



# EXIST- Women



## What is EXIST-Women?

Since 2023, the EXIST-Women program line has supplemented the EXIST funding program with specific funding for women at universities and research institutions who are interested in starting a business and have an affinity for start-ups. The funding period is generally one year.

EXIST-Women is intended to encourage women to venture into self-employment and thus contribute in the medium term to increasing the proportion of women as managing directors and shareholders of innovative start-ups.

## Who is supported?

EXIST-Women is intended to support women who are interested in starting a business and have an affinity for entrepreneurship in the phase prior to founding a company, particularly in the development of their entrepreneurial personality and the (further) development of their start-up ideas. A concrete start-up idea may already exist or may only be developed during the funding period.

- Funding is available for female graduates, academics, students and women with professional qualifications and a connection to the university.
- Female students must already have a Bachelor's degree or have completed at least half of the required coursework.

## How is funding provided?

Funding is open to all topics and technologies.

- Each university or research institution can apply for a lump sum of 10,000€ per year to support the development and implementation of the application process as well as the establishment and implementation of specific qualification formats to empower women in the pre-foundation phase.
- The prospective female founders go through a 12-month qualification phase, which can be completed while working or studying. During this time, they can also take advantage of an optional 3-month scholarship, provided they do not work more than 20 hours per week. Ideally, the scholarship is used to work particularly intensively on the start-up idea and, for example, to prepare an application for follow-up funding. However, the scholarship can also be used independently of this.

### Scholarship amount:

- Female students who have completed at least half of their studies: € 1,000 per month.

- Women with completed vocational training: 2,000€ per month.
- Graduates with a university degree: 2,500€ per month.
- Female founders with a doctorate: 3,000€ per month.
- For dependent children of women, 150€ per child per month is granted as a child supplement.

### Material expenses:

Each funded woman can apply for up to €2,000 in material resources (e.. for technical equipment, materials for prototypes, participation fees and other project-specific expenses for consulting services, coaching and travel). The use of funds is planned by the founders immediately after the start of the project in consultation with the university or research institution.

## What needs to be done?

Universities and research institutions in Germany that have established or are planning to establish advisory services for female founders are eligible to apply. The applicant institutions must be part of a network (start-up network):

- Existence of a central contact point for those interested in founding a company
- Specific advisory services for female founders (from the start of the term at the latest)
- Specific advisory services for all phases of the start-up
- Active networking with mentors (in exceptional cases, mentors can also admitted), entrepreneurs and alumnae as well as other organizations relevant to start-ups

## Where can I find more information?



[www.exist.de](http://www.exist.de)

### Contact:

Project Management Jülich (PtJ), Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH P.O. Box 61 02 47, 10923 Berlin  
Tel.: 030 20199-411 (Hotline), Fax: 030 20199-470  
[ptj-exist-women@fz-juelich.de](mailto:ptj-exist-women@fz-juelich.de)