

## 7) Finding financial support

Pursuing doctoral studies is expensive - both for yourself (you will need roughly 1000 € per month for living in Münster) and for your lab (costs for consumables run at about 1000 € per month, plus overhead costs for administration and maintenance of ca. 20 % or another 400 € per month). However, once you have been accepted as a doctoral student, the University will waive these latter costs (amounting to an annual subsidy of ca. 5.000 €), and no tuition fees will be charged to you (except for ca. 140 Euro per semester for the student union, half of which pays for a ticket giving free access to buses and regional trains). On the other hand, neither the Department of Biology nor the University of Münster have funds for supplying fellowships for your personal needs - except in the framework of most structured doctoral programs.

Positions for doctoral candidates, however, may be available in conjunction with a specific research project your supervisor may have successfully accrued from a funding agency such as the German Research Foundation (DFG). Such positions, however, are rather rare, and you can greatly enhance your chances of being accepted as a doctoral student if you come with a fellowship which you have successfully won yourself from one of the national or international funding agencies. A list of potential funding agencies can be found here ([www.daad.de/deutschland/foerderung/02055.en.html](http://www.daad.de/deutschland/foerderung/02055.en.html)), but make sure to also explore the possibilities offered by your home country.

If you want to apply for a fellowship, you will typically have to work out a detailed research proposal in collaboration with your potential supervisor.