

JSMC Career Orientation Grants – Guidelines

Program to aid outstanding JSMC graduates in finding a position

A limited number of grants are available to outstanding graduates of the JSMC. The grants aim to provide support at the challenging stage **directly following the PhD**.

Who can apply?

The call is open to **all JSMC Doctoral Researchers** (officially admitted to the JSMC). Applications for grant schemes 1) and 2) can be submitted in the time frame **between the date of submission of the PhD thesis (please provide copy of receipt) up to 4 months after the date of the PhD defense**. The JSMC Career Orientation Grants aim to support JSMC Graduates who have a well-defined plan on how to promote their next career step and require financial support to realize this. Applicants have to show in their grant proposals that they will take a distinct step towards scientific independence from their PhD supervisors. A mere continuation of the research project conducted during the PhD studies will in principle not be funded, except in very exceptional cases where there is significant expansion of the scope of the research in question. This should involve a recognizable and fundamental shift from the research focus, methodology and location of the research conducted during the PhD studies.

Grant Schemes

1) Half-year Postdoctoral Scholarships

Funding for up to 6 months after successful completion of the PhD to support a subsequent career in academia or industry. The amount of the monthly fellowship allowance (tax free) is **1,750 €** based on the regulations by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Supplementary allowance for fellowship holders with children: 400 € per month for the first child plus 100 € more for each additional child.

2) Grants for International Laboratory Visits

Travel grants to visit international laboratories in order to identify the best possibilities for postdoctoral positions. Travel expenses (transportation + accommodation costs) will be reimbursed up to the amount of a total of 2,000 € per grant (based on receipts).

Awarding Criteria

The successful awardees will be outstanding JSMC graduates. Among the most important selection criteria are:

- A. Timely completion of the doctorate (max. 4 years)
- B. Successful PhD project with substantial scientific output
- C. Activities committed to the JSMC
- D. Proposal Quality

For detailed application guidelines, see below

Applications for both grant schemes are possible at any time

Awarding decisions will be made in the next Executive Board meeting after the submission. The funding can be utilized by the awardee immediately following the awarding decision, however (in case of the postdoctoral scholarship) not prior to having successfully defended the PhD thesis. Postdoctoral scholarships have to be started within maximum 3 months following the thesis defense. The laboratory visit grants have to be used within 2 months following the defense (a binding plan on the expenses has to be provided to the JSMC Office as soon as possible).

Application Guidelines

In your application, please follow the structure below:

Basic information

Your name (first name, family name):

Names of the members of your PhD thesis committee:.....

Grant Scheme you are applying for (1. Half-year Postdoc or 2. Laboratory Visit(s)):.....

A. Efficient completion of the doctorate

Timely completion of the doctorate is one of the important criteria for the selection of awardees. Typically, a duration of the doctorate of a maximum of 4 years is considered timely by the selection committee (if the project is successful based on the criteria listed in paragraph B).

PhD project starting date:

Dissertation submission date:

(Expected) Date of PhD defense:

Did you conduct research in the group of your PhD supervisor prior to actually starting your PhD project? (y/n)

If yes, please specify.

B. Successful PhD project

Evaluation of your success will be based on the scientific output of your PhD project. This will (predominantly) be appraised based on the quality and quantity of your publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Please provide a list of the following:

- 1) List of peer-reviewed publications on which you are listed as an author (including manuscripts in preparation for peer-reviewed scientific journals)
 - please clearly state the current publication status (in preparation / submitted / under review / published)
 - only list manuscripts in preparation if at least a first complete draft (including all sections) exists. Please append this draft to your application
 - successful applicants will have at least two manuscripts submitted and one in a final stage of preparation at the time of submitting their application
- 2) List of oral conference contributions resulting from your PhD project. Please list talks held by you, only.
- 3) List of your research stays in external laboratories in the course of your PhD.

C. Activities committed to the JSMC

Activities committed to the JSMC during your PhD are taken into account for the awarding decision (e.g. participation in the MiCom conference organization). Please outline your activities, not exceeding 1,000 characters (including spaces).

D. Proposal

Describe how you are planning to use the respective JSMC Career Orientation Grant (if awarded to you). Please limit your outline to a maximum of 4,000 characters (including spaces).

