

Selection Criteria for Admission to the Gutenberg Academy Fellows Program | GAFP

The Gutenberg Academy Fellows Program (GAFP, formerly known as Gutenberg Academy) supports outstanding young academics and artists at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz (JGU) for a maximum period of two years.

The GAFP attaches special importance, both in the **nomination documents** submitted and during the **selection interviews**, to the academic and personal aspects that make nominees stand out among the other doctoral researchers or young artists.

Academic excellence

- An innovative and ambitious doctoral project (originality of synopsis and research topic) is a key requirement for admission to the GAFP as is an aptitude for and commitment to achieving academic excellence – including by comparison to other doctoral researchers. For young artists, evidence of public appearances, exhibitions and competition prizes to demonstrate artistic ability are a significant advantage.
- The GAFP commends candidates' who actively engage in shaping their academic careers (e.g., demonstrate an ability to work independently, aspire to give themselves a clear and identifiable profile within the academic community), evidenced, for example, by attendance at special events (conferences, excursions, summer schools), publishing in academic or specialist journals or deliberate changes of location for research purposes, especially travel abroad.
- Very good exam performance is a requirement.
- Completion of the degree program within the standard period allowed is expected. Studies abroad or that include lengthy voluntary internships are not included in this. A change of study subject, caring for family members, the acquisition of study-related foreign language skills, pregnancy, parental leave or disability will all be taken into account in an appropriate manner. Biographical circumstances will be considered.

Outstanding personality

Members are expected to make an active contribution to the GAFP and to its enhancement through their academic and personal efforts. They should demonstrate intellectual curiosity towards other subject areas and a critical attitude regarding their own actions and the possible social consequences of these. Members should show a willingness to accept responsibility and to put forward ideas on the kind of GAFP life they want to be part of. Examples of this might be...

- active social commitment whether within the university or outside
- active involvement in art or music
- involvement in sporting activities

The GAFP exercises tolerance and neutrality in its attitude to political, religious or other ideological views but does not condone any discriminatory or extremist views or behaviour.

Formal requirements

A speedy start to the doctorate following the examination is appreciated, though the GAFP does make appropriate allowance for factors such as parental leave, caring for family members, extended periods of illness, or where students enter university via second chance education. The GAFP expressly wishes that candidates should take full advantage of the maximum two-year membership period from the time of their admission.

Please Note: Submission of nomination papers takes place in winter semester, official admission of new junior members at the beginning of summer semester. The gap between nomination and admission, therefore, is approximately six months.

Selection process and review panels

- The selection interview takes about 45 minutes per nominee.
- Review panels usually include 2 senior members and at least one junior member.
- The GAFP office will participate in the selection interviews on an optional basis.

- A proxy option requires the absentee to nominate a substitute beforehand. This will be indicated in the cover letter to the candidate (e.g., “The review panel is likely to be made up as follows...”)
- Minutes of the selection interviews will be made available online to all members of the GAFFP in advance of the January meeting.
- The recommendation for a decision on acceptance or rejection of the candidates is delegated to the selection commission.

Deciding on new admissions

- Decisions on final admissions are usually made at a meeting in mid-January. The minutes of the selection interview serve as basis for the decisions of a plenum made up of senior and junior members.
- At this meeting, the chairs of the selection groups present their recommendations on admission or rejection of candidates. Clear cases for admission are presented collectively and without additional justification. They are not discussed individually. Rejections, on the other hand, must be dealt with individually and adequately explained. Where necessary, a short question and answer session may be held, and a vote taken on the recommendation. In particular cases, if requested, individual admission recommendations can also be discussed (without deadline).
- A two-thirds majority is usually required to approve admission of a junior member. If the number of recommendations for admission exceeds the number of places available, the panel will agree on a ranking for the nominated candidates. With this in mind, the selection groups should decide in advance on which candidates will be given preference in such a situation.
- Senior and junior members vote jointly on this in the plenum.
- The GAFFP office notifies nominees of their acceptance/rejection in February.