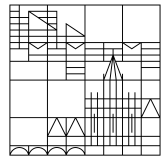
A.: “Yes. We do require you to have been born and currently work in a country in Africa, Asia and Latin America, but this does not need to be the same country. You are also eligible if e.g. you have an Asian origin but now work in Latin America.”

Q: “**Part of my education did not take in Africa, Asia and/or Latin America**. I am still eligible?”

A: We demand the majority of your education to have taken place in one or more countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. However, we do not have strict quotas. Most important for the fellowship is the academic education after the MA degree. In case of a multi-country education, please provide a detailed list in you CV.

Q: “I have **dual citizenship** (one is in an African, Asian or Latin American country). Am I still eligible?”

A: This depends on the second citizenship. If the dual citizenship includes another country of Africa, Asia and Latin America, you are eligible. If you hold dual citizenship in a European or Northern American country you are, unfortunately, not eligible.”



2. Academic Requirements

Q: “Can I apply, if I have a **permanent position** at a university, but not a professorship?”

A: “Yes. If you have a permanent position, but you are not in control of your own research agenda, you are eligible. The purpose of ZUKOnnect fellowships is to create networks at the pre-professorial level. In case you hold a permanent position, please comment on this in your motivation letter.”

Q: “Your criteria are very specific but do **not apply to the academic structures in my country**. How can I apply?”

A: “We know that with different systems, different traditions and different names for positions it is impossible to describe our ZUKOnnect fellowship so that it matches every country. Please explain the academic structures in your country in your letter of motivation, and the committee will take that into account.”

Q: “I am still writing my **doctoral thesis**, perhaps it is even the last year before I finish, but having a ZUKOnnect fellowship would disrupt my final phase, what should I do?”

A: “We do not want to disrupt your current research, or to fund parts of your doctoral research. In your situation, therefore, it would be best to apply in the next call. In most cases, the best time to apply during your doctoral research is after submitting the thesis and before defending it.”

Q: “What do you mean by **final year** in my doctoral studies?”

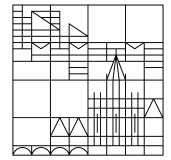
A: “If you are a doctoral student, the best time to apply to the ZUKOnnect Fellowship is when you have already submitted your thesis or will have your thesis submitted before the potential start date in September 2023. Your course work should be completed before applying (by February 2023).”

Q: “I have a **doctoral degree** from a university in a non-African, non-Asian or non-Latin American country. Am I eligible?”

A: “Candidates with a doctoral degree from a university in Europe or North America are not the target group of the ZUKOnnect programme. However, candidates who had one or several international research stays (lasting up to one year) do belong to the target group of the call. The international experience of the candidates will be taken into account when evaluating the candidates, and, in the final selection, preference will be given to those candidates with no or little international exposure.”

Q: “I am a candidate that holds **a BA (but not a MA and/or PhD)**. Am I eligible to apply?”

A: “Unfortunately not. A bachelor’s degree is not enough to apply for the fellowship call.”



3. Age and Experience

Q: “The call focuses on early career researchers. Is there an **age limit** for the application?”

A: “Candidates applying for a ZUKOnnect Fellowship may have up to two years of postdoctoral research experience **at most**. Unavoidable delays in career development will be taken into account when calculating the years of postdoctoral research experience (see below). Other than that, there is no formal age limit, although the candidates’ achievements should be in line with their “academic age”.

The Zukunftskolleg values multidimensional career tracks. Career breaks and variations in the chronological order of CVs are therefore regarded as potentially valuable contributions to the professional development of researchers. As a certified family-friendly university, the University of Konstanz especially welcomes returnees from parental leave. The mobility experiences of applicants are also recognized as a valuable contribution to the interdisciplinary and international research community at the Zukunftskolleg. Applicants can submit evidence-based CVs that reflect their extra-curricular achievements and qualifications.”

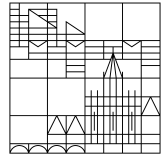
Q: “What will be taken into account when **calculating the time of postdoctoral experience**?”

A: “Candidates applying for a ZUKOnnect Fellowship may have up to two years of postdoctoral research experience, i.e. time after they have received their doctorate, **at most**. As a university-based Institute for Advanced Study within the German academic system we follow the guidance of the German Research Foundation (DFG). In order to appropriately assess an individual's research achievements, due consideration must be given to individual circumstances. In this context, equal opportunity means that appropriate allowance must be made for unavoidable delays in an individual's career development. Unavoidable delays in a research career (for example extended qualification phases, publication gaps, reduced number of periods abroad) may be caused by circumstances such as:

- Pregnancy and childbirth
- Childcare
- Care for family members
- Disability or chronic illness
- A long period of serious illness
- National service (military or civilian)
- Intersectoral career break

Applicants who wish to explain unavoidable delays in their career development must therefore explicitly state the relevant circumstances in the proposal, motivation letter, and curriculum vitae and, if necessary, (i.e. the circumstance is not self-explanatory) attach a short explanation. Unavoidable delays in career development will be taken into account when calculating the years of postdoctoral research experience. In addition, applicants should indicate the dates of birth of children and periods of childcare (e.g. periods during which an individual temporarily gave up work for parental leave).”

