Application for Bridge Fellowships

You want to become part of our community? Calls for applications are opened on a regular basis. Please check uni.kn/zukunftskolleg for the next deadline. Applications in between calls are not accepted.

All applications and supporting materials must be submitted in English as a single pdf file including the reference number (see call) to zukunftskolleg@uni-konstanz.de.

There are no formal requirements concerning font style and size, however all documents should be readable.

The following documents are required for the application:

- Motivation letter
- Project outline
- Curriculum Vitae
- Writing sample
- Letter of support

Motivation Letter

The motivation letter is typically a statement of purpose. The letter should discuss the fit between you, your project, the Zukunftskolleg, and the University of Konstanz. To what degree would your project benefit from the specific environment of the Zukunftskolleg as well as the Department associated with your research (and vice versa)? Why do you think you are the right person for this programme? How does your experience and proposed research project fit within the advertised framework of the fellowship? The motivation letter can also be a medium to address relevant research experience as well as other pertinent information not addressed elsewhere in the application. The motivation letter should be no longer than one page.

Project Outline

Please make sure that your project outline includes the following information:

- Scope of the project
- Feasibility of project and work plan (time schedule and projected costs)
- Innovative potential and originality of project
- Timeliness and relevance of the project
- Methodology
- Expected contribution to the field of research
• How does the research project fit to an existing or planned research initiative at the University of Konstanz?
• Most important bibliographic sources
• All ethical issues raised by a proposed project (if applicable) must be described in the project outline. The candidate should explain how these will be addressed, so as to conform with national principles. For advice, please see the CORDIS website on ethics or the Treatment of Ethical Issues section in this document. If a proposed project that has passed the peer review stage raises any ethical issues, it is forwarded for review by the University of Konstanz Ethics Committee.

The project outline should be no longer than five pages.

Regarding the projected costs, candidates should provide a realistic plan of the resources needed to implement their research project at the Zukunftskolleg such as student/research assistants, conferences, equipment, research trips or consumables. Please consider that among the projected costs we do not finance PhD positions.

**Writing Sample**

A writing sample is a generic name for an academic paper, a book chapter, a chapter of your PhD thesis etc. which allows the Recruitment Committee to gain more insight in your scientific work and ability to communicate your scientific approach and objectives. You may choose to submit one sample or several ones, however the total number of pages cannot exceed 30 pages.

Applicants from e.g. linguistics/literature/history etc. fields can submit the writing sample in the original language version, so there is no need to translate it.

**Letter of Support**

The letter of support is from a Professor at the University of Konstanz who is a specialist in the field of study relevant for the applicant’s project and will act as a local host during the fellowship. The letter should present the long-term prospects of the project beyond the Bridge Fellowship.
Treatment of ethical issues in applicants’ research

Candidates are asked to disclose all ethical issues raised by their proposed projects and explain how these will be addressed, so as to conform to national and European ethical principles. For advice, applicants are referred to the CORDIS website on ethics and to the staff of the Zukunftskolleg central office. The main ethical issues that must be addressed by applicants include:

- Interventions involving human beings;
- Use of human biological samples and data;
- Use of nonhuman primates;
- Informed consent;
- Privacy and data protection;
- Research on animals;
- Research involving developing countries;
- Dual use.

If a proposed project that has passed the peer review stage raises any ethical issues, it is forwarded for review by the University of Konstanz Ethics Committee.

If any research project intends to fund a proposal involving human embryonic stem cells (hESC), the applicant must immediately contact the Zukunftskolleg central office and, in the case of EU-funded fellowships, the Research Executive Agency in Brussels (REA).

- The applicant must provide a document explaining why hESC are needed, their origin and the quantity to be used.
- The REA forwards such requests to the People Programme Committee for approval.
- Without prior approval of the Programme Committee, the fellowship cannot be awarded.

On the basis of the recommendations of the Ethics Committee, the Recruitment Committee decides whether a proposal can proceed to the final stage of the selection process. If aspects concerning ethical issues remain unresolved, the Workshop on Future Research Directions gives committee members another opportunity to question applicants on their treatment of ethical issues.

Ethical issues that arise during the course of the programme are also forwarded to the Ethics Committee and handled as described above. If a project cannot be approved, fellows are asked to modify or terminate it.

Projects involving data collection or field work in other countries may raise ethical issues. In this case, fellows are asked to identify the ethical committees and regulatory organizations that will need to be approached. For research conducted in Germany, ethical concerns must be addressed in accordance with German and European law.