

Scholarship Regulations of the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) e.V.

Version from 1 June 2026

In force from: 1 June 2026 / Validity: unlimited

Preliminary Remarks

The Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) e.V. (hereafter referred to as GWZO) pursues the aim of promoting science and research in accordance with its statutes. According to § 2 para. 1 of the GWZO statutes of 27 November 2017, the association's aim is achieved in particular by:

"d) promoting young scientists and international exchange. The association may award scholarships for this purpose. Further details are stipulated in the scholarship regulations."

Based on this provision of the Institute's statutes, the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe e.V. has adopted the following Scholarship Regulations, which come into force as an Institute Regulations for all scholarships awarded from 1 June 2026 and shall replace the Scholarship Regulations of 1 February 2025:

A. General Information

The GWZO promotes young academics and international exchange in the humanities and cultural studies.

Within the scope of its budgetary possibilities, the Institute awards scholarships to outstanding doctoral candidates, post-doctoral researchers, senior lecturers or researchers with comparable achievements or functions conducting research on the history and culture of Eastern Europe from the Early Middle Ages to the present.

The GWZO supports the implementation of ongoing research projects (**mobility grants**), the development of new research projects (**research start-up grants**) and short-term stays by doctoral students co-supervised by GWZO staff (cotutelle and the like); or short term stays for further professional qualification (**short-term grants**). The Institute also supports scholarship-financed junior research groups (**doctoral scholarships**).

B. Type and amount of funding

GWZO scholarships are awarded to applicants regardless of their nationality.

The GWZO's monthly stipends are as follows¹:

€3,000	for senior lecturers or researchers with comparable achievements (second book) or a leadership position (heads or research groups, departments, Institutes)
€2,500	for post-doctoral researchers
€2,000	for doctoral candidates
€1,650	for doctoral candidates in scholarship-financed junior research groups (according to III.)
€1,000	for short-term stays (according to IV.)

In exceptional, individual and justified cases, in particularly in the event of co-financing of externally funded scholarships by the GWZO, higher stipends than those mentioned above may be granted, provided all requirements and other stipulations of these regulations observed.

I. Mobility grants

With its mobility grants, the GWZO supports research projects for which adequate preliminary work has already been completed and where a research stay at the GWZO in Germany is needed due to the source or literature situation in the applicant's country of origin. Projects qualifying for the mobility grant are linked to the GWZO's current research agenda, so that fruitful exchange can be ensured. They therefore serve the GWZO's research mission and are not scholarships for the purpose of completing or writing up a project. The GWZO's infrastructure is available for use by the scholarship holder for the entire length of the scholarship. Mobility grants are awarded **for a period of up to three months**. Recipients are permitted to reapply once for a further funding period of up to three months.

Applicants for mobility grants are required to have successfully completed a first postgraduate degree, a doctorate or habilitation.

The application should not exceed 15,000 characters (including spaces and bibliography). Further documents (list of publications, dissertation, etc.) may be requested later for a more detailed examination of the applications.

¹ If scholarship holders have an income or receive another scholarship, any resulting obligations (e.g. obligation to notify the employer or scholarship provider, taxation) are the sole responsibility of the scholarship recipient.

II. Research Start-up Grants

Through Research Start-up Grants, the GWZO supports researchers in the preparatory and initial phases of new projects for which a third-party funding application is to be submitted with the aim of a medium- or long-term affiliation with the GWZO. The intended funding line must be named explicitly in the application. The GWZO awards for **a period of up to three months** research start-up grants for promising, transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary project ideas, provided they match with Institute's research areas. **The application procedures for GWZO mobility grants apply (see I.).**

III. Doctoral scholarships (as part of scholarship-financed junior research groups)

The GWZO supports junior research groups within the Institute, which are primarily funded through doctoral scholarships obtained from international and national funding institutions (funders). The GWZO's doctoral scholarships are thematic and the topics rotate on a regular basis. They generally provide funding for 3 + 1 years, whereby the other participating Institutions' funding conditions are taken into account. The scholarships support outstanding doctoral candidates in achieving their qualification within the framework of the respective junior research groups. The doctoral candidates take part in the structured doctoral training offered by the GWZO and Leipzig University's Graduate School of Global and Area Studies. **The application modalities are outlined in the specific call for proposals, depending on the focus of the junior research group and any conditions set by the other participating funding institutions (funders).**

IV. Short-term scholarships

The GWZO provides short-term scholarships to support doctoral candidates who are co-supervised bilaterally by GWZO staff at Leipzig University and universities in (Eastern)Europe (cotutelle and comparable situations or procedures).

