

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE

**START SCHOLARSHIPS FASHION OF THE
FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ARTS, CULTURE,
THE CIVIL SERVICE AND SPORT
(STARTSTIPENDIEN MODE DES BMKÖS)**

AUSTRIAN FASHION ASSOCIATION

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VEREIN ZUR FÖRDERUNG
ÖSTERREICHISCHEN MODEDESIGNS

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ABOUT

THE START SCHOLARSHIPS FASHION, PROVIDED BY THE BMKÖS (FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ARTS, CULTURE, THE CIVIL SERVICE, AND SPORT), ARE SIX-MONTH WORK SCHOLARSHIPS AIMED AT FOSTERING THE ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG FASHION DESIGNERS AND SUPPORTING THEIR ENTRY INTO THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION SCENE. THESE SCHOLARSHIPS RECOGNIZE AND PROMOTE THE CREATIVE WORK OF EMERGING FASHION DESIGNERS.

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT

EUR 9,000 (EUR 1,500 per month for 6 months)

APPLICATION & DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

Applications must be submitted online at:

<https://www.austrianfashionassociation.at/en/awards/startstipendien-mode/>

CONSULTATION AND INQUIRIES

Dalma Monori

+43 660 440 0027

support@afa.co.at

1 TARGET GROUP

The Start Scholarships Fashion are granted by Section IV – Arts and Culture of the BMKÖS and are intended for emerging artists. They support independent work projects that contribute to the artistic development of the recipients.

The scholarships are aimed at:

- Graduates of a fashion degree program who wish to focus on the independent advancement of their previous work.
- Fashion designers with a degree and initial professional experience who seek to develop their ideas further and implement concepts to establish themselves in the fashion industry.
- Fashion designers focusing on innovation, research, and new practices in sustainability, circular economy, waste management, and related areas.
- Artists (e.g., research artists) working at the intersection of fashion and other disciplines.

2 APPLICATION CRITERIA & REQUIREMENTS

2.1. NATIONALITY & RESIDENCY

The scholarship is primarily open to individual designers holding Austrian citizenship. Foreign nationals are equally eligible if they have had their primary residence in Austria for at least three years and have their primary place of life and work in the country.

2.2. APPLICATIONS FROM STUDENTS

Applications from students or university/college enrollees are not possible. Individuals enrolled at a university or university of applied sciences are excluded from applying.

2.3. DEGREE COMPLETION AND AGE LIMIT

Applicants must have a relevant degree that was obtained no more than five years ago. Without a relevant degree, the date of birth must be after December 31, 1989, and applications are possible until the applicant has not yet turned 35 years old. In cases of starting a family, child-rearing periods, or serious illness, the age limit can be exceeded by a maximum of five years.

2.4. DOUBLE FUNDING

- Designers who have been awarded funding through AFA Support cannot simultaneously receive a Start Scholarship Fashion.
- Individuals who have already received a Start Scholarship (in any field) from BMKÖS or previously from the Federal Chancellery are excluded from applying. The same applies to individuals who have received a foreign scholarship in the relevant year.

2.5. SINGLE-PARENT BONUS

An increased scholarship of EUR 200 per month for a duration of 6 months is available if the applicant is receiving family allowance for at least one child at the time of the application and is not living in a partnership (marriage, cohabitation,

registered partnership) during the requested scholarship period.
As proof of caregiving responsibilities, a confirmation of family allowance receipt must be provided.

2.6. GENDER EQUALITY

Recipients must ensure gender equality within their sphere of influence and comply with the Equal Treatment Act, Federal Disability Equality Act, and non-discrimination regulations (§7b BEinstG).

3 CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

3.1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED PROJECT / INITIATIVE

By accepting the scholarship, the scholarship holder commits to carrying out the initiative in the agreed form.

3.2. REPORTING ON PROJECT PROGRESS

The applicants commit to regularly and promptly informing the Austrian Fashion Association about the progress of their project, any changes to the original concept, as well as the final result.

3.3. PUBLIC PRESENTATION AT THE AUSTRIAN FASHION AWARDS

The applicants unconditionally agree, in the event that a scholarship is awarded, to the public presentation of the current collection as part of an event organized and curated by the Austrian Fashion Association.

4 SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT

EUR 9,000 (EUR 1,500 per month for 6 months).
The scholarship is funded by BMKÖS.

5 APPLICATION PROCESS

5.1. STEP 1: SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION

The Austrian Fashion Association offers free consultation sessions to determine whether the Start Scholarship Fashion is suitable for the individual. Together, the application process will be discussed, and feedback will be provided on the portfolio and work plan.
Appointments can be made at support@afa.co.at.

5.2. STEP 2: PREPARATION OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS IN ENGLISH

The following steps must be completed before submitting the application:

- Download the application documents
- Carefully read the information

- Compile and digitize the portfolio
- Fill out and sign the application form
- Gather and update certificates, registration form (Meldezettel), and CV if necessary

For feedback on the application documents, the Austrian Fashion Association team is available up to one week before the deadline.
The documents must not exceed a file size of 25 MB.

5.3.

