

Postdoc Scholarships

With a focus on investigating major transformation processes affecting contemporary societies, Leuphana is establishing an international, interdisciplinary hub offering exciting career opportunities. A number of highly competitive scholarships (scheduled to start in autumn 2026) are available for promising researchers who have recently obtained an outstanding doctoral degree and wish to further develop their academic profile in preparation for their next career step.

Eligible Research Areas

Transformation Research

In the [structural program “Embracing Transformation”](#), Leuphana researchers examine the nature of societal transformation (thereby contributing to an “epistemology” of transformation) and how it can be successfully shaped. To this end, the so called key subject areas, supplemented by the “Psychology of Transformation” acting as a hub science, form the [Leuphana Transformation Lab](#). The Lab connects professors, doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, as well as international fellows working on transformation processes. Through an integrative framework to be developed in the Lab, the work of all scholars and scientists will culminate in the creation of transformative literacy. To learn more about these areas of study and the people working in them, please visit their dedicated pages:

- [Climate Futures in Digital Cultures](#)
- [Companies as Drivers of Sustainability Transformations](#)
- [Democratic Resilience](#)
- [Organizing in Times of Crises](#)
- [Psychology of Transformation](#)
- [Towards a Regenerative Society](#)
- Epistemology of Transformation and Transformative Literacy (for more information on this central part of transformation research, see this [conceptual outline](#))

Empirical Education Research

Transformation processes also form the backdrop to Leuphana’s [Empirical Educational Research](#), which examines the challenges faced by schools and other educational institutions in light of increasing individual and societal heterogeneity. Researchers in this field are developing the necessary theories and concepts to improve teaching practice and support educators at all levels. Leuphana already runs three major endeavors in this field, including the [“Zukunftszentrum Lehrkräftebildung”](#) (ZZL, Future Centre of Teacher Education), the Lower Saxon “Wissenschaftsraum” (Science Space) entitled “Future Trends in Education”, and the “Zentrum für Empirische Bildungsforschung Niedersachsen” (ZEB, Lower Saxon Center for Empirical Educational Research), for which funding has recently been secured.

If you have any questions relating to these fields and topics, please contact one of the speakers from the relevant research area (links provided above). For logistical questions, such as travelling to and staying in Germany, please contact our Welcome Centre.

Our offer

The scholarships of up to two years are offered at two rates depending on your career level:

- Candidates who completed their doctorate less than two years ago and are seeking funding for e.g. Horizon Europe, a “Walter Benjamin Programme” position of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) or an equivalent international program are eligible for a monthly stipend of € 1,750 (basic rate, equivalent to DFG standard).
- Candidates with more extensive research experience who obtained their doctoral degree between two and four years ago and now prepare for e.g. heading a junior research group in DFG’s “Emmy Noether Programme”, or a comparable international program such as an ERC Starting Grant, are eligible to a monthly stipend of € 2,870 (basic rate, equivalent to an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation scholarship).

Additionally, candidates will receive allowances to cover material and mobility expenses incurred for their academic work and the purpose of the scholarship. An additional child allowance may be granted upon application.

Leuphana offers an inspiring research environment with excellent support structures to help develop your career. These structures include:

- various research groups acting as feedback hubs, think tanks, and collaborative spaces, embedded in an overall research program on transformation
- funding for research trips and conferences,
- career counseling and postdoctoral career development with coaching options, and
- individual support while preparing your application for further funding.

Application Process

Details on how to apply for the scholarships starting in autumn 2026 will be published in early 2026 on [this page](#).