EXIST – Start-ups from Science

The start-up teams receive an EXIST start-up grant at attractive conditions for a period of 12 months to work out a business plan and prepare for their business start-up with the support of their university or research institution. The most important prerequisite is that the planned business idea must be an innovative technology-oriented or knowledge-based product with significant unique selling points and good prospects of economic success. Services are also funded under these conditions. The application is submitted via the university or research institution.

What is the EXIST-Gründerstipendium?

EXIST-Gründerstipendium is a nationwide funding programme that supports innovative start-ups from universities and non-university research institutions in the early stages. EXIST-Gründerstipendium supports the development of a product/service idea and the preparation of a business plan until the company is founded.

Who is being funded?

- Scientists from universities and non-university research institutions
- University graduates or former research assistants (up to five years after graduation or retirement)
- Students who have completed at least half of their studies at the time of application.
- Start-up teams of up to three people. One of the team members may have a qualified professional degree or a university degree that dates back more than five years.

What is being funded?

- Innovative technology-oriented start-up projects
- Innovative services with high customer benefit that are based on scientific findings and are expected to have unique selling propositions on the market.

www.th-deg.de/existenzgruendung
How is funding provided?

- Maximum funding period: one year
- Securing of personal livelihood via a scholarship depending on graduation:
  - Doctorate: € 3,000 Euro/month
  - University degree: € 2,500 Euro/month
  - Team members with a recognised professional qualification: €2,000 Euro/month
  - Students: € 1,000 Euro/month
  - Child supplement: € 150 Euro/month per child
- Material expenses: up to €10,000 for individual start-ups (maximum €30,000 for teams)
- Start-up related coaching: € 5,000 Euro

What is to be done?

- The applicant for funding is the university or research institution.
- The prospective founders develop an idea paper in which they describe their innovative business idea.
- The university appoints a mentor who undertakes to provide professional support. The support of the founders is ensured by a start-up network.
- The university or research institution provides the founders with a workplace for one year.

When can funding be applied for?

Applications can be submitted at any time to the Project Management Organisation Jülich (PtJ) commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

Interested?

Then get in touch with the Startup Campus team and send an email to startupcampus@th-deg.de