

Funding Opportunities for **Future Viability and Sustainability**

We invite applications for
Postdoctoral Fellowships

Deadline for the next round of applications:

June 30th 2015

Postdoctoral Fellowship for a *Sustainable Future*—the Center for a Sustainable University (KNU) at the Universität Hamburg invites applications for two-year stipendiary fellowships at the KNU Postdoctoral College. The fellowships offer outstandingly well-qualified postdoctoral researchers the opportunity—as both fellows of the College and members of smaller research units within Universität Hamburg—to pursue research projects tackling questions, problems, and perspectives related to sustainability.

Overview of **Call for Postdoctoral Fellowships**

Objective	Support young researchers at the Universität Hamburg in the postdoctoral phase via stipend and membership of an interdisciplinary research group .
Target Group	Outstandingly well-qualified postdoctoral researchers from both Universität Hamburg and other higher education institutions with their own project proposal related to sustainability.
Funding Amount	Full stipends worth €2,200 (plus a materials allowance of €150) per month for a maximum of two years .
Application	Application (max. 15 pages) following provided guidelines together with written confirmation of support from a mentor .
Selection Procedure	Two-step procedure: (1. Proposal screening through expert evaluation Shortlisting, 2. Personal presentation) Applications are reviewed by both researchers at Universität Hamburg and a selection committee appointed by the KNU.
Deadline	June 30th 2015 . Please submit applications via email to: knu@uni-hamburg.de

The Universität Hamburg's **strategic concept** “*University for a Sustainable Future*” firmly posits the idea of sustainability at the center of the University's plans for the future. In establishing the Center for a Sustainable University (KNU) in 2011, the University laid the institutional foundations for a sustainable future. The purpose of the KNU is to contribute to the Universität Hamburg's transformation into a sustainable university and assist in cementing its future viability in research, teaching, education, and university governance. The KNU thus provides opportunities for funding and integrating young researchers within its Postdoctoral College for a Sustainable Future.

Objective

“Sustainability” has long passed into the repertoire of buzz words on everybody's lips. Yet as use of the term spread across the globe, it not only forfeited its terminological precision; the meaning and deployment of “sustainability” now also varies from one academic field to another. Disciplines such as climate, environmental, energy, and resource studies have long dealt with the concept and have thus been instrumental in shaping the way we understand sustainability today. In other fields, in particular those in the humanities and the social sciences, sustainability has not achieved the same level of attention from researchers.

As part of its mission to develop into a “University for a Sustainable Future,” the Universität Hamburg intends for its Postdoctoral College to also address those very disciplines in which “sustainability” has played a hitherto marginal role and to encourage researchers in these fields to sharpen their sensibilities for the concept of sustainability in all its breadth and diversity.

This approach elicits **overarching questions** such as:

- What does sustainability mean from the perspective of the different disciplines? How can we grasp the concept theoretically? How can we implement sustainability?
- What does sustainability in science and scholarship mean? How can we conceive of, substantiate, and shape sustainability from a variety of perspectives?
- How do research projects contribute to sustainability?
- Where do the disciplinary commonalities and differences in our comprehension of sustainability lie? What consequences do these have for interdisciplinary cooperation in this area?
- What characterizes sustainable education and how should it be imparted?
- What are the preconditions and criteria for sustainable institutions and governance, from the micro to the macro level in a globalized world?

Universität Hamburg expects fellows to develop innovative contributions that advance our responses to key questions in the field of sustainability such as these, and hopes to thereby reap applicable scientific knowledge, understanding, and impulses on its own journey towards becoming a “university for a sustainable future.”

Funding

Membership of the Postdoctoral College is intended to provide fellows with an attractive academic and socio-cultural research environment supporting them throughout their development into independent principal researchers. Fellows meet regularly at the College's academic events and are actively involved in shaping the College program. Fellows are also encouraged to kindle the interest of the academic public in the College's achievements and contribute to Universität Hamburg's development into a “university for a sustainable future.”

