

EXIST-Women for female entrepreneurs in brief

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action's EXIST Women programme aims to support women at higher education institutions and research establishments who are interested in setting up a business in the phase before the startup, particularly when developing their business mind-set and their business ideas.

Here is a summary of the key information for participants:

What is EXIST-Women's target group?

It is addressed to female graduates (the degree can have been acquired more than five years ago), scientists, students (B.A. or \geq of the course completed) and women with a vocational training qualification and a relationship with a higher education institution who are interested in starting out in business and wish to take part in a 12-month training programme. Participation is also possible in tandem with your studies or work. You may, but do not have to, have a specific idea for a new business. Support is also granted towards ideas which are not science- or research-based, but are oriented to a subsequent commercial activity. The programme does not cover women who have already received startup funding from the Federation or the Länder.

What does EXIST-Women offer me?

- Participation in a 12-month training programme on starting up in business
- Individual coaching from the higher education institution's startup network
- Entrepreneurial support from a female mentor
- Nationwide network of female entrepreneurs
- One-off €2,000 grant for material expenses (e.g. for coaching, travel costs or the validation of your business idea)
- Optionally, a three-month grant if you have no income or work up to 20 hours a week
€1,000 - €3,000 a month (depending on your qualifications) + child supplement

What are my obligations as a participant?

You will take part in the female entrepreneurs seminar, regularly attend the events of relevance to you offered by the local startup network, and make use of individual advice sessions offered by the startup network and your mentor. If possible, you should also attend the centrally held forums for female entrepreneurs and the events put on by the network. EXIST-Women is a programme to raise awareness of and provide training for new female entrepreneurs. There is no obligation to set up a business. At the end of the programme, you will provide a concise and incisive one-page description of your startup idea and the results you have produced. If you decide to set up a business during the 12-

month training phase or during subsequent startup assistance, great. But if you would like to take more time before taking the plunge, that's OK too, because we need the spirit of female entrepreneurship everywhere!

Where will I stand at the end of the 12-month training programme?

The services offered by your local higher education institution and the central events will show you what is involved in starting up a business and how it works. You will also have got to know other female entrepreneurs who share their startup experiences with you. You will have been able to develop a new, viable business idea, or to develop your existing idea further, and to validate your business model. You will know what the next steps are for your own startup, and you may even have found co-founders or acquired follow-up finance.

Where does the programme take place?

The higher education institution looking after you will train you online or on-site, possibly also in cooperation with other higher education institutions in the region. You will also take part in up to four centrally held EXIST-Women events, where you will meet aspiring women entrepreneurs from all around Germany.

Who selects the participants?

This is done by the participating higher education institutions. A personal advisory session with the startup network of a higher education institution near you will show you whether EXIST-Women is appropriate for you. Students and graduates of other higher education institutions can also apply.

Where can I find additional information about EXIST-Women?

Our website <https://www.exist.de/EXIST/Navigation/EN/Start-upFunding/EXIST-WOMEN/exist-women> offers detailed answers to FAQs on EXIST-Women. Also, you can find all the key documents for your application there, and topics and events relating to EXIST-Women.

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