Special circumstances due to pandemic times in the years Spring 2020-2022 will not be considered as an argument for a PHD obtained before Feb 2022.



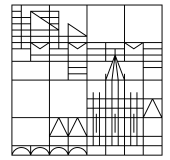
4. Language Skills

Q: “Do I need to have any knowledge of the **German language** for the fellowship or, in general, for my stay in Konstanz?”

A: “No. The Zukunftskolleg is committed to caring for the special needs of international researchers, striving to reduce obstacles to transnational mobility through a number of measures. The working language of the Zukunftskolleg is English and all documents are available in English, thus reducing language-barriers for non-German-speaking Fellows. All coaching and training activities are available in English and all administrative and support staff is trained in communicating effectively in English.”

Q: “Do I need to submit a documentation of **English language skills** in order to be eligible?”

A: “No, you do not need to certify your English language skills. Although you are required to upload all documents for your application in English, you do not have to conduct or publish your research in English during the fellowship.”



5. Local Hosts at University of Konstanz

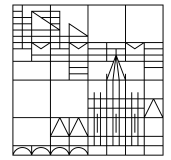
Q: “Will I need to **contact a researcher or Zukunftskolleg Fellow** to support my application?”

A: “No. Please do not contact a researcher or fellow in advance! We only ask you to name researchers or Fellows in your application form. Please use our website, the university catalogue or a web search engine to search for suitable research contacts at the University of Konstanz. **There is no need to contact researcher(s) at the University of Konstanz beforehand.**”

Q: “I have to name **Zukunftskolleg fellows** and/or other Konstanz-based researchers in my application. Where can I find more information about who to pick?”

A: “You can find out more about the Zukunftskolleg Fellows [here](#). For more information on researchers at the University of Konstanz, please take a look at the [university’s departments](#).”

Faculty of Sciences	Department of Mathematics and Statistics	https://www.mathematik.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/
	Department of Computer and Information Science	https://www.informatik.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/
	Department of Physics	https://www.physik.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/
	Department of Chemistry	https://www.chemie.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/
	Department of Biology	https://www.biologie.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/
	Department of Psychology	https://www.psychologie.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/
Faculty of Humanities	Department of Philosophy	https://www.philosophie.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/
	Department of History, Sociology, Empirical Educational Research and Sport Science	History: https://www.geschichte.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/ Sociology: https://www.soziologie.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/ Empirical Educational Research: https://www.bildungsforschung.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/ Sport Science: https://www.sportwissenschaft.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/
	Department of Literature, Art and Media Studies	https://www.litwiss.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/
	Department of Linguistics	https://www.ling.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/



Faculty of Politics, Law
and Economics

Department of Politics and
Public Administration

<https://www.polver.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/>

Department of Law

<https://www.jura.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/>

Department of Economics

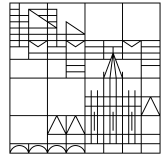
<https://www.wiwi.uni-konstanz.de/en/research/>

Q: “I **could not identify a current Fellow** that matches my research interest, but I could link up to other researchers at the university. Can I still apply?”

A: “Yes. We encourage collaboration with our Fellows as this will also facilitate integration into the Zukunftscolleg community – in particular keeping in mind the relatively short duration of the fellowships. However, as we only have a limited number of Fellows, you are also eligible to apply if your research interest fits with other researchers at the university. Specifically, the selection committee will examine your research project description in combination with your timeline and the objectives for your research stay.”

Q: “Do I need a **reference from the University of Konstanz?**”

A: “No. The letter of reference should come from your current or former (academic) workplace. For doctoral students, a letter from their supervisor is sufficient. You will need **no letter of support** or similar document from a researcher at the University of Konstanz. Applicants can either directly upload the reference letters themselves or ask the reviewers to send it to us via email to zukonnnect@uni-konstanz.de. Importantly, these references should be up to date, written on official letterhead paper and be signed by the respective reviewer.”



6. Application documents

Q: "I am a **doctoral researcher**. What does the letter from my supervisor have to include?"

A: "A short confirmation from your supervisor, which clearly states that you are in your last year is enough."

Q: "What is required in the **letter of motivation**?"

A: "The letter of motivation is typically a statement of purpose and should address your motivation to become a member of the Zukunftskolleg. The letter should discuss the fit between you, your project, the Zukunftskolleg, and the University of Konstanz. How does the proposed research tie in with the research landscape of the University of Konstanz? To what degree would your project benefit from the specific environment at the Zukunftskolleg as well as the department associated with your research (and vice versa)? Why would you like to join the Zukunftskolleg and what could you contribute to our community? Why do you think you are the right person for this programme? How do your experience and proposed research project fit within the advertised framework of the fellowship? The motivation letter can also address relevant experience or research as well as other pertinent information not stated elsewhere in the application. The letter should be **no longer than two pages**."