STEP 3: SUBMISSION OF THE ONLINE FORM AND APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

The application documents must be submitted both online and physically to the Austrian Fashion Association. Once the scholarship is open for application, the „Apply Now“ button will appear on this page, leading to the application form. Once the online form is fully completed and all attachments are uploaded, the application can be submitted by sending the form. Entries will not be saved when leaving or reloading the page. For interim saving, please click on „Save and continue later“.

The portfolio, CV, and application form must be sent by mail or personally submitted by appointment to the Austrian Fashion Association. The envelope should be clearly marked with „Start Scholarship Fashion“ or „Startstipendium Mode“.

The submission deadline is considered the date the digital application documents are received; the hardcopy documents must also be received by this date.

Submission address:
Austrian Fashion Association
Lindengasse 27/1
1070 Vienna

Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 4 pm
(Please make an appointment by phone at +43 660 44 00 027)

Late applications or applications with incomplete documents cannot be considered. No liability will be accepted for damage or loss of documents.

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SELECTION PROCESS

The awarding of the Start Scholarship Fashion is based on the recommendation of an independent jury, with the presence of a representative of the BMKÖS and the Austrian Fashion Association. Only complete and timely submissions will be presented to the jury.

6.1.

REVIEW

The jury reviews the applications and selects five designers. It is explicitly noted that the quality, aesthetics, form, and style of the submitted documents will be considered in the jury's evaluation.

6.2.

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

At least two of the five scholarships are dedicated to „Societal Challenges“. The focus of the funding aims to encourage greater engagement with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, sdgs.un.org) and their implementation in projects and collections. A Societal Challenges project may include topics such as circular economy, sustainability (e.g., fabrics, materials, even packaging), upcycling and recycling, new production processes, social sustainability, etc.

6.3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

All applicants will be notified in writing about the jury's decision. No verbal explanations of the jury's decisions will be provided.

6.4. THE JURY

The Start Scholarships Fashion are awarded based on the recommendation of an independent expert jury. The jury changes annually and consists of representatives from the fashion sector, including design, media, retail, art, education, research, and communication. The expert jury is appointed by the Austrian Fashion Association. To ensure the jury's independence, the final confirmation of the jury is made by the BMKÖS.

7 DOCUMENTATION

7.1. REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

By accepting the scholarship, the scholarship recipients commit to submitting a detailed report, including documentation, on the activities carried out to the BMKÖS (Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Public Service, and Sports, Section IV Arts and Culture, Department IV/B/6) after the scholarship period ends.

The report for the Start Scholarship Fashion consists of:

- A written report
- Documentation material

The final report document will be provided by the BMKÖS.

The report must be submitted no later than three months after the end of the scholarship (end of April 2026) to:

Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Public Service, and Sports
Section IV, Arts and Culture

Department IV/B/6, Concordiaplatz 2, 1010 Vienna

Contact person: Mag.a Olga Okunev, olga.okunev@bmkoes.gv.at

7.2. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN CASE OF CHANGES

The scholarship recipient must immediately and on their own initiative report in writing about

- any changes (except for very minor changes), delays, the impossibility of carrying out the funded project as well as
- changes in financing, legal form, responsible persons (key personnel) and address.

7.3. GUIDELINES FOR DOCUMENTATION

Documentation may include various types of evidence, depending on the content of the project implemented within the framework of the Start Scholarship Fashion. It is important that the documentation is submitted in a „portable“ format (either as a paper document or electronically) and provides sufficient insight into the work results.

The documentation material should generally include:

- Created materials such as lookbooks, catalogs, invitations, posters, video and audio material, screenshots of website and online documentation, etc.
- Documentation photos in print resolution (300 dpi)
- Usage rights: Rights guarantee and permission for usage

7.4.

USE OF THE BMKÖS AND AUSTRIAN FASHION ASSOCIATION LOGOS

The scholarship holder agrees to acknowledge the support of BMKÖS and the Austrian Fashion Association in printed materials and on their website by using the current logos.

8**DATA PROTECTION**

The scholarship recipient agrees that the data they provide will be processed automatically for the purposes outlined in the guidelines. Furthermore, they consent to the collection, processing, and transfer of personal data, as well as the sharing of this data with third parties for the purpose of evaluating the funding objectives.

They explicitly agree, in accordance with data protection law, that BMKÖS or the Austrian Fashion Association:

1. may obtain relevant information from third parties (e.g., tax authorities) in the course of the decision-making process regarding the application,
2. may publish their name, the purpose of the scholarship, and the amount of the scholarship in the arts report and in reports on fashion funding by the Austrian Fashion Association, as well as disclose it for statistical purposes.

The scholarship recipient also acknowledges and agrees that the provided data will be collected through automatic data processing and, in accordance with applicable legal regulations, may be used for control purposes by the BMKÖS and may be shared with the Court of Auditors, the Federal Ministry of Finance, and the European Union.

This consent can be revoked at any time in writing by notifying BMKÖS and the Austrian Fashion Association. The revocation will retroactively result in the termination of the funding entitlement and the reclaiming of any grants already awarded.