

Invitation of Applications for

Mobility Grants under the IMPULSE Program

International Affairs
International Students Office

Version of August 2026

1. Purpose of the Grant

Under the IMPULSE program of KIT, mobility grants are awarded to fund studies-related research stays of qualified students from KIT's international partner universities and global scientific collaboration. IMPULSE is a mobility program of KIT to enhance collaboration with selected international partner universities by the exchange of students.

2. Legal Basis

The grants are awarded based on the Richtlinie für die Vergabe von Qualifizierungs-, Forschungs- und Mobilitätsstipendien am Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT) (Guidelines for Awarding Qualification, Research, and Mobility Scholarships at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)), Official Announcement No. 51 dated September 23, 2020. The German version is accessible at https://www.sle.kit.edu/downloads/AmtlicheBekanntmachungen/2020_AB_051.pdf. This version shall apply, unless another provision is given below.

3. Prerequisites for Awarding the Grant

Eligible are highly qualified bachelor's and master's students as well as graduates from IMPULSE partner universities, who wish to stay at KIT to conduct research for a typical duration of three to four months under the IMPULSE program for bilateral collaboration by the exchange of students. In particularly justified cases, the funding can be extended.

4. Application Procedure

Applications for the grant are invited at www.intl.kit.edu or among the IMPULSE cooperation partners. An application for a mobility grant includes the following documents: Curriculum vitae, studies achievements, and motivation letter referring to the research project.

5. Selection Procedure

Based on the proposal made by the home university and the KIT host institute, the grant committee of the IMPULSE program will decide on awarding the grants.

The decision will be made in accordance with Article 16, par. 2 of the Richtlinie für die Vergabe von Qualifizierungs-, Forschungs- und Mobilitätsstipendien am Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT), Official Announcement No. 51 dated September 23, 2020.

Selection of the awardees will be based on their applications and in particular on the following selection criteria: Studies achievements, professional fit, motivation of the applicant to work on the selected research project, and social criteria, if applicable.

6. IMPULSE Mobility Grants

The amount of the grants will depend on the requirements made by the providers of third-party funding and will be in line with the rates granted by the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (German Academic Scholarship Foundation).

Presently, the monthly basic grant corresponding to the highest BAföG rate amounts to EUR 993.

In addition, material costs in the amount of EUR 300 per month and insurance costs in the monthly amount of EUR 100 will be paid.

The monthly funding amounts usually to EUR 1,393 (total for 30 days of stay). If the duration of a stay in a month is less than 30 days, the funding amount is adjusted as follows: Up to 14 days in a month: EUR 696,50. From 15 days to 30 days: The full monthly amount of EUR 1,393.

Students with a disability or chronic disease may be granted an inclusion allowance (so-called on-top) of up to EUR 1000 per month in addition to the basic grant and the material costs. The amount of the inclusion allowance will depend on the individual needs. To determine these individual needs, the Center for Digital Accessibility and Assistive Technology (ACCESS@KIT) and the KIT Representative for Students with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases (BBC) must be consulted. The inclusion allowance is intended to cover expenses for necessary aids upon presentation of the corresponding invoices.

Additional costs arising under the IMPULSE accompanying program may be reimbursed up to EUR 350 per grant holder. The maximum amount of travel expenses will be determined in accordance with the State Travel Expenses Act (Landesreisekostengesetz).

If the statutory maternity leave period falls within the funding period, the latter will be extended by the duration of the statutory maternity leave upon the written request by the grant holder. During maternity leave, the grant will continue to be paid, provided that this is in agreement with the funding regulations of the third-party funding provider.

7. Cooperation Obligations of the Grant Holders

Before the completion of the research stay at KIT, the stay at KIT and the research activities should be presented during the stipend recipients' meeting.

The International Affairs Business Unit (DE INTL) must be informed promptly when the research project funded is completed, suspended, interrupted, or continued at another university. In addition, DE INTL must be informed about any and all facts relevant to the amount or continued payment of the grant. DE INTL must also be informed promptly about any changes of the address or bank account.

8. Additional Income

Grant holders are obliged to concentrate on the purpose of their grants. Grant holders are permitted to take up gainful employment, if this does not interfere with the purpose of the grant. As a rule, this is considered to be fulfilled, if the time required for one or more gainful activities per week does not exceed a quarter of the regular standard working hours in case of full-time employment. KIT will check whether the gainful employment endangers the fulfillment of the grant purpose. KIT reserves the right to terminate or suspend payment of the grant in such cases.

Prior to the start of a gainful activity, KIT must be informed about its duration. Upon conclusion of the employment contract, a copy of the latter must be attached to the grant file.

9. Status of Grant Holders

The grant holders will conduct research independently without having to obey any directions given by KIT. The grant will not establish any work, service, or other employment relationship.

The grant holders themselves shall be responsible for the payment of taxes and social security contributions in Germany and abroad and shall indemnify KIT from any claims of third parties in this respect. According to the provisions given in Article 3, No. 44 of the German Income Tax Act (Einkommenssteuergesetz, EStG), the grant may be exempt from taxation and may not be subject to the progression clause given in Art. 32 b EStG. For domestic grant providers, the tax office responsible for assessing their corporate income tax must check whether the conditions for tax exemption of the grant are met (for KIT, this is the tax office of the City of Karlsruhe, Finanzamt Karlsruhe-Stadt). Upon request by the grant holder or their tax offices, KIT's tax office must issue a certificate confirming that the requirements of Art. 3, No. 44, cl. 3, a and b EStG are fulfilled or it must refuse issuance of such certificate.

The grant holder is responsible for taking out a health insurance and private liability insurance.

During their education and training, grant holders enrolled at KIT are covered by statutory accident insurance and liability insurance via Studierendenwerk Karlsruhe. Accidents at work also include accidents on the way to or from work in connection with the insured activity.

10. Handling of Personal Data

To prove use of the funding provided, KIT reports the awarding of the grants according to the requirements made by the funding providers.

KIT will notify the responsible tax office of the payment of grants in accordance with the "Verordnung über Mitteilungen an die Finanzbehörden durch andere Behörden und öffentlich-rechtliche Rundfunkanstalten" (ordinance on notifications to the tax authorities by other authorities and public service broadcasting authorities), as amended.

It must be ensured that the grant holders are sufficiently informed about the processing of their personal data for grant administration purposes. In cases of doubt, the Data Protection Staff Unit

must be consulted. This also applies to compliance with data protection regulations when transmitting personal data to the funding providers.