

Promoting young researchers in the field of digitalisation: The Graduate Center for doctoral researchers

Request for applications

1. Consolidating digital competence

Digital technologies impact each individual's daily life. They not only change the way we communicate and work with each other, but also influence social interaction, economic developments and political processes. As a result, it has become more crucial for all scientific studies to understand technical basics and discern how digital technologies may have an influence. Competences associated with digitalisation will be highly relevant in all scientific disciplines in the future. For this reason, the Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt), an institute of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, is established a Bavarian-wide Graduate Center for doctoral and post-doctoral researchers in 2022.

2. Overview of funding

The funding programme enables doctoral candidates to network and receive further training in the area of digitalisation as well as financial support for research activities within their field of doctoral studies. To this end, particularly qualified doctoral candidates whose work on digitalisation has a technical, economic or societal focus will stand to receive funding. Upon admission to the Graduate Center, scholars can participate in events and courses on current and relevant topics concerning digitalisation.

Scholars at the bidt Graduate Center have access to all bidt events and will benefit from an interdisciplinary exchange with other doctoral candidates as well as experts from science and society in networking events and working groups. Within this specialist community and beyond they can increase their visibility.

The Graduate Center for doctoral candidates is coordinated by the bidt.

3. Scope of funding

In 2023, up to 25 doctoral students will be admitted to the bidt Graduate Center. In addition to accessing events and further training, applicants accepted into the bidt Graduate Center will receive a scholarship of €3,000 per year for a maximum of four years until the end of their doctoral project (providing that the necessary budgetary funds are granted by the legislator). After a successful application, admission prospectively starts on 01 May 2023.

4. Requirements

All doctoral candidates pursuing a doctorate at a university sponsored by the Free State of Bavaria or at a higher education institution mainly refinanced and approved by the Free State of Bavaria can apply for funding.

Female doctoral candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

An application must include the following documents:

- Completed application form (see No. 5 below) including a description of the dissertation project. The dissertation project should have a technical, economic or societal focus that is relevant to digitalisation and should be designed for a duration of up to four years. Information concerning how applicants should outline their project can be found in the application form.
- Curriculum vitae including certificates.
- Proof of an outstanding university degree or a comparable, state- approved degree qualifying for a doctorate at a university.
- Letter by the supervisor confirming supervision and support for the application.

In addition, very good English is required as the lingua franca at the Graduate Center is English. Basic knowledge of German is also a prerequisite as well as interest in enhancing this skill.

Preferably, applicants will have interdisciplinary interests and preliminary experience in other fields of research.

We expect that the applicant participates actively in the course programme once admitted to the Graduate Center.

Doctoral candidates who are already funded or remunerated by the bidt in any other form cannot receive a scholarship. This may also apply when receiving other scholarships. Participation in activities and events of the Graduate Center is not affected.

5. Application

Applications can be submitted using the application form at <https://www.bidt.digital/foerderprogramm/graduate-center-fuer-promovierende/>. The complete application (application form with doctoral project, curriculum vitae and certificates, and letter of support) should be sent in a single PDF document (max. 7 MB) to young-talents@bidt.digital. The deadline for applications is 15 February 2023.

6. Selection procedure

Funding will be based on the recommendations of an interdisciplinary select committee.

The assessment is based on the scholar's written application.

The applicant's professional qualifications, the academic quality of his or her research project and its relevance to aspects of digital transformation will determine the grounds for selection.

For questions on this request for applications and our funding programme, please contact:

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Further information on the programme, including FAQ, at:

<https://www.bidt.digital/foerderprogramm/graduate-center-fuer-promovierende/>

Further information on the bidt at:

www.bidt.digital