



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Affairs  
and Energy

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# EXIST Business Start-up Grant

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*EXIST – University-Based Business Start-Ups*





## **What is the EXIST Business Start-up Grant?**

The EXIST Business Start-up Grant is a nationwide program set up to fund early-stage start-ups from universities and other research institutes. The program provides funding for the development of a idea for a product/service, as well as the business plan, up until to company launch.

## **What is eligible for funding?**

- Innovative technology-oriented start-up projects
- Innovative services offering substantial benefit for the client based on scientific findings indicative of a unique selling point on the market

## **Who is eligible to receive funding?**

- Academics and non-university researchers
- Graduates or former research assistants (up to five years after graduation/leaving the institutes)



- Students who have completed at least half of their study at the time of application
- Start-up teams of up to three people. One of the team members can be a person possessing a recognized vocational qualification or who completed university education more than five years ago.





## How does funding work?

- Maximum period of funding: one year
- Subsistence grant depending on degree already obtained:
  - Doctorate: € 3,000/month
  - Graduates: € 2,500/month
  - Non-graduate professionals with a recognized vocational qualification: € 2,500/month
  - Undergraduates or students: € 1,000/month
  - Extra support for parents: € 100/month/child
- Material expenses: up to € 10,000 for start-ups set up by an individual (up to € 30,000 for teams)
- Start-up-related coaching: € 5,000

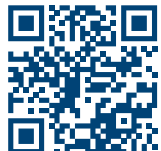


## What steps need to be taken?

- Applications for funding must be submitted by the university or research institute.
- Applicants must provide a summary report outlining their business idea.
- The university or research institute designates a mentor who commits to providing specialist advice. A start-up network ensures that the entrepreneurs receive the necessary support.
- The university or research institute provides the entrepreneurs with the relevant infrastructure for one year.

## Application deadlines

Applications can be submitted at any time to Project Management Jülich, which has been commissioned to run the program on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.



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