Q: "I would like to attach **additional documents** to my application. Am I allowed to do that?"

A: "Unfortunately not. Additional certificates will be deleted manually from your application material and will not be taken into consideration during the selection process."

Q: "What should be described in the required document '**Summary of research**'?"

A: "In the summary (max 3 pages incl. references), please describe on the first two pages your current or previous research work including for example relevance of research, research question(s), methodology, (preliminary) findings (~2 pages). At the third page of the document, please provide an outlook for the research project you seek to carry out during your on-campus stay at the Zukunftskolleg (~1 page). Please note that the selection committee will be interdisciplinary and adjust your explanations accordingly."

Q: "I have just completed my doctorate. Shall I comment **on my past doctoral project or the new PostDoc project** when applying (title, abstract, and summary)?"

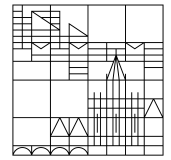
A: "It depends on the progress of your PostDoc research. Would you like to use your time in Konstanz to start working on a new PostDoc project after completing your doctorate or even on a proposal for a new project? In this case, in the very early stages of your research, it makes sense to provide a summary, title, and abstract of your current doctoral research project and to additionally discuss what you intend to work on in Konstanz in your letter of motivation. In any case, please provide a time plan for your stay."

If you feel that you are already sufficiently familiar with the new project which you would like to work on in Konstanz, you are welcome to write your maximum three-page summary, title and abstract on your future project and to touch on your past doctoral research in your letter of motivation.

Please note that the selection committee will be interdisciplinary and adjust your description accordingly."

Q: "In Track A I am requested to include a "**Reference Letter**": who should I ask ?

A: " Please contact your current supervisor or a senior (academic) member of your current research group in your country of residence or employment. It should be a person that knows you as a person but also can value your research activities and the scientific benefits of spending a couple of months abroad. It should not be someone that does not know you in person or someone you only shortly met."



Q: “How should the **detailed work and time plan** be structured?”

A: “The detailed work plan should explain, what you want to do during your on- campus fellowship (see also outlook within ‘Summary of research’). The following table can be used as a sample. The cells can be filled with a colour to make clear what task will be done in what week. Further explanations on the tasks can be added before or after the table. Please provide a **maximum of 2 pages.**”

Tasks	1 st month				2 nd month				3 rd month			
	1 st week	2 nd week	3 rd week	4 th week	1 st week	2 nd week	3 rd week	4 th week	1 st week	2 nd week	3 rd week	4 th week
Task 1												
Task 2												
Task 3												
Task 4												

7. Digital affiliation and on-campus fellowship

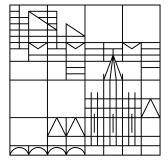
Q: “What are the **benefits of the digital affiliation and up until when can it be extended?**”

A: “The on-site fellowships are complemented by a digital affiliation extending it to a duration of 12-month. This means that after the 3-month of on campus stay the digital affiliation can be extended up to 9 months (12 months in total). The benefits are:

- Digital affiliation supported by up to 900€ (lump sum)
- Fellows get a University of Konstanz guest account and email address.
- Digital facilities of the Communication, Information, Media Centre (e. g. access to Online Journals, Open Access offers, Cloud Storage, Remote Access (VPN), File Storage, Audio and Video Conferencing).
- Active participation in digital Jour Fixe sessions.
- Information on digital meeting with your Local Academic Partner.
- Information regarding Research Support and Grant Proposals.
- E-learning platforms and tools for research.
- Access to Zukunftskolleg Mailing Lists – to share calls and funding opportunities, and to keep in contact with other fellows.
- Access to Zukunftskolleg Intranet and your homepage entry.”

Q: “Is it possible to start the fellowship at a **delated date**/later than September or October?”

A: “We can offer a certain degree of flexibility only if the research project needs to be carried out at a different time of the year due to valid reasons related to the specific type of research e.g. data collection that needs to be completed during spring time. Please comment on this in your detailed work plan. Please note that we will only accept research related, not personal reasons.”



8. Track A or Track B

Q : Can I apply in **both track to improve** my chances?

A: No. We will only consider one application – we we have multiple we will take the first application submitted. Track A encourages researchers who do not have any connections so far but are eager to make good use of the research priorities offered at the University of Konstanz. They may have read publications or met some academic e.g. at a conference randomly but are inspired and want to get to know someone in specific. Track B addresses Konstanz professors to nominate candidates they have already met and who they want to invite to become part of their research activities. As applicant you should use Track B only if you have been contacted by a Konstanz academic and already discussed your project and research plan with one specific local host.

Q: I want to apply for Track B – how do I know if the “**Letter of Nomination**” arrived by Feb 15?

A: Please ask the professor nominating you to take your address on cc when emailing the letter to us.

Q: Track B - what happens when you receive a nomination letter but the application **documents are not** fully uploaded?

A: This application will be “ineligible”. As a candidate you are responsible yourselves that all requested documents are uploaded and complete.