



**Call for proposals
„HessenFonds“-scholarship for refugees and researchers at risk –
highly qualified students, doctoral students and researchers at
Marburg University**

Funding line for doctoral students and researchers at risk

The Hessian Ministry of Science and Research, Arts and Culture (HMWK) provides scholarships at the state universities of Hesse within the framework of the "HessenFonds for refugees and researchers at risk – highly qualified students and researchers". The funding supports the continuation of studies or a scientific career at the state universities of Hesse and normally lasts one year.

Eligibility criteria for the funding program:

- Nominees may be individuals who face a threat in their country of origin which is based on ethnic, sexual, gender, or religious identity, or political or civic engagement based on liberal democratic principles and striving to contribute to positive social change.
- Threats may include threats to personal well-being or security (e.g. physical violence, arrest, denial of civil and educational rights, loss of employment/research position for political reasons, or the like), and armed conflict in the country of origin.
- Applicants must be residing in their country of origin at the time of application or in a third country outside the EU if they already had to leave their country of origin for the stated reasons.

Doctoral students:

- outstanding academic and/or scientific achievements
- acceptance as doctoral candidate, including confirmation of supervision at Marburg University (acceptance by the doctoral committee as well as a letter of recommendation by the supervisor, including assessment of the nominee's academic/scientific achievements).

Researchers:

- outstanding achievements in research and/or teaching
- confirmation of a research or teaching position as well as confirmation of supervision by the Universität Marburg (in the form of an expert report or a letter from the host, including an assessment of the nominee's academic/scientific achievements, also with regard to integration in the research area).

Persecution may be evidenced by:

- statements or documentation from the Scholars at Risk Network (SAR), the Council for at-Risk Academics (CARA), or the Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) - if available and not older than 12 months
- or: Credible documentation of the threat from a third party, e.g. a non-governmental organization, embassy, or relevant research institution
- or: Documents describing and/or confirming the threat to personal safety, e.g. official and other documents and records describing the threat situation, social media posts with relevant links, arrest warrants, proof of threat, police reports, court orders, or similar documents

Important: Individuals, who are already residing in an EU state, hold a residence permit in an EU state, are in asylum proceedings in an EU state, or have access to a safe country of residence due to dual citizenship or other circumstances, as well as nationals of an EU state, are not eligible for funding.

Scope of funding:

The HessenFonds scholarship includes the following scholarship rates:

Doctoral students: 1,200 euros/month

Researchers: 2,300 euros/month

Funding period:

01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027

A later start is possible with the approval of the HMWK. The scholarship should be started no later than six months after receipt of the scholarship commitment, otherwise a new application is usually required.

Application procedure:

Applications must be submitted directly to the Marburg University. For an application, please use the forms from the [website](#) only. Further documents to be submitted are described on the website. Please send the **signed application form and the requested attachments summarized in one PDF document** and in the **indicated order** no later than

January 4, 2026

to anna.markovic@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de

The following selection process consists of two steps. In the first step, Marburg University nominates qualified applicants in a ranking list via the President to the Hessian Ministry of Science and Research, Arts and Culture (HMWK). The internal university nomination procedure is regulated by Marburg University. In the second step, the final selection of scholarship recipients is carried out by the HMWK according to the award criteria. It takes up to three months for the HMWK to review the documents of the nominated applicants and to make the selection. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Anna Markovic. Please refrain from sending inquiries to the HMWK.

Award criteria:

The "HessenFonds" scholarships are awarded to doctoral candidates and academics with endangered status on the basis of their performance. The following criteria, among others, are used to assess performance:

- Ranking by the nominating university
- Previous achievements in studies, research or teaching
- Assessment from the expert report
- Description of the doctoral or research project
- Letter of motivation
- Curriculum vitae
- Language skills
- If applicable, voluntary commitment, special achievements

There is no legal claim to the granting of a scholarship.

Contact:

For any questions regarding the scholarship and application documents, please contact Ms. Anna Markovic, anna.markovic@verwaltung.uni-marburg.de, 06421-28 26475