

How to Apply for the FoundHERs Academy (EXIST Women)

Follow this step-by-step guide to successfully submit your application for the EXIST Women program **FoundHERs Academy** by **20 February 2026**.

1. Check the eligibility requirements

- You are a graduate, researcher, student, or have completed vocational training.
- You have not previously founded a corporation (Kapitalgesellschaft).
- You are motivated to participate in workshops, coaching sessions, and mentoring.
- There is **no obligation to found a company during the funding phase**.
- All further questions can be answered in the FAQs or during one of our consultation hours

(10 February 2026, 3:30–4:30 p.m.,

Zoom: <https://europa-uni-de.zoom-x.de/j/3605236514>,

Meeting ID: 360 523 6514).

2. Prepare your application documents

- **Motivation letter (max. 2 pages):**
 - Describe your qualifications, professional background, and current status.
 - Explain your startup idea or your motivation for participating in the program.
 - Outline your goals and expectations for the program.
- **Short presentation (optionally a 2–5 minute video):**
 - Present your idea, your vision, and your initial approaches to implementation.

3. Submit your application

- Complete the contact form, which can be downloaded from our website.

The programme „exist – from science to business“ with its projects is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the European Union through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF Plus).

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- Submit all required documents (motivation letter, contact form, and short presentation) on time via [this application form](#) .

Application deadline: 20 February 2026.

4. Understand the selection process

The university will review the applications for completeness and eligibility and select participants based on the criteria listed below.

- **Evaluation:**
 - A selection committee assesses the application according to the following criteria:
 - Fulfillment of the funding requirements
 - Motivation to participate in the program and willingness to actively engage
 - Entrepreneurial mindset
 - Professional and technical competencies
 - Communication skills
 - Creativity
 - Startup idea (if applicable)
 - Ability to work in a team
 - Professional experience in the academic or research context

Tip: Emphasize your personality, your passion for innovation, and your willingness to grow and develop further to convince the selection committee.

Good luck with your application!

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