



Information for postdoctoral researchers from Ukraine

Thank you for your interest in pursuing a postdoc at the University of Konstanz!

The postdoctoral phase in Germany

If you hold a PhD, doctoral degree, or кандидат наук degree, you will be considered a postdoc in the German academic system. The next qualification step towards a professorship is the post-doctoral qualification Habilitation (comparable to доктор наук). However, to receive a professorship, either a Habilitation or equivalent research achievements (publications) may be used as qualification. It depends on the subject, which of these two qualifications is required. In addition, you are expected to gain experience in teaching and grant writing, present your research at conferences, work on university committees and expand your research network.

Between the doctoral degree (кандидат наук) and a professorship, there is no structured career path or postdoctoral program that researchers have to follow. Instead, most postdocs work in the team of a professor, on a research contract or scholarship. There are many variants of employment or scholarships, and this variety may be confusing even for German researchers. However, for most of the positions, scholarships or grants, you will have to get in touch with a professor of your respective field, see if he or she is interested in a collaboration and able to host you. There is no central admission for postdocs within a university.

Further Information:

<https://www.research-in-germany.org/en/your-goal/postdoc/career-options-and-dual-careers/postdoc-positions/postdoc-at-a-university.html>

Finding a host

At the postdoctoral level, individual research contracts are agreed upon between a professor and a postdoc. That is why a central application to the university is not possible and the central administration cannot match you with individual professors. Instead, we advise you to take the following steps:

1. Check the university web page, if your specialisation exists at the University of Konstanz and which professor is responsible for this field.
<https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/university/faculties-and-departments/>
2. Contact professor(s) that match(es) your research field and ask if they would be interested in working with you. It is very common to do this via e-mail. It is advisable to briefly introduce yourself and your research interest. State, why the team of this professor would be a matching working environment for you. The more specific you are, the greater the chance to receive a reply. Also attach your academic CV to the e-mail. Ask if they are interested in a collaboration, have funding opportunities or would be willing to support your application in one of the scholars at risk programs.
3. Depending on the professor, the next step might be a discussion via video conference or in person, to find out whether you want to work together.

4. The following step may be a work contract or the application with a scholars at risk program. You will find a list of programs here:
<https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/university/news-and-media/topics-of-focus/solidarity-with-ukraine/researchers-who-are-in-danger-or-have-fled-ukraine/>

The university's interdisciplinary Institute for Advanced Study for postdocs, the Zukunftskolleg, also offers postdoctoral stipends for up to 6 months to support early career researchers from Ukraine:

<https://www.uni-konstanz.de/zukunftskolleg/fellowships/visiting-fellowships/>

5. The university's Research Support team provides advice for submitting applications for funding (research proposals, in particular) and gives guidance on questions of how to integrate refugee researchers in research projects.
<https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/research-support/contact/>

We hope that this information was useful for you and wish you all the best for finding a suitable academic setting!