

KIT-AUTH University Partnership

Announcement of opportunities for Fast-Track Research Projects and Master-2-PhD scholarships

The Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and the Aristoteles University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) are jointly addressing pressing social issues such as future climatic developments, the effects of climate change and increasing extreme weather events on water resources and infrastructures, and examine the boundary conditions and possible implementation scenarios of a circular economy in future intelligent and ecologically sustainable cities. The university cooperation between KIT and AUTH aims to train young scientists who have the usual professional depth in these research fields, but also a profound understanding of interdisciplinary research and own sustainable innovation. With this cooperation, various modules are being implemented with the aim of expanding and promoting joint research activities in above-mentioned areas to prepare for international and cooperative research in the fields of climate, environment and energy and to deepen the institutional cooperation between AUTH and KIT.

I. Fast-Track Research Projects

This opportunity is intended to enable master and doctoral students at AUTH and KIT to take part in a small and self-contained research study with the aim of a joint scientific publication or conference presentation. In turn, this offer should give the opportunity to pursue an interesting and clearly defined research question for the supervisors and doctoral researchers, like the application of developed methods to new data sets or to knowledge retrieval from existing data using alternative analysis methods. Proposals for research projects may address one of the following research fields:

- Future climatic conditions and extreme weather events
- Impact of climate change and extreme weather events on water resources and infrastructure
- Circular economy in smart and environmentally sustainable cities
- Mobility-energy nexus in urban areas

Submissions from other research topics can be considered, provided that they clearly contribute to widening the university partnership.

The drafting of the project and the implementation of the work is jointly carried out. The research project includes three main parts:

- 1) A prior initial phase will be conducted online. This includes formation of the group, presentation and discussion of the project idea within the group as well as literature study to bring each member of the group up to the same level.
- 2) A main research lab for four weeks in presence at KIT. This is where the group works intensively on the research question and carries out the main part of the work. The team is expected to finish this research lab with an initial paper draft.
- 3) In a follow-up phase, a manuscript is drafted with support of regular online meetings and finally published as conference contribution or paper publication.

Research projects will be presented at one of the joint workshops or summer schools from KIT and AUTH. External partners from industry or administration may be involved. If possible, the partner should be based in the Thessaloniki or Karlsruhe region. Regular digital jour fixes and discussions should be considered to increase the communication among the participants and keep the motivation to continue the cooperation.

Structure of the research group

Research groups consists of 5-6 persons. The group includes young scientists at the master's level, doctoral candidates and at least one recognized researchers or professor as main supervisor. In accordance with the funding scheme, the structure of the research group is as follows:

- A master's student in final year from KIT and AUTH respectively
- A doctoral candidate (PhD student) from KIT and AUTH respectively
- A Professor or recognized researcher from KIT and/or AUTH

What is funded

For each research project, travel costs are supported as follows:

- One month research stay at KIT for master's student and doctoral candidate from AUTH
- Up to five days stay at KIT for Professor or recognized researcher from AUTH
- Up to five days stay at AUTH for two research team members from KIT (master student / doctoral candidate / professor or recognized researcher)

The funding is granted to a maximum amount according to DAAD regulations (see separate document on funding rates).

Application documents and selection process

Please use the provided application form for Fast-Track Research Projects. As attachment, please provide:

- Project outline of 1-2 pages including a timeline of the research project
- CV and transcript of Bachelor's degree for master students
- CV and transcript of Master's degree for doctoral researchers

The projects to be funded are selected by KIT (GRACE, INTL) and AUTH. The main selection criteria are:

- Originality and content-related fit of the research topic to objectives of the cooperation
- Feasibility and technical soundness of the proposed project
- A well-defined research hypothesis, a clear structure and realistic time schedule of the project
- Professional suitability of the candidates
- Integration and support at the hosting KIT institute

II. Master-2-PhD Scholarships - Aspirant Grant

Graduates from AUTH are invited to carry out a six-month research stay at the inviting KIT institute. The research stay is intended as incentive for both, PhD aspirant and potential supervisors at KIT, with the aim of a follow up PhD research project at the inviting institute in cooperation with a research group at AUTH. With this grant, outstanding AUTH students at the transition from a master program to PhD should get the opportunity to initiate a doctorate at KIT. If possible, the doctoral topics should emerge from a master thesis that has already been jointly supervised at KIT and AUTH. This scholarship is also intended as starting research stay for a PhD project which is jointly supervised at KIT and AUTH.

What is funded

Travel costs are funded for a six-month research stay at KIT. The funding is granted to a maximum amount according to DAAD regulations (see separate document on funding rates).

Application documents and selection process

Please use the provided application form for aspirant grant. As attachment, please provide:

- Project outline of 1-2 pages including a timeline of the research project
- CV and transcript of Bachelor's and Master's certificates (if applicable) of the applicant

The aspirant-grant scholarship applicants are selected by KIT (GRACE, INTL) and AUTH. The main selection criteria are:

- Originality and content-related fit of the research topic to objectives of the cooperation
- Professional suitability of the candidates
- Integration and support at the hosting KIT institute

General Considerations

Application submission and timeline

Please submit your application to kit-auth-project@grace.kit.edu until 15 August, 2021 to be considered in the first tendering. Please provide all documents in PDF format.

Considerations for applications with respect to pandemic situation

Applicants are reminded to keep track of the pandemic situation in Greece and Germany and plan travel activities accordingly. Any specific regulations at KIT and AUTH must be followed. We will guarantee a maximum possible flexibility regarding the travel funds. However, a payment of granted funds cannot be claimed, in case travel activities need to be significantly postponed or cancelled due to the pandemic situation.

Contact

In case of questions regarding these opportunities, please send your request to kit-auth-project@grace.kit.edu or get in contact with the responsive persons at KIT and AUTH.

KIT

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AUTH

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