Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

"International Excellence Award of KIT" and "Fellowship of SCHROFF Foundation" within the University of Excellence Program "International Excellence Grants"

Information on the Nomination and Funding Procedure

For the **"International Excellence Award of KIT**" in combination with the "**Fellowship of SCHROFF Foundation",** KIT invites nominations of internationally renowned scientists of all disciplines and from all countries,

- whose cutting-edge research has a lasting impact on their discipline also beyond their own field of work,
- whose cutting-edge research contributes to managing the global challenges facing society in the 21st century and addresses topics of relevance to the future, and
- who may be expected to continue to make outstanding research achievements in future.

At the time of nomination, the centers of life and work of the nominees must have been abroad for five years at least. It is also possible to nominate scientists of German nationality, who have worked abroad for five years at least.

Nominations may be submitted by professors and executive scientists of KIT. Projects extending beyond a single institute or discipline are expressly welcome.

Nominating scientists have to guarantee that the infrastructure required for the execution of self-chosen research projects (access to the Library, resources, rooms) is available.

Nominations of qualified female scientists are particularly desired.

The nominating scientists of KIT are requested to submit their nominations together with the following documents to the International Affairs Business Unit (INTL):

- Personal statement of the nominator(s) (laudation, scientific appraisal; 3 pages max.)
- Invitation by the host institute(s) of KIT and description of the planned research project (scientific focus, ways of imparting knowledge, e.g. presentations etc.; 3 pages max.)
- CV in tabular form
- List of key publications of the nominee (10 publications max.)
- 1 or 2 recommendation letters by internationally acknowledged experts of the nominee's discipline

The complete nominations submitted in due time will be handed over to the Council for Research and Promotion of Young Scientists (CRYS). The selection decision will be made by the Executive Board based on the recommendation of CRYS.

The scientist who is granted the "**International Excellence Award of KIT"** in combination with the **"Fellowship of SCHROFF Foundation"** will be invited to a research stay at KIT **for a period of up to six months**. This period may be divided into several shorter periods.

March, 2026

The Award and Fellowship include:

(1) **Funds for equipment in the amount of up to EUR 50,000**, which will be transferred to the host institute(s) of KIT and are to be spent for research purposes according to budgetary regulations;
(2) a **monthly fellowship payment to the awardee staying at KIT for up to six months**;
(3) **a monthly grant to an early-stage researcher (postdoc)** from the group of the awardee for a research stay of **up to 1 year** at KIT. In exceptional cases, up to two scholarships may be awarded (each for up to six months).

Information on the Funds for Equipment

The funds for equipment in the amount of up to EUR 50,000 will be transferred internally to the host institute(s) of the awardee at KIT. The funding period starts on the date communicated and is expected to end on **December 31, 2028.** The funds may be spent for e.g. instruments, software, consumables, literature, as well as for student or research assistants involved in the research project. These funds are subject to the financial management regulations of KIT, including the State Budget Regulations (Landeshaushaltsordnung) and Procurement Guidelines (Beschaffungsrichtlinie), etc.

Information on the Payment of the Grants

As a rule, grants are exempt from taxation. Exemption of these payments from taxation according to Art. 3, No. 44 of the Income Tax Act (EStG, Einkommenssteuergesetz) is subject to the following conditions:

a) The grants do not exceed the amount required for fulfilling the research task or making a living and covering the qualification needs and the grants are awarded according to the regulations of the grant provider.
b) The recipient of the grant is not obliged to render a scientific or artistic service in return or to perform a certain activity as an employed person.

The amounts of the grants depend on the scientific qualification and the living conditions of the awardee and her or his family and are calculated individually based on the following rates:

All amounts given below are to be understood as **maximum amounts**.

Category	**Funding Volume**
Internationally renowned researchers, whose research has a lasting impact on their discipline also beyond their own field of work	Up to a maximum of **EUR 30,000** (max. EUR 5,000 € for usually 6 months)
Outstanding early-stage researcher (postdoc) from the group of the awardee	Up to a maximum of **EUR 36,000** (max. EUR 3,000 for usually 12 months)

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Dates in 2026

Nomination Deadline	Communication of the Selection Result	Presentation of the Award
June 25, 2026	**Start of August, 2026**	**Fall 2026**

Please submit the documents in electronic form to ieg@intl.kit.edu.

It is recommended to discuss your nomination proposal in advance with the project team of the International Excellence Grants. Ms. Elena Pfeifer, the coordinator of the project, will be pleased to provide detailed advice by phone +49(0)721 608 45320 or email elena.pfeifer@kit.edu.

We look forward to receiving your nominations!

March, 2026