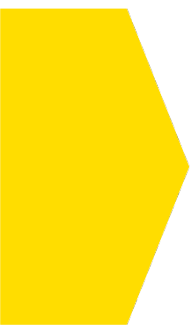


Call for applications

# CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik



Published on: 2024/02/19

Deadline for draft application: 2024/07/01

Deadline for full application: 2025/02/28

## **1 Focus and objectives**

The Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung (CZS) provides funding for the establishment of the "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik" - a doctoral program focused on computer science didactics. The aim of this program is to enhance computer science education in Germany in the long term and to promote the growth of research in computer science didactics.

The "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik" brings together interdisciplinary researchers from the fields of computer science, mathematics, and didactics. These researchers will collaborate with others in computer science didactics to create a competitive research environment based on mutual exchange and learning. These collaborations aim to establish and further synergies among computer science didactics within Germany.

Teaching computer science skills in schools and secondary educational institutions is crucial for Germany's ability to innovate and ensure its future relevance. To address the predicted shortage of computer science specialists in the future, there is a need for more experts in computer science didactics and support for the research field. Recognizing this, the CZS has identified computer science didactics as one of its strategic areas of activity. Through the "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik," the CZS aims to strengthen research and further expand this subject area. This initiative will enable more high-quality training, especially with the aim of teaching computer science, and ultimately enhance computer science education in schools in the long run.

This call for applications targets interdisciplinary researchers from the fields of computer science, mathematics, and didactics. Universities located in the CZS funding states of Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate, and Thuringia, which possess the authority to grant doctoral degrees and demonstrate expertise in the field of computer science, are eligible to apply.

## **2 Scope and object of the funding**

The total amount of funding that can be applied for is

EUR 10.000.000

The funding period is up to eight years. The project can start earliest on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Eligible for funding are:

- Doctoral positions
- Staff for coordination and communication
- Material resources and travel expenses
- Networking activities
- Communication initiatives

A maximum of 5 percent of the total funding may be used for investments. The necessity of these investments must be justified accordingly.

In addition to the requested project funding, the CZS will contribute an overhead lump sum amounting to 20 percent of the project funding amount.

## **3 Eligible institutions**

The funding activities of the CZS are generally limited to the federal states of Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate, and Thuringia.

Universities located in these CZS funding states, which possess the authority to grant doctoral degrees and demonstrate expertise in the field of computer science, are eligible to apply. Joint applications from several cooperating institutions are expressly welcome.

State or non-profit institutions in other federal states (i.e., outside Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate, and Thuringia) or abroad may be involved as cooperating partners in

a joint application. In such cases, a university from one of the three CZS funding states must be designated as the lead applicant. Organizational processing and communication with the CZS will take place exclusively via the lead applicant.

Regardless of the number of cooperating partners, at least 50 percent of the funding must be used by institutions in the CZS funding states.

#### **4 Deadlines and selection procedure**

The selection procedure consists of two stages: a draft stage and a full application stage. Draft applications may be submitted to the CZS until **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024** (see section 6.2).

All submitted draft proposals will be reviewed by experts. A preselection will be made based on these reviews. The result of the preselection will be announced by the CZS by September 30, 2024. Universities that pass the preselection process will be invited to submit full proposals.

Full proposals may be submitted until **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025** (see section 6.3). These proposals will be evaluated by an international selection committee. Based on the evaluations, the CZS will make the final funding decision.

#### **5 Selection criteria**

The prerequisite for receiving funding from the “CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik” is a convincing and implementable proposal. It is the responsibility of each applicant to work out and present the details and structure of the proposed scientific program.

The following aspects are given special consideration in the evaluation:

- Compliance with formal criteria and completeness of information.

- Alignment of the project proposal with the areas of focus and scientific expertise of each participating institution.
- Existing and planned collaborations.
- Structure and governance of the doctoral program.
- Scientific project proposals and their implementation.
- Supervision and qualification of doctoral students.
- Communication initiatives.
- Network activities.
- Quality assurance measures.

## 6 Application

### 6.1 General formal requirements

- Both draft and full proposals can only be submitted via the university management.
- Only one application per university may be submitted.
- Both the application outline and the applications must be sent exclusively by e-mail to the following address:  
Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung  
Dr. Monika Schatz  
foerderantrag@carl-zeiss-stiftung.de
- The documents must be submitted in a PDF document without password protection or access restrictions with metadata.
- Draft applications must be submitted in German, final applications in English.
- Formal requirements: Arial font, font size 12, single line spacing, top margin: 2.0 cm spacing. Bottom margin: 2.0 cm spacing. Right margin: 2.0 cm spacing. Left margin: 2.5 cm
- The following deadlines apply:

- July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024                      Submission deadline for draft applications.
  - September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024          Invitations to submit full applications.
  - February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025            Full application submission deadline.
  - April 2025                          Decision announcement by the CZS,
- Late applications will not be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Monika Schatz:

Phone: +49 (0)711 162 213 03, e-mail: [monika.schatz@carl-zeiss-stiftung.de](mailto:monika.schatz@carl-zeiss-stiftung.de)

## 6.2 Guidelines for the draft application outline

All draft applications must be received electronically by the CZS by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, in accordance with the general requirements (see section 6.1).