The primary focus rests on fellows' individual **research projects**, which are carried out in cooperation with other researchers at Universität Hamburg. Fellows have the opportunity to organize independent academic events (symposia, workshops, research meetings, lectures, etc.) with assistance from the College. Such events should be conceived so as to enable as many fellows as possible to participate in the planning and organization as well as in the event itself. The College also hosts its own program of academic events open to fellows and, where appropriate, their colleagues.

Fellows are **members of the College** for a term of two years. Fellows may be awarded a **full stipend worth €2,200 per month** plus an additional materials allowance worth €150 per month.

Fellows of the Postdoctoral College are simultaneously members of the academic department or institute at Universität Hamburg selected by them on the basis of their project. Applicants should therefore reach concrete agreements with the respective academic institutions well in advance of the application deadline.

Requirements for Funding

We welcome applications from outstanding **postdoctoral researchers** and **doctoral students** from both Universität Hamburg and other universities in Germany and abroad. The main prerequisite for membership of the College is that the project proposal tackles the **topic of sustainability** in one or more of its various facets and dimensions.

Applications should not only elucidate the concept of sustainability underpinning a project and **the researcher's own position within the international discourse** on sustainability, they should also explain how the project will **contribute to answering central questions in the field of sustainability** and further developing debates taking place in research at an international level.

A further requirement of funding is that an active university professor / junior professor takes on the role of **mentor** and provides office / lab space and infrastructure for the project.

Application Procedure

Applications (excluding appendix) should not exceed **15 pages** (single spacing, Arial 12 font) and should follow the structure below:

1. Title, topic, aim
2. Interdisciplinary orientation
3. Status of research (literature review)
4. Methods
5. Relationship to sustainability
6. Position in sustainability discourse
7. Expected contribution to further development of sustainability discourse
8. Project schedule
9. International perspectives
10. Funding requirements and cost calculations
11. Choice of research institution at Universität Hamburg
12. Involvement in and individual contribution to the Postdoctoral College
13. Criteria for later evaluation

Please include the following documentation in the **appendix**:

- curriculum vitae

- publication list (including the three most important publications)
- statement from an active professor / junior professor at Universität Hamburg declaring willingness to take on the role of academic mentor for the project and provide the requisite office and/or lab space and necessary infrastructure.

Selection procedure

Applications are initially **shortlisted** on the basis of the written documents submitted. Shortlisted applicants are then invited to **personally present** their proposals. Funding decisions are made by a selection committee made up of members of the Center for a Sustainable University. In the selection of fellows and allocation of stipends, criteria relating to academic content, program orientation, and personal character apply.

Academic content is assessed on the basis of the following:

- aim, topic, and research question(s)
- methods and research design
- involvement in the research environment
- interdisciplinary cooperation and perspectives
- international orientation
- feasibility and chances of success
- desired results
- potential for further research
- positioning in national and international competition
- relationship between input and outcome

Program orientation is assessed according to whether the proposal provides a convincing contribution to a *University for a Sustainable Future* with regards to:

- dealing with the dimensions of sustainability related to content, reflection and critical appraisal, teaching, and/or the institution itself;
- tackling central questions and problems that arise within this context;
- positioning / unique aspect of project in the field of sustainability-oriented science and scholarship and expected contribution of project to the advancement of the field.

Selection for individual funding will be based primarily on the **academic and personal profile of applicants**. The deciding factor in the selection process is therefore whether or not the applicant demonstrates that she or he will both academically and socially strengthen and enrich the Postdoctoral College.

Supplementary information

Applications and application form may be submitted up until the last day of the application period in digital form to the Center for a Sustainable University (Mittelweg 177, 20148 Hamburg) via email to knu@uni-hamburg.de stating the reference “Application for Föli3.”

Current guidelines for stipends are available on the homepage of the Center for a Sustainable University.

Should you require further information or have any queries, please contact the **KNU** at knu@uni-hamburg.de or call us during our **office hours for funding matters** on **Mondays 2–4 pm** at +49 40 42838-5580.