Half-year Postdoctoral Scholarships

In your proposal, describe the activities you are planning during the 6-months funding period in order to support your career (e.g., fellowship/grant/job applications, internships, lab visits, conference participations, manuscript writing, experiments...). For a successful proposal it is essential that your ideas on how to make use of the extra time funded by the JSMC are innovative and novel as opposed to the research you conducted during your PhD. The Postdoc period is exceptionally important for your further scientific career path, and potentially the only time new techniques, methodologies and research areas can be accessed before manifesting your scientific portfolio. Describe those future career steps you are aiming for and how you plan to utilize the 6-months funding period in your orientation and preparation for these steps. Naturally, we expect those steps to also involve a shift in location.

Grants for International Laboratory Visits

In your proposal, please provide a list of the laboratories you intend to visit, respectively including information on

- *why you selected this particular lab / how the lab visit fits with the future career steps you are aiming for*
- *earlier collaborations with members of this lab*
- *the anticipated duration of your stay*
- *your contact person to guide you there*
- *activities you are planning to get to know the lab during your visit*

Please enclose invitation letters of the heads of each of the laboratories you intend to visit, confirming their willingness to host you in the scheduled time period (copies of invitation emails are sufficient).

Please note that within this grant scheme, evidenced travel expenses (economy class transportation + accommodation) will be reimbursed based on the travel expense regulations of the Free State of Thuringia. The maximum amount that can be reimbursed per awardee is 2,000 €.

E. Concise curriculum vitae in a tabular form (max. 1 page)

JSMC Career Orientation Grants - Conditions

The awarding of the JSMC Career Orientation Grant is based on the information provided in the grant application submitted by the recipient. The scholarship holder is, therefore, obliged to immediately inform the JSMC Office about any changes to the plans outlined there. Further, the scholarship holder is obligated to inform the JSMC Office about changes in his/her personal or financial circumstances so that the JSMC can adjust the stipend amount accordingly.

Scholarships awarded by the JSMC do not constitute any form of employment. In Germany (EstG §3 No. 44) and in countries that maintain a double-taxation agreement with Germany, scholarships are exempt from tax. A scholarship is not considered to be remuneration as defined by Article 14 of the German Social Law IV and is therefore not liable to social insurance. Provision of laws governing formation of capital, saving premiums and residential building premiums do not apply. The JSMC does not provide any kind of insurance for the scholarship holders, i.e., the recipients must insure themselves and their families against any possible costs and consequences caused by illness, accident, personal liability, etc.

JSMC reserves the right to reclaim any surplus payment or money paid in error. Furthermore, the JSMC may cancel the scholarship and demand repayment if the scholarship was obtained under false pretences or is not used for its intended purpose.

To process the scholarship holders' applications and to provide continuous support, the JSMC gathers and electronically stores the data submitted by applicants. These data include personal information as well as information on the career promoting activities described in the grant application and the support granted.

JSMC Orientation Grant holders are members of the Graduate School JSMC (JSMC Alumni). JSMC aims to promote networking between its Alumni as well as between the Alumni and the current Doctoral Researchers. Scholarship holders will be asked to provide information for this, which will be made available to the other members in internal databases and publications. Basic member data is also shown on the publicly accessible JSMC website. At the end of the grant period, each scholarship holder is expected to write a brief experience report (1 page) on how he/she made use of the grant-funded time for career promotion (this report may also be published by JSMC). Submission of a photo(s) of and by the scholarship holder to illustrate the web information would be appreciated.

Postdoctoral scholarships

The 6-months postdoc funding is intended to cover the living expenses of the recipient. It may therefore not be held while receiving a regular personal income from any other institution or research institute.

The amount of the monthly scholarship allowance is 1,750 € based on the regulations by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Supplementary allowance for scholarship holders with children: 400 € per month for the first child plus 100 € more for each additional child.



Laboratory visit travel grants

The Laboratory visit grants are intended to provide funding for visits to international laboratories in order to identify the best possibilities for future postdoctoral positions. The grant exclusively covers customary travel expenses (transportation + accommodation costs; Economy class). All other expenses, such as living costs, research-related expenses, etc. must be covered either by the scholarship holder him-/herself or by other sources.

Expenses that are covered by the JSMC Career Orientation Grant will be reimbursed by JSMC upon original receipts. An advance payment can be made upon request. The maximum total to be reimbursed per grant is € 2,000. The travel grant expires if not taken up within 4 months following its awarding.