University of Konstanz

The University of Konstanz is a young university known for its top-level research, flat structures and short distances. It is comprised of thirteen departments that are divided into the Faculty of Sciences, the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Politics – Law – Economics. Konstanz is located in Southern Germany, on the shore of Lake Constance and right on the border to Switzerland. On a clear day, you can see as far as the Alps.

The University of Konstanz has been successful in the German Excellence Initiative and Excellence Strategy since 2007. The Zukunftskolleg is a keystone in the University of Konstanz's institutional policy to promote top-level research and is funded by the German federal and state governments' Excellence Strategy.

Take what you need... to build an outstanding research career.

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Fellows at the Jour fixe
Zukunftskolleg – The place to generate tomorrow’s new ideas

As an Institute for Advanced Study for junior researchers at the University of Konstanz, the Zukunftskolleg has been promoting outstanding researchers since 2007. With its 2-year and 5-year Fellowships as well as a diverse network of support, postdoctoral researchers in the humanities, social and natural sciences come to carry out their research in Konstanz from all over the world.

Based on its 5i strategy (Independence, Interdisciplinarity, Internationality, Intergenerationality, Intrauniversity), the Zukunftskolleg has a unique way of promoting postdoctoral researchers and junior research group leaders: Early career researchers carry out their research without administrative constraints. They enjoy a high level of freedom and are still securely anchored within their respective research departments where they have the opportunity to teach. The fellows profit from excellent research conditions and state-of-the-art facilities. Thanks to a comprehensive and diverse support network, the talented researchers can completely concentrate on their projects. The inspiring and diversified research environment provides invaluable opportunities for them to encounter and exchange ideas and information with other up-and-coming colleagues as well as distinguished senior researchers. This is how the Zukunftskolleg creates ideal working conditions for junior researchers and provides them with the best possible preparation for their scientific careers.

Find out more about our fellowship programmes and support measures: – uni.kn/zukunftskolleg

113 Fellowships awarded

Early independence is the essential idea behind the Zukunftskolleg: Researchers are to carry out research free of restraints early in their career. The fellowships enable young researchers to implement independent research projects or even to build their own research groups.

Since 2019, the Synergy Fellowship Programme allows (academic) partners with different disciplinary backgrounds to work on a single project, each contributing their own topical or methodological expertise, while having the opportunity to sharpen their individual research profiles.

61% international Fellows

Internationality is part of everyday life at the Zukunftskolleg and the university. 61% of our fellows have a nationality other than German. Fellows come from many regions of the world, and they go to many regions in the world. To expand their international networks, Zukunftskolleg fellows are encouraged to invite mentors, researchers and Senior Fellows from all over the world. This builds strong ties within the global academic community.

Moreover, in 2019 the Zukunftskolleg introduced the ZUKOnnect Fellowship to support early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

49 Senior Fellows / 85 Mentorships

Experienced researchers are tremendous sources of experience and knowledge. The Zukunftskolleg supports the exchange between experienced and early career researchers through several funding instruments. For example, fellows can invite Senior Fellows or apply for our Mentorship Programme.

20 193 Cookies eaten in Jour fixe

The Jour fixe is the weekly interdisciplinary session for the fellows and Senior Fellows. Here they discuss the progress of their work, present results, share and encounter questions from other disciplines, explore the possibilities of interdisciplinary collaboration.