The GWZO generally awards **one-month scholarships** for promising doctoral candidates to participate in events in the framework of the doctoral candidates' qualification. In particular, scholarship holders are encouraged to present their dissertation projects at the GWZO and Leipzig University, to make use of the GWZO's specialised library and acquire new language skills. It is possible to apply for the scholarships several times over the course of the PhD.

The scholarships are awarded based on a letter of recommendation from the candidate's supervisor and a personal interview with a member of the GWZO's academic staff appointed by the Director.

How to apply:

Applications must be sent as a single PDF document to: foerderung@leibniz-gwzo.de.
Please enclose:

- a curriculum vitae in tabular form
- a letter of recommendation from the supervisor(s)

Acceptance of the scholarship must be confirmed in writing by the scholarship holder.

By accepting a scholarship, the scholarship holder commits to

- observing the GWZO Code of Good Scientific Practice
- submitting an unsolicited report on the progress and results of the work at the latest four weeks after the end of the funding period. The submission can be done electronically,
- take care of any obligations arising from further income or scholarships (e.g. obligation to notify the employer or scholarship provider, taxation).

The provisions of paragraphs C to E do not apply to short-term scholarships.

C. Applications

In accordance with these regulations, applications for mobility or research start-up grants can be submitted until 30 April of each year for the following academic year (1 October to 30 September). For doctoral scholarships, the deadlines specified in the respective call for applications apply. Any specific requirements described therein that deviate from the following instructions must be observed.

The applications for a scholarship must be addressed to the Director of the GWZO.

The cover letter and all application documents must be sent as a single PDF document to: foerderung@leibniz-gwzo.de.

Each application must contain precise information of:

- the type of scholarship applied for
- the topic and main research questions of the research project (synopsis)
- the situation in terms of sources or existing literature (including a list of sources to be consulted and their scope), which justifies the stay at the GWZO/in Germany and its duration
- the extent of preparatory work
- the timetable for the research project and, in particular, a work schedule for the time spent at GWZO
- the start date and the duration of the scholarship applied for

The application must be *accompanied by*:

- a curriculum vitae your academic career and achievements
- if applicable, a letter of motivation
- brief details of any funding already granted by other institutions for the research project
- details/proof of language skills (German/English and, if applicable other languages relevant to the research project)
- a certificate of the most recent academic qualification obtained (postgraduate degree, doctoral certificate, habilitation)

D. Approval of Scholarships

Applications are selected by the GWZO Scholarship Committee, consisting of relevant members of staff and chaired on a rotating basis.

Applicants will be informed of the decision as soon as possible; in the case of mobility or research start-up grants, by 30 June of each year.

E. Obligations of the scholarship holder

By accepting a scholarship, the scholarship holder agrees:

- to observe the GWZO Code of Good Scientific Practice
- to participate the Institute's most important and relevant scientific events
- to report continuously on the progress of their work to the assigned departmental head and to send a final report no later than two months after the end of the funding period
- to meet with the Director at the start and the end of the funding period
- to send the GWZO a free copy of any publication in which results of the research conducted during the fellowship at the GWZO are published
- to show proof of health insurance during the period of residency in Germany (non-EU citizens),
- to report changes in personal circumstances to the administration immediately
- to take care of any obligations arising from further income or scholarships (e.g. obligation to notify the employer or scholarship provider, taxation).

The scholarship holder must confirm acceptance of the scholarship in writing.

F. Revocation and right to reclaim the stipend

There is no legal entitlement to a scholarship from the GWZO. The granting of funding is dependent on an expert opinion from the GWZO, which reserves the right to obtain further external expert opinions if necessary. In justified exceptional cases, the Institute's management may extend the duration of a scholarship.

The Director/* (Executive Board) of the GWZO may revoke the approval of the scholarship with effect for the future if

- a) a successful completion of the research project seems impossible
- b) the scholarship was obtained through false statements
- c) the obligations mentioned under point E. have not been met

In serious cases of b) or c), the Directorate/Director of the GWZO may reclaim the scholarship benefits paid out.

The GWZO expressly points out that the granting of a scholarship does not constitute a form of employment. The scholarship recipient is responsible for the declaration and payment of any taxes and social security contributions resulting from the scholarship.