

Call for Applications: PYREC Excellence Programme at the University of Passau, Germany

Application deadline: 16 August 2026

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Academic excellence today requires more than subject-specific expertise: leadership and communication skills, interdisciplinary thinking, and strong networks are key prerequisites for successful career paths both within and beyond academia.

Through the Passau Young Researchers Excellence Centre (PYREC) programme, the University of Passau supports early-career researchers in developing these skills in a targeted and exclusive environment, fostering interdisciplinary exchange across faculties and actively advancing their personal and professional development. The programme is aimed at doctoral candidates and postdocs – including junior lecturers without tenure track, early-career research group leaders, and researchers preparing for their habilitation – and prepares them for responsible leadership roles in academia, society, and professional practice.

The programme's key thematic areas include:

- Leadership and teamwork
- Media competence and science communication
- Research management and third-party funding acquisition
- Networking and interdisciplinary collaboration
- Organisational and event management
- Personal development and self-reflection

In addition to enabling participants to acquire a broad range of competencies, the programme facilitates cross-cohort exchange on research questions and methodologies, as well as the targeted development of personal networks. In particular, it aims to strengthen interdisciplinary dialogue within the university.

Your benefits:

- Professional training in the skills listed above
- Networking events with special guests or at selected institutions
- Excursions
- Funding for the annual fellows' conference
- Individual funding for research and travel of up to €1,000 per year

The two-year programme is designed to be completed alongside a PhD or postdoctoral qualification and to complement it. PYREC Fellows benefit from exclusive opportunities for personal and professional development. Upon successful completion, Advanced Fellows receive a certificate.

The Graduate Centre is responsible for the supervision and organisational support of the programme.

Programme details

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| Target group | The programme is aimed at high-achieving and innovative early-career researchers at the University of Passau, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doctoral candidates• Postdocs (including junior lecturers without a tenure track, leaders of early-career research groups, and those preparing for a habilitation) |
| Requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrated academic excellence and a strong motivation to establish an academic profile• Very good command of English |
| Application and Selection | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applications may be made on the recommendation of a member of the Research Advisory Board or as a speculative application• Approximately 10 First-year Fellows are admitted annually |
| Application documents | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic curriculum vitae• Letter of reference (doctoral candidates: supervisor; postdoctoral applicants: renowned senior researcher)• Personal research agenda/motivation (max. 1 page)• Diploma(s), certificate of doctorate (if available) |
| Application deadline | 16 August 2026 |
| Programme duration and structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programme start date: October• Programme duration: four semesters in total (two semesters as a First-year Fellow; two semesters as an Advanced Fellow)• Programme language: English |
| Programme schedule | https://www.uni-passau.de/en/pyrec/programme-details |
| Certificate | Upon successful completion of the programme, Fellows will receive a certificate of the PYREC Excellence Programme. |
| Programme fee | none |
| Your benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional skill training• Networking events• Excursions• Special Funding opportunities |
| Further information | https://www.uni-passau.de/en/pyrec |
| Contact | graduierzentrum@uni-passau.de ; PYREC@uni-passau.de |

Application

If you are interested to apply for the PYREC Excellence Programme, please send your application by using the [application form](#) provided on the PYREC website.

The application deadline is Sunday, 16 August 2026.

Selection Criteria

The Graduate Centre is responsible for the conduct of the programme, the associated application and selection process. Submitted proposals are evaluated as part of a competitive selection process by the directors of the Graduate Centre and, where appropriate, by additional external reviewers.

We aim to achieve appropriate social and intellectual diversity within our cohorts. In particular, we seek to increase the proportion of female researchers and thereby promote gender equality.

The following criteria are given particular consideration in the evaluation process:

- 1) Academic records
- 2) Research achievements
- 3) Research profile

The selection process is typically completed within four weeks after application deadline.

Contact

For more information on the programme and the application process, please visit the [PYREC website](#) or contact the Graduate Centre office directly:

Dr Stefanie Meister, Graduate Centre Managing Director

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