# In Austria, financially disadvantaged students have various support options available. An overview:

Financially disadvantaged students are primarily eligible for state study grants. In addition, there are also other funding measures - above all those of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). According to Austrian law, the parents of students are obliged to provide for the financial needs of their children until they are able to support themselves. This also includes the completion of a goal-oriented degree. Student support should only intervene if the parents or the student themselves are not in a position to bear the costs associated with studying from their own resources. This also results in the two essential eligibility requirements, eligibility for **social support** and the existence of **favourable academic success**. The Student Support Act (StudFG), opens an external URL in a new window is the legal basis for student support and can be viewed in full in the legal information system of the Republic of Austria.

# Aid amount & calculation examples

When calculating the amount of student aid that takes parental income into account (a different calculation is carried out for self-supporters, see Aid amount and Calculation example for self-supported study aid ), a fixed amount, the so-called "basic amount" in Amount of € 335, - assumed.

# Increases to the amount:

There is an increase of € 250 for:

- Students who have to live at the place of study because the daily return journey from their parents' place of residence to the place of study is not reasonable and are officially registered at the place of study (main or secondary residence);
- Students who have reached the age of 24;
- Students whose parents have died (orphans);
- Students who are legally obliged to care for and bring up at least one child;
- Married students or students in a registered partnership.

This increase of €250 will only be granted once if there are several of these circumstances.

There is a further increase of €240 for students who have reached the age of 24.

There is an additional increase of &30 for students who have reached the age of 27.

There is an additional increase of €120 for students who are legally obliged to care for and bring up at least one child.

There is an additional increase of €160 or €420 for disabled students. The amount of the increase depends on the type and degree of disability.

# Study & Job

Having a job (before or during your studies) can affect student support in several ways.

On the one hand, the Student Support Act provides special support in the form of self-support study grants for people who have "supported themselves" for a long time through their own employment before starting their studies.

On the other hand, the additional income limit must be observed for all study grant recipients who work part-time.

Finally, students who have previously worked alongside their studies and have not received any study grants in the last four years have the option of giving up their jobs temporarily at the end of their studies in order to be able to devote themselves entirely to completing their studies and are entitled to a graduation grant for this to get.

# Al income limit

Students are allowed to "earn extra" in addition to the study grant. However, the following regulations should be observed:

- The student grant is awarded from September in the winter semester and from March in the summer semester.
- The income before receiving the grant has no effect on the amount of the ongoing study grant.
- The student grant/subsidy is only reduced from the income that the student receives in parallel with the grant if the additional income limit is exceeded.
- The additional income limit is generally € 15,000 per calendar year. This can also increase if maintenance is paid for your own children (by at least €3,000 per child, see studying with a child ).
- If study aid is not received during the entire calendar year, the additional income limit is reduced accordingly
  (allocation). The following calculation applies to the reduced additional earnings limit: Additional earnings limit (€ 15,000)
  divided by 12 and then multiplied by the number of months in which study aid is received. Attention: The special payments
  (e.g. Christmas and vacation bonuses) are also taken into account when calculating the aliquot calculation of the additional
  earnings limit.
- Income is only checked on an annual basis. There is no distinction between holiday income and income during lectures.

# **Graduation Scholarship**

The graduation scholarship is intended for students who have almost reached their study goal. The prerequisite is that the professional activity is given up for the duration of the graduation grant and only a few examinations are missing for the graduation, and - if a diploma thesis/master's thesis has to be prepared - this has already been started. Doctoral students cannot receive a graduation grant.

Austrian citizens as well as foreigners and stateless persons (§ 4 StudFG) are entitled to a study completion scholarship.

# **Other Grants**

In addition to the study grant, there are other grants such. B. Travel allowances or the insurance cost contribution, which can be claimed.

For students with children , but also for students with disabilities , there are additional measures that make it easier to finance your studies.

In principle, the general eligibility requirements apply to the receipt of study grants. Student support offers the following favourable regulations for studying mothers and fathers (however, these regulations only apply to fathers if either they are married to the child's mother or joint custody with the child's mother has been approved):

- The highest possible study grant (including the 8% increase surcharge) is € 7,582 per year (€ 632 per month)
- In addition, the study allowance increases by € 130 per month per child.
- In addition, the study allowance for students who have reached the age of 24 increases by € 240 per month.
- In addition, the study allowance for students who have reached the **age of 27** increases by a further €30 per month.

# Studying with a disability

Students with disabilities receive special support from government measures that go beyond the area of student support. The general eligibility requirements also apply to the receipt of study grants. If a recognized disability of at least 50% exists, the entitlement period is extended by two semesters per study section. This disability can be proven by receiving the increased family allowance, as well as by receiving federal care allowance or proof within the meaning of the Disabled Persons Employment Act.

Subsidies (travel allowance, insurance contribution, childcare allowance, study allowance)

# **Travel allowance**

Travel allowances replace part of the travel costs incurred in connection with the course for those receiving study grants. The amount of the FKZ is based on the preferential student tariffs, considering a deductible of €50 per year. Travel allowances are granted in three different forms:

# Study support

Students at non-Austrian distance learning universities and distance learning colleges with which there is a cooperation with a recognized post-secondary Austrian educational institution can apply for study support. Study grants can currently be granted for the

- Fernuniversität in Hagen
- Hamburger Fernhochschule (HFH) and
- Open University London (OUL)

**Applications** for study grants to students at non-Austrian **distance learning universities and distance learning colleges should** be submitted to the responsible scholarship office .

# Study support measures according to the Study Support Act

The Student Support Act provides for a number of support measures that are intended to make it easier for domestic (and under certain conditions foreign) regular students to finance university studies.