The application outline must not exceed a total of 5 DIN A4 pages (excluding the cover sheet and attachments).

The draft application must contain the following information:

### 1. Cover page (1 page)

- Contact details of the institution and preliminary project leaders.
- Information and contact details of the cooperation partners, if applicable.

### 2. Content description of the project (max. 5 pages)

- Brief description of the direction of the "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik" (~ 1/2 page).
- Fit of the project within the strategic orientation of the university, i.e., the area of focus and expertise of the university (~ 1/2 page).
- Description of the proposed structure for implementing the "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik" (max. 3 pages), including information on location(s), existing and planned collaborations, governance structure including project coordination,

number of doctoral students, cohort structure, supervision and qualification concept, communication measures, network activities, and quality assurance measures.

- Preliminary schedule for the preparation and realization of the "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik" (~ 1/2 page).
- Preliminary financial plan (~ 1/2 page).

### 3. Attachments:

- Signed consent to the storage of personal data in accordance with the template provided by the CZS (see homepage).
- CVs of participating researchers, including relevant data and selected publications (max. 1 page per person).

A preselection is made based on the draft application. The CZS will inform the universities about the result by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The selected universities will be invited to submit a full application by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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### 6.3 Guidelines for the full application

Only universities that have successfully passed the preselection of draft proposals and are invited to submit a full proposal are eligible to do so. The CZS will inform the selected universities of the results by September 30, 2024.

Only full applications that fulfill the general requirements and have been submitted electronically to the CZS by February 28, 2025 (see section 6.1) will be considered.

The full application must not exceed a total of 10 A4 pages (plus cover sheet and attachments).

The full application must contain the following information:

1. Cover page (1 page)

- Project title and, if applicable, short title or acronym (max. 30 characters).
- Contact details of applying institution and project coordinator (name, work address, telephone and email address, web link).
- Financial data: total funds requested from the CZS (personnel, material costs, and investments).
- Requested funding period (start and end date).

2. Abstract summary of the "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik" (~1 page)

- Research focus areas.
- Location and environment of the "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik".
- Number of doctoral students and cohort structure, if applicable.

3. Strategic fit (~1/2 pages)

- Suitability of the project within the research and strategic orientations of the applying university.
- Possible long-term effects of the "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik" on the university's standing and tangible local developments/location development.

4. Governance and Organization structure (~2 1/2 pages)

- Existing and planned collaborations, e.g., with research institutions or in networks/associations.
- Organizational and management structures, including an organization chart.
- Project coordination.
- Integration of the doctoral students into the university.



5. Scientific work programme (~ 1 1/2 pages)

- Motivation, scientific goals, and scientific innovation potential, ideally including unique selling points of the institution and/or the team involved.
- Research profile of the doctoral positions.
- Summary of technical and methodological expertise.
- Links to previous relevant research activities of the participating institutions.
- Expertise and scientific reputation of the researchers involved.
- Involvement of the doctoral research topics in the national and international research landscape.
- Concept for handling research data (data protection, open source, open access, shared databases, reproducibility).

6. Recruitment, supervision and career development (~ 2 pages)

- Recruitment strategy.
- Applications and selection procedure for doctoral positions.
- Supervision of doctoral students.
- Measures for qualification and career development.
- Initiatives to promote equal opportunities and diversity.

7. Quality assurance (~ 1/2 pages)

- Quality assurance.
- Accompanying evaluation measures, e.g., project advisory board.

8. Communication and networking

- Communication strategy.
- Networking opportunities.
- Transfer activities.

9. Schedule (max. 1 page)

- Schedule/Project plan for the establishment and implementation phase of the "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik," with clearly defined milestones. The schedule/project plan must align with to the financial plan (see section 7).

#### 10. Attachments

- Financial plan: Please use only the financial plan provided by the CZS. The financial plan refers to project years, not calendar years. The financial plan must align with the schedule of the "CZS Kolleg Informatikdidaktik."
- Letter of intent (LOI) from the university management with specific support measures
- List of the institutions involved in the application project (institutes and facilities of the university) with associated addresses and web links.
- For cooperations:
  - List of cooperation partners with corresponding addresses and web links.
  - LOIs from each cooperating partner.

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