

# **FUNDING GUIDELINES**

## **of the Studienfonds OWL Foundation**

for granting the

**Social Scholarship**

to German and foreign students

## GOALS

### Encouraging students. Strengthening OWL.

With a cumulative total of more than 65,000 students, the state colleges of Ostwestfalen-Lippe (OWL), North Rhine-Westphalia, established the foundation Studienfonds OWL as a cooperative initiative, in order to

- ensure and motivate prospective students to take up/pursue their studies in OWL, regardless of their social background or financial situation;
- provide private individuals and companies with the possibility to become socially involved and support students in their personal and career development;
- attract particularly talented students to OWL; and
- strengthen OWL as an economic and educational location.

The Studienfonds OWL Foundation sponsors both German and foreign students alike.

## I. Application requirements

1. In order to participate in the application procedure, students are required to hand in complete applications according to the respective deadlines.
2. German and foreign students who are verifiably in **critical financial or personal distress** that endangers the applicant's ability to be admitted to university or continue his or her university studies, may apply for a social scholarship. At least satisfactory academic performance in high school or university is required.
3. The scholarship can only be granted to students who are lawfully enrolled at one of the following five universities pursuing their first degree or to high-school students or anyone else planning to begin their first degree at one of the following five colleges:
  - **Bielefeld University**
  - **Paderborn University**
  - **Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences**
  - **OWL University of Applied Sciences and Arts**
  - **Detmold University of Music**
4. A consecutive Master's program is considered as first degree. Foreign students who completed their first degree abroad and take up second degree studies at one of the institutions stated above, are also permitted to apply.
5. There is no legal claim to the granting of a scholarship.
6. In case the applicant already receives/will receive financial aid from one or more other institutions, this information has to be indicated clearly in the application. With regard to the social scholarship, double funding is not accepted (BAföG, German federal financial student aid, not included).
7. Please notice that in case of receiving the social scholarship your BAföG will be reduced.

## II. Scope of the social scholarship

### Scholarship length and amount

The social scholarship is usually granted for two semesters, starting both in the winter and summer term, with monthly installments of €150 (€1,800 per year). Students are provided the opportunity to apply for but are not legally entitled to an extension beyond the initial two semesters.

In case of a study-related stay abroad the payments continue in equal amount.

### Premature termination of scholarship due to no longer fulfilled requirements

In case the scholarship holder no longer fulfils the requirements agreed on, the scholarship ends until the end of the current month. In case of changes in his or her personal and/or financial situation, the scholarship holder is obligated to inform the Studienfonds OWL immediately.

### Cultivating ideals

Students funded by the Studienfonds OWL do not only benefit from financial but also ideational support as the foundation attributes particular importance to the cultivation of ideals and moral understanding. Along with its funders, the Studienfonds OWL provides an ideals cultivation program through which scholarship students can regularly enjoy opportunities and events such as:

- contact and visits to companies located in OWL
- workshops, seminars, debates and talks
- internships and jobs
- opportunities of company-related project works and thesis's
- entrepreneur talks
- mentoring programs
- academic exchanges
- cultural events
- meetings among scholarship students and alumni
- ...

Both personal and career development of the scholarship students are central to the Studienfonds OWL. The foundation therefore makes efforts to enhance contact between funders and students. Scholarship students receive much more than the financial grant itself – they are able to establish contacts, make experiences, gain additional knowledge and work on their “soft skills”.

Scholarship students are highly encouraged to regularly and actively participate in the events offered.

### III. Application

#### Apply early

High school students, vocational trainees, and other individuals about to take up studies at one of the five universities stated above are encouraged to apply for a scholarship. The payment will be executed only after the prospective scholarship student has submitted the current certification of enrollment.

#### Sending in the application

In case you fulfill all requirements listed under section 1. and wish to apply for a scholarship provided by the Studiefonds OWL Foundation, please gather all necessary documents and proofs required (see guide to applying) and fill in the online application form available on our homepage.

Please note that only complete applications handed in on time will be accepted for further evaluation.

#### Application deadline

There are two application periods: Applications for the winter term are possible on the webpage [www.studienfonds-owl.de](http://www.studienfonds-owl.de) from August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Applications for the summer term are possible from February 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup>. The results will be released at the beginning of September (winter term) and at the beginning of April (summer term).

#### Selection criteria

The most important criteria for granting the social scholarship is a verifiable financial or personal distress that endangers an applicant's ability to begin or continue his or her studies.

Severe disability qualifies as such hardship, too. Severely disabled applicants with equal qualification and aptitude are given preferential consideration. Applicants' social involvement is considered secondary in the selection process.

#### Selection process

The Studiefonds OWL foundation accepts the applications and examines their conformity with the formal requirements. Afterwards all applications are assessed and evaluated by the responsible selection committee, composed of students of the five universities belonging to the Studiefonds OWL foundation. Applicants' data is treated confidentially. Please make sure you read the 'privacy notice' in the "guide to applying for the social scholarship".

The selection committee recommends those applicants they consider most qualified for a scholarship to the foundation's executive committee. Based on their recommendations, this committee decides which students are eventually granted the aid. As soon as the results are returned the applicants will be informed on the application status in writing. There are not application interviews.