Overview of the support measures according to the Study Support Act

- All funding under the Study Support Act (with the exception of performance and support grants) requires that the student is worthy of social support and can prove that they have successfully progressed their studies.
- The exact requirements for the individual funding measures as well as all information (addresses, deadlines, forms, etc.) for the application, which is also possible electronically, can be found on the website of the study grant authority.
- The student grant authority, which has set up grant offices at all major university locations, is also responsible for awarding these grants (except for merit and promotional grants).

# Further support for students

However, the state does not only contribute to the financing of studies through the instruments of the Student Support Act. Other public and private institutions also grant grants and benefits, some of which benefit the students themselves and some benefit their parents.

These include:

- Family allowance
- Tax breaks
- Family bonus
- Preferential health and accident insurance for students
- State housing allowances, etc.

In certain cases of social hardship, the Austrian Students ' Union also awards financial support from the ÖH social fund.

The Austrian Students' Union also provides information and supports students on the subject of housing and student dormitories.

The online database offers comprehensive information about scholarships and funding opportunities in the scientific field: <a href="http://www.grants.at">www.grants.at</a>.

#### **Resumo AT:**

As bolsas são concedidas e geridas pela Student Grant Authority através do Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) e OeAD-GmbH — Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (exceto as de mérito e promoção) que dispõe de gabinetes decentralizados em IES, nas grandes localidades.

Há instituições públicas e privadas que, também, concedem bolsas e benefícios aos estudantes e aos seus pais e que incluem um valor familiar mensal, isenção de impostos, bónus familiar, seguros de saúde e acidentes para estudantes, apoios para alojamentos do estado, entre outros.

O sindicato dos estudantes também atribui apoio financeiro através do fundo social da AT, e disponibilizam informação e apoio sobre alojamento.

#### Montante do auxílio e exemplos de cálculo

No cálculo do valor do apoio aos estudantes, são tidos em consideração os rendimentos dos pais (é feito um cálculo diferente para os autossuficientes, ver Valor do auxílio e Exemplo de cálculo para auxílios aos estudantes autossuficientes), um valor fixo, o chamado "valor básico " no valor de 335€. A partir deste valor são aplicados aumentos.

Existe um acréscimo de 250€ (concedido apenas uma vez, caso se verifiquem várias destas circunstâncias) para:

- Estudantes deslocados e que tenham de residir no local de estudo
- Estudantes que atingiram a idade de 24 anos
- Estudantes órfãos
- Estudantes legalmente obrigados a cuidar e criar pelo menos um filho com um acréscimo de 120 €
- Estudantes casados ou em parceria registada

Há um acréscimo adicional de 30€ para estudantes que atingiram a idade de 27 anos.

Há um acréscimo adicional de 160€ ou 420€ para estudantes com deficiência. O montante do aumento depende do tipo e grau de deficiência. Os detalhes são regulamentados em portaria.

Além da bolsa de estudo, existem outras bolsas como por ex: subsídios de viagem ou contribuição para despesas de seguro.

A bolsa de estudos mais elevada possível (incluindo a sobretaxa de aumento de 8%) é de 7.582€ por ano (632€ por mês).

#### Limites de apoios total

Os estudantes podem ter apoios extra além da bolsa de estudo, cumprindo, no entanto, a observância de algumas regras:

- A bolsa é concedida a partir de setembro no semestre de inverno e a partir de março no semestre de verão.
- O rendimento antes da atribuição da bolsa não tem qualquer influência no valor da bolsa de estudo em curso.
- A bolsa/subsídio só é deduzida do valor que o estudante recebe paralelamente à bolsa se o limite de renda adicional for excedido.
- O limite de renda adicional é geralmente 15.000€ por ano civil. Isso também pode aumentar se a pensão de alimentos for paga para seus próprios filhos (em pelo menos 3.000€ por filho).
- Se o apoio não for recebido durante todo o ano civil, o limite de renda adicional é reduzido proporcionalmente (alocação).

O seguinte cálculo aplica-se ao limite de rendimentos adicionais reduzidos: Limite de rendimentos adicionais (15.000€) dividido por 12 e depois multiplicado pelo número de meses em que o auxílio estudantil é recebido. Atenção: os pagamentos especiais (por exemplo, subsídio de Natal e férias) também são considerados no cálculo da alíquota do limite de rendimentos adicionais.

Os rendimentos são verificados anualmente.

## **Trabalhadores-Estudantes**

A Lei de Apoio ao Estudante prevê um apoio especial sob a forma de bolsa de estudo de apoio para pessoas que se "sustentaram" durante muito tempo através do seu próprio emprego antes de iniciarem os seus estudos.

Para os estudantes que já trabalharam, paralelamente aos estudos e não receberam nenhuma bolsa de estudo nos últimos quatro anos, têm a opção de desistir temporariamente do emprego no final dos estudos para poderem se dedicar inteiramente à conclusão dos estudos e têm direito a uma bolsa de graduação para isso.

#### Bolsa para graduados

A bolsa para graduados é destinada a estudantes (cidadãos austríacos, bem como estrangeiros e apátridas) que já atingiram a meta de estudos. O pré-requisito é que não exerçam atividade profissional durante a vigência da bolsa de graduação e faltem apenas algumas provas para a conclusão do curso, sendo que - caso haja a necessidade de elaboração de dissertação de mestrado/diploma - esta já tenha sido iniciada. Estudantes de doutoramento não podem receber a bolsa de graduação.

Outras instituições públicas e privadas também concedem bolsas e benefícios, alguns dos quais beneficiam os próprios estudantes e outros beneficiam seus pais.