



Notes on the Regulations for Postdoc Scholarships of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V.

Table of contents

1. Postdoc scholarship	2
2. Personal acceptance.....	2
3. Commencement and duration.....	2
4. Funding amounts	2
5. Scholarship payments.....	2
6. Health insurance	3
6.1. Obligation to take out comprehensive health insurance cover	3
6.2. Termination of the scholarship in case of non-submission	3
6.3. Employer's contribution to health insurance	3
7. Financial benefits from third parties	3
8. Ancillary activities.....	3
9. Travelling during the scholarship stay.....	4
11. German course.....	4

The MPG normally supports the completion of scientific research work in the early and mid-career stages in the form of employment relationships that are subject to social security contributions. Scholarships are only awarded in exceptional cases and only for a temporary research stay as a guest researcher.

The following regulations therefore only apply if you receive a scholarship of this type from a Max Planck Institute.

1. Postdoc scholarship

Within the framework of guest programmes, Max Planck Institutes can grant scholarships for postdocs to support junior scientists in their institutes and other facilities. They serve the purpose of promoting advanced scientific training. Scholarship holders must be qualified to carry out independent academic work after completing their doctorate, and the completion of their doctorate must not be more than ten years ago at the time the postdoctoral scholarship is first awarded. Postdoctoral fellowships can only be awarded to international, i.e. non-German, postdoctoral researchers whose centre of life was abroad before the commencement of the scholarship.

2. Personal acceptance

By accepting the scholarship, the scholarship recipient agrees to devote themselves fully to their research project. Acceptance must be made in person and confirmed by personal signature.

3. Commencement and duration

The scholarship letter for the award of the postdoc scholarship contains the commencement date of the research stay.

The maximum duration of a postdoc scholarship is 24 months and cannot be extended.

4. Funding amounts

Basic scholarship allowance	€2,500
Material expense allowance	€123
If applicable Supplementary amount for accompanying spouse (minimum stay 3 months) ¹	€260
If applicable, subsidies towards transport and luggage costs for travelling to Germany and returning to the home country	

The scholarship letter confirming the award of the respective scholarship details the financial composition of the scholarship.

5. Scholarship payments

As a rule, monthly scholarship payments are transferred to a private bank account (current account) in the SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area) on the 30th of each month.

¹ In the event that the spouse's earnings (salaries and/or incomes, scholarships from Germany or abroad) exceed the earnings limit for mini-jobbers, these must be set off against the spousal allowance.

6. Health insurance

6.1. Obligation to take out comprehensive health insurance cover

Recipients of a postdoc scholarship of the Max Planck Society are obliged to take out health insurance cover equivalent to the scope of services of the statutory health insurance in the Federal Republic of Germany. Certification according to § 257, para. 2a, sentence 2a, of the Social Security Code (SGB - Sozialgesetzbuch) is proof of appropriate health insurance coverage. You are obliged to submit evidence of sufficient health insurance coverage within 14 days of accepting the scholarship.

The presentation of a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) fulfils the requirement of sufficient health insurance cover, provided that a confirmation from the statutory health insurance of the country in which the insurance has been taken out is available. The confirmation must certify that the requirements for maintaining insurance cover in the scholarship holder's home country during their scholarship period in Germany are met and that the European Health Insurance Card can therefore be used in Germany.

6.2. Termination of the scholarship in case of non-submission

If the scholarship recipient fails to submit proof of sufficient health insurance cover to the extent described, the scholarship will automatically terminate 14 days after the scholarship commencement date.

6.3. Employer's contribution to health insurance

Recipients of a postdoc scholarship of the Max Planck Society are obliged to take out health insurance cover equivalent to the scope of services of the statutory health insurance in the Federal Republic of Germany (cf. No.6.1). Scholarship holders receive a subsidy towards health insurance amounting to 50% of the insurance premium, up to a maximum of 100 euros (this also applies to accompanying family members). Corresponding evidence must be submitted.

7. Financial benefits from third parties

Scholarship holders are obliged to inform the Max Planck Society of all financial benefits from third parties (e.g. additional income, including any other scholarships). If the scholarship holder earns any additional income from working for third-parties (outside the Max Planck Society), thereby transgressing the earnings limit for mini-jobbers², the excess amount will have to be deducted from their scholarship.

Benefits from other scholarship providers for the same purpose (securing living expenses) must be offset against the MPG scholarship benefits.

8. Ancillary activities

Ancillary activities with income that exceeds the aforementioned "earnings limit for mini-jobbers" requires the Max Planck Society's prior approval. In this context, a check will be performed to determine whether the ancillary activity jeopardizes the fulfilment of the purpose

² Currently 520.00 euros gross.

of the scholarship according to the scholarship letter; in such cases, the Max Planck Society reserves the right to terminate or interrupt the scholarship.

9. Travelling during the scholarship stay

If travelling is necessary for the research work, a subsidy towards the costs can be applied for. The decision on the application is made by the Institute, taking into account the scholarship holder's own interests.

11. German course

Language courses to acquire German language skills may be granted individually upon application.