Invitation to Apply for a Re-invitation Grant for Research Alumni

Extend your research collaborations and invite former guest researchers from abroad (research alumni) to return to KIT for a research stay!

The International Scholars and Welcome Office (IScO) offers scientists of KIT the opportunity to re-invite guest researchers as “research alumni of KIT” for a short stay at KIT. For this, we will award re-invitation grants (reunion grants) of one to a maximum of two months’ duration.

1. Goals and Target Groups

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) wishes to extend collaboration with research alumni after their research stay in Karlsruhe and to bind them to KIT even after they have left. Our grants for research alumni (re-invitation grants) are intended to initiate or extend KIT’s international research collaborations with them, to convince early-stage researchers of the excellent research opportunities in Karlsruhe, and to foster close ties between them and KIT.

Research alumni are scientists, who conducted research at KIT as doctoral students, postdocs, or on an advanced career level for a longer term and then continued their scientific careers abroad (country of origin, other country outside of Germany) or at another university in Germany.
In 2020, we offer grants for the following activities:

- Re-invitation of distinguished research alumni for a research stay of one to two months at KIT to carry out a research project with the host, to jointly prepare and publish a scientific paper, or to jointly apply for funding for a joint research project with a funding organization. Future joint research collaborations and exchanges of early-stage researchers are explicitly desired. In addition, the host institutes are asked to share in the costs.

Only non-commercial projects can be funded.

2. Grant Period

The period for re-invitations of research alumni is the calendar year of 2020. Hence, the last possible start of a research stay at KIT is December 2020.

The duration of the stay may be one to two months. This duration should be agreed upon with the host and IScO prior to the start of the grant.

Research alumni of KIT, who currently conduct research abroad, may apply for the grant. A support letter by the host is mandatory. In addition, the host has to make available an adequate workplace. Research alumni, who received funding in the previous year, are not eligible to apply for this call.

3. Amount of Funding

The stay can be funded with a grant in the maximum amount of EUR 1500 per month. In case of shorter stays, the grant will be adapted accordingly (up to 375 € per week). In special cases, the stay may be shortened to not less than two weeks. Additional costs, such as travel expenses, cannot be reimbursed. For the duration of the stay, grant holders have to provide proof of health insurance coverage. The IScO staff may provide advisory support in this respect. The guest scientist is responsible for taking out insurance (such as liability, accident, health insurances); coverage by KIT’s insurances is not guaranteed. At the request of the host institute, the visiting scientist must provide proof of personal liability insurance against the risks typically associated with such a stay.

4. Application Documents to Be Submitted

All application documents may be submitted in the German or English language. Prior registration in the research alumni network with a profile on the research alumni world map is mandatory. In addition, registration in the KIT Alumni Network is mandatory.
Please submit the following documents:

- Application form
- CV
- Support letter by the host, including a short sketch of the joint research project during the stay

5. Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted by July 12, 2020. Complete application documents submitted in due time will be considered only.

6. Selection Criteria

During the re-invitation period of research alumni, one of the following activities should be carried out at least:

- Execution of a joint research project
- Setup of a joint scientific publication
- Preparation of an application for funding for a joint future research project
- Initiation of a cooperation (MoU) between the institute of the research alumnus and the KIT

7. Addressee

Kindly address your application in writing to the International Scholars and Welcome Office or send it by electronic mail (PDF) to researchalumni@intl.kit.edu.

8. Please use the following application template.

9. Award Procedure

A selection committee consisting of the following persons will decide on the awarding of re-invitation grants:

- Dr. Klaus Rümmele, Head of the International Affairs Business Unit (INTL),
- Dr. Petra Roth, Head of the International Scholars and Welcome Office (IScO),
- Pascale Kohler, Head of the Regional Strategy and Information Section (ReSI),
- Agnes Honka, Head of the Alumni Group and Deputy Head of the Career Service and Alumni Unit, Innovation and Relations Management Business Unit (IRM)
- Dr. Birgida Langer, Institute of Organic Chemistry, Equal Opportunities Officer

After preliminary notification of the selection decision, an agreement on the stay will be concluded with the research alumnus/alumna.

10. Final Report after the Stay

After the stay covered by the re-invitation grant, a short report must be set up, in which the project of the research alumnus/research alumna together with the host is outlined briefly. The report in the German or English language is to be sent to the email address given above at least six weeks after the end of the stay. We would very much appreciate your enclosing a
photo of the research alumnus/alumna together with the host. The report will then be published on the website of IScO.

As proof of use, the institute and the research alumnus/research alumna have to confirm in writing that the sponsored period was spent at KIT as part of the project.

11. Legal Matters

There is no entitlement to funding. The funding is subject to the availability of funds.

The research alumnus/alumna is responsible for fulfilling his/her obligations under German or foreign tax and social security law.

Irrespective of this, KIT informs the tax authorities about the corresponding payments in accordance with the “Ordinance on Notices to the Tax Authorities by Other Authorities” (Notification Ordinance of September 7, 1993, Federal Law Gazette I, p. 1154, as amended) as well as with the corresponding procedural regulations.

The research alumnus/alumna is responsible for observing and complying with the legal provisions governing his/her stay in Germany or the Schengen area (such as visa or registration requirements). The host institute can help arrange support.

The agreement on the stay does not establish any employment relationship with KIT. Conclusion of an employment contract in connection with the stay is excluded. Conclusion of the agreement on the stay does not entitle the research alumnus/alumna to an employment relationship. The research alumnus/alumna is not obliged to provide any specific compensation.

The details are subject to the written agreement on the stay (see above).