The Zukunftskolleg awards 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships and 5-year Research Fellowships to outstanding young researchers in the social sciences, natural sciences and humanities. The 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships are available for researchers at the early stage of their career who intend to develop and implement independent research projects.

The target group for the 5-year Research Fellowships consists of researchers with significant work experience at the postdoctoral level aiming for a career in academia. At entry they must already have secured a research grant of at least €50,000 or an equivalent amount in funding to build their own, independent research group. During their stay, they establish their personal academic profile and grow into full members of the worldwide academic community. The Zukunftskolleg provides financial support for start-up, consumables and travel, and assists in developing academic skills and establishing leadership competencies for each Fellow’s independent research group.

The Zukunftskolleg, an institute for advanced study for young scholars, is a core measure of the university’s institutional strategy “Modell Konstanz – Towards a Culture of Creativity”. It offers not only a pleasant research atmosphere with state-of-the-art facilities and sweeping views of the Swiss and Austrian Alps, but also invaluable opportunities for encounter and exchange.

The Zukunftskolleg has a unique way of promoting outstanding postdoctoral researchers and junior research group leaders from all over the world. Here they can perform independent, self-directed and interdisciplinary research without administrative constraints and have the freedom to engage in meaningful exchange with other up-and-coming colleagues and with distinguished researchers. This interdisciplinary dialogue fosters an environment that produces seminal ideas.

Although the young talents enjoy a high level of freedom, the Fellows are still securely anchored within their respective research departments, where they in turn enrich the University of Konstanz.

The Fellowships are financed by the DFG and the FP7 Marie Curie Actions - People under the project title “Zukunftskolleg Incoming Fellowship Programme” (ZIF-MC).

Contact
Zukunftskolleg
University of Konstanz
78457 Konstanz
Germany
Phone: +49(0)7531/88-4897
Fax: +49(0)7531/88-4829

E-mail
zukunftskolleg@uni-konstanz.de

Internet
http://zukunftskolleg.uni.kn

The University of Konstanz, with 13 departments in the faculties of natural sciences, humanities and social sciences, is a young reform university known for its top-level research, flat structures, short distances and high-calibre teaching. Interdisciplinarity, innovation, an irresistible zest for research and a “Culture of Creativity” give the university its distinctive profile. Here researchers, students and guest scientists find comprehensive services such as a superb infrastructure, professional career planning and active support for those combining family and scientific research.

The University of Konstanz is one of eleven German universities whose institutional strategy to promote top-level research is being supported by the Excellence Initiative of the German Federal and State Governments. In June 2012 the university received approval for the second funding phase of the Excellence Initiative.
Fellowships

The Zukunftskolleg awards 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships and 5-year Research Fellowships to outstanding young researchers in the social sciences, natural sciences and humanities. The 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships are available for researchers at the early stage of their career who intend to develop and implement independent research projects.

The target group for the 5-year Research Fellowships consists of researchers with significant work experience at the postdoctoral level aiming for a career in academia. At entry they must already have secured a research grant of at least €50,000 or an equivalent amount in funding to build their own independent research group. During their stay, they establish their personal academic profile and grow into full members of the worldwide academic community. The Zukunftskolleg provides financial support for start-up, consumables and travel, and assists in developing academic skills and establishing leadership competencies for each Fellow’s independent research group.

Exchange and Funding Instruments

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

Co-funding enables Fellows to work independently even before external funding has started, and to initiate new projects. The Zukunftskolleg meets short-term costs incurred on research projects at the Zukunftskolleg. Senior Fellows are also supported.

The Mentorship Programme enables the Fellows to invite distinguished scholars to Konstanz for a short period of time and to establish active cooperation through return visits.

A Scientific Retreat enables Fellows to invite their research groups and experts to a concentrated and intensive meeting for several days in a relaxed atmosphere away from campus.

Senior Fellowships

The intense yet relaxed scientific exchange at the Zukunftskolleg not only transcends the boundaries of disciplines but also of generations. The young Fellows propose established international researchers for the Zukunftskolleg’s Senior Fellowship award. The recipients can carry out their research for up to nine months at the Zukunftskolleg, free from the commitments of teaching and administrative work.

At the same time they support the work of the younger Fellows through advice and discussion. In this way the experienced Senior Fellows help to shape the young Zukunftskolleg and take an active part in the development of the Zukunftskolleg and its projects and programmes. The Senior Fellows are expected to be available for two or three days a week.

The Doctoral Fellowship offers 12-month contract positions to gifted young scientists from all disciplines in the third year of their doctoral degree. Each doctoral student is supported by a Fellow and takes part in all the events at the Zukunftskolleg.

The Manfred Ulmer Scholarship is awarded to one doctoral student each year by the Zukunftskolleg on behalf of the “Stiftung Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft”, a foundation of the University of Konstanz.

Coaching offers Fellows at the Zukunftskolleg practical professional support for their career, such as improving their performance with appointment commissions, presentation and teaching skills, project management and grant writing.