



The *Jena Excellence Fellowship Programme* forms part of Friedrich Schiller University Jena's "LIGHT, LIFE, LIBERTY – Connecting People and Ideas" strategy. It strengthens the university's internationalisation by attracting outstanding researchers from abroad and by establishing and expanding sustainable academic collaborations.

The programme promotes research in the university's profile areas and research priorities, contributes to its strategic development and opens up new fields of research by inviting internationally recognised academics to Jena as Fellows.

During their stay, the Fellows are welcomed as visiting researchers at Friedrich Schiller University Jena, network with researchers in Jena and gain access to the scientific infrastructure required for their research projects.

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?

Scholars from all disciplines who are or have last been employed at a research institution outside Germany may be nominated for the Fellowship.

There are two funding categories:

- **Postdoctoral Fellow:** Researchers up to six years after earning their doctorate at the time of application (R2 according to the *European Framework for Research Careers*), excluding parental leave.
- **Senior Fellow:** Academically independent researchers (R3/R4 according to the *European Framework for Research Careers*).

Senior Fellows may receive funding as part of a Senior Plus Fellowship together with a person in the postdoctoral or doctoral phase.

SCOPE OF FUNDING

The funding period is usually six to twelve months.

In justified exceptional cases, postdoctoral Fellows may apply for an extension in consultation with their Host, for example to bridge the gap until funding for a post at FSU Jena begins (funded by third-party grants or the Host research group's budget).

The funding may be split across several periods of stay, provided this is duly justified and all periods are completed within three years of the start of the funding period.

The monthly stipend is €3,700 for postdoctoral Fellows and €4,700 for senior Fellows.

Fellows travelling with minor children receive an additional family allowance. This amounts to €154 per month for one child, €205 per month for two children, and €256 per month for three or more children.

In addition, a one-off mobility allowance is granted with the first instalment of the Fellowship (Europe: €1,000; outside Europe: €2,000).

For the research project, a lump-sum allowance of €1,800 may be applied for to cover project-specific expenses.

Friedrich Schiller University Jena supports Fellows with a comprehensive welcome service, including assistance with entry formalities, finding accommodation, arranging school and nursery places, dealing with official procedures, language courses and the integration of Fellows and their families.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations are made by professors at Friedrich Schiller University, who act as the Fellow's Host. Self-nominations are not permitted.

The following documents must be submitted via the nomination portal for a nomination:

- A letter of nomination from the Host, which should recognise the nominee's academic qualifications and address the strategic objective of the nomination, the structural impact on Friedrich Schiller University, and the nominee's integration into the work of the Host institution (max. two pages);
- A joint proposal for the planned research visit, not exceeding four pages (academic objective, any prior work where applicable, academic programme, work plan and timetable);
- The nominee's curriculum vitae, including a complete list of publications;
- A signed data protection declaration from the nominee.

Decisions on funding will be made on the basis of the following criteria:

- the **academic excellence** of the nominee in relation to their career stage; for Postdoctoral Fellows, academic potential will also be considered,
- **contribution to the profile and strategic development** of Friedrich Schiller University Jena,
- the **quality and feasibility** of the planned research project.

Detailed information on the assessment criteria can be found in the supplementary information to the call.

The Fellowships are awarded in two rounds of applications each year (spring and autumn). The current deadlines, all necessary documents and access to the nomination portal are available at www.uni-jena.de/excellence-fellowship. Decisions on funding are made by the relevant coordination team(s) of the profile areas. Enquiries regarding the programme can be directed to the profile areas' coordination office: light-life-liberty@uni-jena.de.

The next submission deadline is 30 September 2026.