

## **FAQs - MedK Program**

### **Does the program require a semester of research to be officially registered, and is this semester included in the calculation of overall semesters of study?**

Yes, you need to take a research semester during the one-year duration of the MedK program. You can get information on how to calculate your semester from the IfAS.

### **I'd like to find a mentor before starting the program. Who is qualified to serve as a mentor?**

According to the doctoral regulations, mentors must be authorised individuals, typically habilitated members of the Medical Faculty of Münster. The mentor must be named as the primary supervisor in the supervision agreement. From cohort 2024\_1 onwards, the "contact person within the research group" listed in the supervision agreement may assume some of the mentor's responsibilities (e.g. contributing to seminars and colloquia). In this case, the contact person is limited to supervising a maximum of 2 doctoral students per year, but the mentor is not subject to this limitation.

### **What does the MedK scholarship include?**

Beginning with the cohort 2024\_1 the scholarship includes a monthly stipend of 934 Euros for the first 6 months of the program. The program runs for 12 months, and in the second half of the year, you can attend curricular events again, as long as it does not interfere with your MedK participation.

### **Can I apply as an associated member or a regular member if I have already found a mentor and a dissertation topic?**

Both options are possible.

If you want to become a **regular member**, you and your mentor can apply independently through the normal application process. If you want to become an associated member, you can request the corresponding form from us.

If you only want to become an **associated member**, we can send you and your mentor the corresponding form. An associated membership can be applied for at any time, but it's recommended to apply within the timeframe of the regular call for applications so that you can join the program with the new cohort.

The application for a regular membership can only be made at the two deadlines specified on the website. Please note that it's not possible to convert an associated membership to a regular membership at a later time.

### **I've already begun working on my doctoral thesis, can I still join the MedK?**

Unfortunately, it's no longer possible to apply as a full member with a stipend.

However, if you're in the early stages of your doctoral research, you can apply as an associate member together with your mentor. Please note that the rules regarding the research semester (mentioned above) also apply to associate members.

**Is it possible to apply for the MedK program after the application deadline?**

No, the deadline must be met to ensure that the subsequent decision-making processes can be carried out in a timely and legally secure manner. You can only apply again during the next application period. An application for associated membership (with a certificate, but without financial support) is, however, possible at any time.

**Does the associated membership include a monthly stipend?**

No, only regular membership includes financial support.

**Are the application deadlines dependent on the semester I want to start in? Would you, for example, have to apply by November 1st to start in the summer semester?**

You apply at one of the specified deadlines (April 30 or October 30), and if your application is successful, the program starts on August 1 or February 1 of the following year and runs for one year. During this year, you should conduct your scientific work and also take your academic semester during this time. (Example: For the cohort 2025\_1, this means the following: the application deadline was in April 2025, the cohort officially started on August 1st, 2025, and the academic semester should be taken by the participants in the winter semester 2025/26).

**What is the time frame for participating in the MedK program?**

Participation in MedK is possible as long as you are enrolled as a medical student at the Medical Faculty of Münster and have already completed the First Section of the Medical Examination (Physikum). To be eligible for ordinary membership, you must not have completed the clinical phase of your studies and must not yet be a licensed physician. However, you can become an associate member even after completing your studies and obtaining your medical license.

**The scholarship program commences on February 1st and August 1st, respectively. What is the duration of the period that encompasses the seminars, courses, and other activities of the scholarship program?**

The lectures and seminars take place throughout the year, although they are typically held during the regular lecture periods. A preliminary meeting is usually held between the scholarship holders and the MedK spokesperson, Professor Thomas Pap, to discuss the schedule. You can find general information on the program's topics and timeline on the MedK website, where the programs of past and current cohorts are also available. (<https://www.medizin.uni-muenster.de/en/medk/cohorts.html>).

**Can the funding provided by MedK be extended beyond six months or reapplied for?**

No, it is not possible to extend the funding or receive funding again. The MedK program is structured to provide financial support for a maximum period of 6 months, and this duration cannot be exceeded due to formal constraints.

**Am I allowed to have a part-time job or secondary employment while receiving funding from the MedK?**

Yes, you are permitted to engage in a minor external employment outside of regular working hours, subject to prior agreement with your supervisor. For instance, if you wish to work 10 hours on the weekend as an on-call service in the clinic and your supervisor consents, this is feasible within the MedK framework, even during the period of financial support.

**Can the financial support from MedK be combined with other scholarships (such as the Deutschlandstipendium, Studienstiftung, etc.)?**

Before applying, please contact the relevant scholarship providers to clarify any potential conflicts or incompatibilities between the scholarships.

**Is it possible to reduce the funding I receive?**

Yes, in exceptional cases and with proper justification, it may be possible to reduce the funding, subject to approval by the Dean's Office. If you wish to request a reduction, please contact the MedK office ([medk@uni-muenster.de](mailto:medk@uni-muenster.de)) and we will consider your request on an individual basis.

**What are the differences between the application processes for ordinary and associate membership in MedK?**

The application process for ordinary membership requires the student and mentor to submit separate applications, each with the necessary documentation and respective forms. If a student has already identified a mentor, they can both indicate this in their separate applications. Following a successful application, the student is paired with a mentor through a matching process, and together they complete and submit a matching form. In contrast, to apply for associate membership, the student and mentor jointly complete the associate membership application form and submit it, along with the required documents, to the Dean's Office in digital format.

**I have submitted the online form, but I'm not sure if it has been received.**

After successful submission, you should be redirected to a new page and receive a confirmation E-Mail within 24 hours. If this does not happen, please contact the MedK office by email or phone. Please note that there are specifications for the format and maximum size of the uploaded documents.

**I have been accepted into the MedK and would like to start my doctoral thesis. What formalities do I still need to consider?**

You must complete a supervision agreement together with your supervisor and submit it to the doctoral office. From cohort 2024\_1 onwards, this will be checked, and if the agreement is not submitted approximately 2 months after the start of funding, the faculty reserves the right to terminate the funding. The doctoral office will send you a confirmation of registration, which you will need for enrolment in the "doctoral studies" program. Please note the enrolment deadlines.

**I am required to submit a detailed resume - what should it include?**

While some people write a lengthy essay about themselves, that's not required. A standard resume in table format, with a brief description of each position (including your responsibilities and any notable achievements), is perfectly fine.