

Call for Applications: **Extension of the fellowships in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic**

The Zukunftskolleg aims with the current call for applications to ensure that postdoctoral and research fellows whose research projects have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 are subsidized through contract extensions, subject to budgetary capacity and taking into account the legal regulations of the Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz (WissZeitVG) and the Landeshochschulgesetz (LHG).

Award Details

The options offered below are intended to relieve the immediate pressure that fellows face and do not prejudice future applications for contract extensions due to COVID-19 at a later point in time.

Affected fellows can apply for one of two options of contract extension:

- 3 months extension
- 6 months extension

Eligibility

Fellows who are within their regular fellowship time (2+1 years and 5 years), with an employment contract or scholarship between March 1 and September 30, 2020, irrespective of the source of funding (Excellence Strategy or other funding agencies), and whose research projects have been significantly negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic regulations can apply for a contract extension.

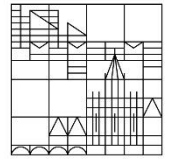
We would like to point out that an extension in all cases might not be possible due to legal implications arising from the different regulations of the funding sources.

Application Procedure

All affected fellows should, irrespective of the end date of their regular fellowship, apply for the contract extension by 1 September 2020.

The application includes the following documents:

- Cover letter detailing the project-related research time lost due to the COVID-19 related regulations, including the reasons for this loss (max. 2 pages).
- An overview of the current stage of the research project and a timeline outlining the project plan for the remaining project duration including the contract extension applied for (1 page).



- A description of the research project.
Depending on the research project and not mandatory, this might include a short description of possible adaptations to the project to adjust its feasibility to the current circumstances (1 page).
- CV and publication list.
- Information on current employment status and all sources of funding (*this is important to make sure that an extension granted would not negatively impact on other extension schemes which are not related to COVID-19 and are intended for different purposes*).
- *The fellows who work in the experimental sciences and use the lab space within their respective departments should submit a confirmation concerning the possibility of further use of the lab space during the contract extension.
- **Self-funded fellows should outline why the extension can not be covered by their current funding agency

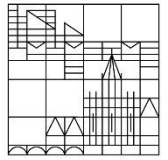
Review and Selection Process

The applications will be addressed to the Director of the Zukunftskolleg. The review process is not an overall performance review, but a review that assesses the impact of COVID-19 related regulations on the research project of the applicant. Applications may be sent to independent referees, and/or evaluated by the AFF. Applications will not be compared to each other but assessed individually.

In their applications, affected fellows must explain how their research has been impacted by COVID-19 related regulations. A project is considered to have been negatively impacted when the completion of the research project is no longer possible within the ordinary contract duration.

Given that the circumstances of the fellows are highly heterogeneous due to the variety of academic fields and nature of their research projects, the Director will assess individual circumstances and will consider criteria such as restricted access to university as well as work infrastructure necessary to carry out their research projects (e.g. laboratories, archives, specialized equipment), restricted access to general infrastructure (e.g. closure of childcare facilities), delays in field work, increased teaching load due to online teaching, increased care responsibilities, etc. This list of criteria is not exhaustive and presents only common examples; applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Director of the Zukunftskolleg decides on applications after consulting with representatives from the Equal Opportunities Office, Academic Staff Development and Research Support. In accordance with the Statute of the Zukunftskolleg, the Vice Rector for Research and Academic Staff Development will be involved in the decision-making process.



The decision including reasons will be communicated in writing. The decision is conditional on the final review and approval by the Human Resources Department in terms of compliance with the legal regulations of the Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetzes (WissZeitVG) and the Landeshochschulgesetzes (LHG).

Deadline

The deadline is **September 1, 2020**.

All applications and required documents must be submitted in English and in single-PDF file via e-mail to Anda Lohan (E-mail: anda.lohan@uni-konstanz.de).