

STIBET I: Equal Opportunities Scholarship

International students often face financial, personal, and organizational challenges that can jeopardize their academic success, particularly in the final phase of their studies. The STIBET I program addresses these challenges by providing targeted financial support to international master's students, enabling the timely and high-quality completion of master's theses or final projects. In addition, the program promotes equal opportunities by supporting students who face exceptional personal, social, or structural challenges. Through this dual approach, STIBET not only helps ensure academic success but also strengthens the diversity and international character of Merz Akademie, sending a clear signal about the importance of diversity and equal opportunities in higher education.

Eligible students are invited to apply for the Equal Opportunities Scholarship. This scholarship is aimed at international students of the master's program who are particularly affected by personal life circumstances, family responsibilities, or structural disadvantages. These students often have fewer financial resources and limited access to national funding instruments. The goal of this funding is to reduce barriers, create fair study conditions, and ensure long-term academic success. This scholarship actively contributes to equality by alleviating individual burdens.

The scholarship provides €250 per month and is awarded for 5 months.

Who is eligible?

- Students enrolled in the Master of Arts program who obtained bachelor's degree at a university abroad
- Students who do **not** hold German nationality
- Students who are **not** registered for their master's thesis and project

If you meet all eligibility criteria, please submit your complete application by email to the Master's Program Coordinator at halyna.tsymbalista@merz-akademie.de by February for the Summer Semester (SS) and by August for the Winter Semester (WS). Exact deadlines are communicated via email. All documents must be combined into a single PDF file, arranged in the order listed below. Decisions will be announced in March for SS and September for WS.

Required Documents

- Completed application form
- Letter of motivation (max. 300 words)
- Curriculum vitae (1-2 pages)
- Current transcript of records (please request at the Student Office)
- Proof of personal, family-related, or socio-economic burdens, such as caregiving responsibilities, personal circumstances that impact studies (e.g., health issues or disabilities), or structural disadvantages affecting access to education and financial resources.

Additionally:

- Evaluation form (please submit this form to your Program Head for evaluation. The completed form should then be sent by the Program Head to halyna.tsymbalista@merz-akademie.de)

Selection criteria include academic performance and professional qualifications, a letter of motivation, a curriculum vitae, and a recommendation from the program leadership.

The selection committee consists of representatives of the Rectorate, the Dean's Office, and the International Office.

The procedure involves a review of submitted documents and does not require a personal interview. Additional proofs and documents may be requested if needed.

Further materials can be found in the master's section on CampusNet.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at halyna.tsymbalista@merz-akademie.de.