

STARTUP CAMPUS



What is EXIST-Women?

EXIST-Women is a nationwide funding program aimed at supporting women interested in starting their own businesses at universities and research institutions in the pre-founding phase. It focuses particularly on the development of their entrepreneurial personality and the further refinement of their business idea.

Who is eligible for funding?

Female graduates (the degree may have been obtained more than 5 years ago), female researchers, female students (with a bachelor's degree or having completed at least half of their academic requirements), and women with vocational training and a connection to the university who are interested in entrepreneurship. Participation is also possible alongside studies or professional commitments. While having a specific business idea is optional, the program supports ideas that may not be knowledge- or research-based but are oriented towards future economic activities. Women who have previously received entrepreneurship support from federal or state programs are excluded from this funding.

How is support provided?

- Individual coaching by the experienced Startup Campus team
- Entrepreneurial support from a mentor
- Nationwide network for female entrepreneurs
- Assistance in finding co-founders
- Development of a suitable business model
- Creation of a roadmap for the next steps towards self-employment
- Access to workspaces in the Startup Lab and the opportunity to use its infrastructure
- One-time financial support of €2,000 (e.g., for coaching, travel expenses, or validating your business idea)
- Optionally, a 3-month scholarship if you have no income or work a maximum of 20 hours per week
- €1,000 €3,000 per month (depending on qualifications) + childcare supplement



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What are my obligations as a participant?

- Attendance at the Entrepreneur Seminar and centrally offered EXIST-Women events
- Participation in relevant events organized by the Startup Campus (both online and in-person)
- Scheduled individual consultation sessions (with startup advisors and mentors)
- Attendance at networking events

How can I participate in the program?

- 1. Submit a written application
- 2. Initial evaluation by the Startup Campus jury
- 3. Personal presentation
- 4. Decision by the Startup Campus jury

Written Application:

- Motivational letter, 1 page A4
- Brief introduction including name, field of study, and personal background
- Brief description of the business idea, if already available
- Demonstration of interest in entrepreneurship
- Explanation of motivation for participating in the program

Submission of the Application:

- Via E-Mail to startupcampus@th-deg.de
- Deadline: February 15, 2025

Captured your interest?

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

