

Information Sheet 2025

Laura Bassi Scholarships for female postdoctoral and doctoral researchers

Objectives and principles of funding

The research scholarships aim to promote the career development of talented (early career) female scientists. The goal of the funding is to foster their qualification and further development within TUM. The overarching goal is to increase the proportion of women in professorial positions.

The funding comes from state resources allocated by the Free State of Bavaria for the Bavarian Gender Equality Grant (BGF) - program for the realization of equal opportunities for women in research and teaching. Accordingly, the Bavarian State Ministry for Science and the Arts sets binding framework terms and conditions.

Funding is subject to availability. If the number of applications exceeds the available funding, the TUM Laura Bassi Scholarship Commission will decide on the allocation.

Addressees and eligible applicants

1. **Female postdoctoral researchers:** Female postdocs who are working at TUM or will be working there for at least the duration of the scholarship in order to initiate, continue and/or finish a research project that will lead to a university career.
2. **Female doctoral researchers:** For female scientists, especially in their final phase, who are pursuing their doctorates at TUM - the dissertation must be submitted no later than the end of the requested scholarship period.

Important: The **research project is closely linked to TUM** - the chair to which the project is assigned must certify the scholarship holder's close institutional ties and guarantee them for the duration of the funding.

Terms of condition (in alignment to the Bavarian Gender Equality Grant)

- **Monthly scholarship amount:**
 - 2.400€ for postdocs
 - 1.200€ for doctoral researchers

- **Duration and period of the Scholarship:**
 - Granted for a maximum of 12 months.
 - Funding may start immediately after evaluation and completion of necessary formalities upon a positive decision.
 - The latest start date for 2025 scholarships is November 15, 2025. A later start date or an application for a start next year – 2026 – is not possible.

- **Key principles:**
 - Scholarships do not constitute an employment or service relationship.
 - Secondary employment is generally excluded. Scholarships are intended to cover living expenses and enable scholarship holders to fully devote themselves to their academic careers. Exceptions to this principle must be approved by the TUM Gender Equal Officer. If the scholarship holder has little or no teaching experience, limited paid teaching (up to a maximum of 4 SWS) is possible while receiving the scholarship (up to a total of €3,000 per annum). Income from part-time teaching is tax-free, provided the requirements of § 3 No. 26 of the Income Tax Act (EStG) are met.
 - The payments are not subject to social security contributions, and the scholarships do not include social security or health insurance contributions. Health insurance is the responsibility of the scholarship holder.

- **Possible subsidies (upon request) - important to state directly in the application:**
 - Monthly supplemental allowance for children which is granted until the child's 18th birthday. 300€ for the first child and 100€ for each additional child.
 - Scholarship holders who are required to have voluntary health insurance for the duration of their scholarship can apply for a monthly supplemental allowance of 200€.

- **Further regulations:**
 - **Part-time scholarships:** Requesting to hold a part-time fellowship is possible where there are good reasons for this. The part-time funding is shortened and must not serve to augment income from active employment. An application is only possible in connection with non-employed work, e.g. care tasks. Part-time scholarships comprise a 50% funding level.
 - **Research projects abroad:** The funding allows for temporary stays abroad for research purposes. The scholarship may continue to be paid during these research stays if the supervisor confirms that the research stay contributes to achieve the funded academic qualification. The stay abroad must be notified in a timely manner, at least four weeks before the start of the stay.

Any reimbursements, scholarships, or other financial support received during the stay abroad must be indicated.

- **Final report agreement:** For both types of funding, the scholarship holder must submit a final report without request no later than four weeks after the end of the funding period. This report should address the original objectives and explain whether these were achieved within the scope of the funding. The report should not exceed three pages.

Application for Scholarships

The application must be submitted to the TUM Gender Equality Office.

There will be two calls for applications in 2025, followed by evaluation.

The submission deadlines for 2025 are June 15, 2025, and September 30, 2025.

The complete application, including all attachments, must be submitted as a single PDF with a digital signature and no access restrictions via email to chancengleichheit@tum.de by the deadline.

The application must contain the following documents in the specified order:

1. Informal cover letter, including:

- ✓ Type (PhD or Postdoctoral) and scope (duration and, if applicable, child and/or subsidies for voluntary health insurance) of the requested scholarship
- ✓ Desired start date
- ✓ For doctoral students – please indicate in which month you plan to submit your dissertation and, if applicable, the expected date of your defense.

2. Motivation letter with a short description of the research project

- ✓ Maximum of three pages
- ✓ Motivation for applying for this scholarship
- ✓ Explanation of personal circumstances that justify the need for the scholarship (if applicable)
- ✓ Information about the research project (self-contained, understandable without reading cited or attached literature):
 - Research status (brief introduction to the project)
 - Research question and any previous work
 - Objectives/significance of the research for further academic and professional plans
 - Work plan including intended methods
 - Timeline in the form of a diagram/table, etc.

3. Curriculum vitae

- ✓ Including academic background in tabular form
- ✓ Listing publications (if applicable)

- 4. Confirmation letter of close institutional affiliation from the TUM chair**
 - ✓ Informal letter confirming that the TUM research facility will provide the professional support and necessary work opportunities for the duration of the requested scholarship project.
 - ✓ Issued and signed by the chair holder with email address and telephone number (for any queries).
- 5. References**
 - ✓ Name and contact address of two persons, at least one of whom is a professor at TUM, who could be addressed as a reference if necessary.
- 6. Certificates**
 - ✓ University degrees
 - ✓ Doctorate (for postdoctoral applicants)
- 7. Birth certificates of children if applicable**
- 8. Proof of voluntary health insurance if applicable** (if voluntary health insurance is only taken out at the start of the scholarship, it can be submitted later)
- 9. Copy of current/last scholarship or employment contract (if applicable)**

Additional information

Rejected candidates from the first round may reapply in the second round after a personal consultation with a contact person from the TUM Gender Equality Office.

Point of contact TUM Gender Equality Office

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