

KOHLI
FOUNDATION
for Sociology

Connect
Guidelines

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Guidelines of the funding format *Connect* *

The **Connect** funding program is part of the **Growth** program line. Alongside the **Recognition** and **Dialogue** program lines, this constitutes an independent funding area of the Kohli Foundation for Sociology.

Growth aims to support early-career researchers, specifically sociologists who are pursuing a Ph.D. or who have completed their Ph.D. within the past five years.

Connect supports **events and structured exchange programs specifically designed for early-career sociologists**, with the aim of **fostering their academic development, networking, and professional profile-building**.

Eligible programs include winter, spring, summer, or fall schools, mentoring events, and similar initiatives that facilitate sustainable exchange and learning processes.

* The German-language text of the "Connect Guidelines" ("Connect Förderrichtlinien") is binding; the English-language text is merely a translation.

1. Purpose and Scope of Funding

As part of the *Connect* funding format, the Kohli Foundation supports **events** that

- promote academic development and professional growth,
- facilitate the advancement of independent research projects at a high academic level,
- foster connections to established research networks and institutions,
- strengthen networking among early-career researchers and with renowned sociologists.

The *Connect* funding program specifically supports:

- academic schools (e.g., winter, spring, summer, or fall schools),
- mentoring and professional development events,
- workshops, retreats, or similar formats with a clear focus on supporting early-career researchers and academic development.

Funding may be provided for both individual events and time-limited event series.

2. Academic Requirements

A prerequisite for funding is that the event has a **clearly recognizable sociological focus**:

- Funding is expressly intended for formats that contribute to in-depth academic work and reflection.
- Sociological questions and perspectives must form the core of the event's content.

3. Public and Professional Relevance

- The funded programs are primarily aimed at early-career researchers.
- The focus is on the quality of the academic exchange, not the number of participants.
- Where possible, content or results should be presented in a format that can be used for the foundation's public relations efforts (e.g., website, social media).

4. International Focus and Language

- Both international projects and those based exclusively within Germany are eligible for funding, provided they have broader relevance to sociology as a discipline. This also applies to applications from abroad.
- The preferred language for events is English. Events in other languages are possible in justified exceptional cases and must be explained accordingly in the application

5. Eligibility to apply

Eligible applicants are organizations affiliated with an institution, in particular:

- Universities and non-university research institutions,
- Sociological professional associations,
- Non-profit associations and organizations,
- Institutional collaborations involving multiple partners.

6. Type of funding

Connect is a flexible program that supports a wide range of event formats and does not restrict the creativity of applicants. In the past, the following events, among others, have been funded: covering the cost of participation in a conference dinner for doctoral students (€8,000), an internal section mentoring event as part of a major academic conference (€1,500), and a joint dinner for doctoral students and their advisors to conclude an international summer school (€1,000).

- The number of projects funded depends on the available budget and the quality of the applications received.
- The foundation provides support exclusively through financial contributions and, where appropriate, by facilitating contacts from its network.
- Any contributions from third parties toward the financing of the event must be disclosed. Dual funding for the same project is not permitted.
- All organizational responsibilities rest with the applicants.

7. Eligible and ineligible costs

Financial support is provided through a lump-sum agreement. This is based on the cost estimate provided in the application. The agreed lump sum can be used to cover the following costs:

- project-related material costs,
- travel and accommodation expenses for participants,
- fees for external speakers or mentors,
- costs for organization, documentation, and public relations.

The following are not eligible for funding:

- basic institutional funding,
- ongoing personnel costs of the applicant institution,
- commercial or for-profit projects,
- sponsorship activities.

8. Application Process and Selection Procedure

- Applications may be submitted at any time and will be considered until the annual budget has been exhausted.
- Selection is made by the Board of Directors of the Kohli Foundation based on the following criteria:
 - Scientific quality and alignment with the promotion of early-career researchers,
 - Potential for professional development and networking,
 - Conceptual clarity and plausibility,
 - Reasonability of the budget.
- There is no legal entitlement to funding.
- Repeated funding for the same applicant is generally possible.

9. Participation of Recipients

Grant recipients agree to:

- to provide a binding guarantee that the grant funds will be used for their intended purpose and to provide evidence of this in the form of a brief factual report, a simple summary of expenditure and a declaration confirming the proper use of the funds.
- allow for an appropriate presentation of the Foundation and its programs and offerings during the event,
- to repay any unused funds.
- to provide the Foundation with proof of charitable status or corporation tax relief upon acceptance of the grant.
- to formally mention the Kohli Foundation for Sociology in all event announcements and materials,
- to allow for an appropriate presentation of the Foundation and its programs and services at the event.

To support public relations efforts, a guide containing logos and informational materials about the foundation will be sent along with the grant approval notice; these materials are to be used.