



28 April 2026

FUNDING GUIDELINES STIP-6 Scholarship programme for artificial intelligence

1. Funding objective and purpose of the grant

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly changing the way in which music is composed, produced and consumed. The rapid development in the field of AI fundamentally calls into question the traditional understanding of artistic innovation and compositional practice.

The technological development of generative AI systems is advancing at such a pace that even music experts are finding it increasingly difficult to distinguish between human-made and artificially generated music. The boundaries between human originality, emotionality and technological innovation are becoming increasingly blurred. Previously unknown forms of creativity are also revolutionising the musical landscape. At the same time, a range of copyright and ethical concerns is being raised in relation to the creation, exploitation, and consumption of music.

Music practitioners are increasingly confronted with the question of whether and how they wish to integrate AI tools into their creative processes. This requires engagement with new technologies and, where applicable, artistic collaboration with AI experts. At the same time, AI tools not only open up new aesthetic possibilities but are also understood as a means of institutional and societal critique.

Can intelligent algorithms, through increasingly refined machine learning techniques, truly learn to evoke what appear to be fundamentally human emotional responses to music? Will the capacity to create something new, distinctive, and creatively compelling cease to be the preserve of human beings alone? And might the continued technologisation and automation of music also open up new possibilities for the field?

The scholarship programme is designed to enable practitioners working within the professional experimental music scene to engage, over a sustained period, with both the opportunities and the risks associated with AI-based composition. Within the framework of the proposed project, the potential of AI technologies and programmes as tools for artistic inspiration, and for the creation of previously unheard sonic worlds, will be explored. The programme is intended for music practitioners who take a critical stance towards the largely



unregulated proliferation of “corporate AI”, and who seek to articulate individual artistic positions through the development of creative alternatives.

The scholarship programme recognises outstanding artistic strategies that open up new approaches to the creative use of AI in music, while at the same time reflecting on the far-reaching societal implications of this technology. Funding is awarded to innovative projects that demonstrate how music practitioners can engage creatively with AI systems within an emerging hybrid landscape of human–machine interaction, while also interrogating the limits of such collaboration and the extent to which the distinctiveness of human creativity may endure in the future.

- ▶ There is no legal entitlement to funding.

2. Subject of funding / of the scholarship

Funding is provided for artistic and musical research, composition, and performance situated within the interplay between human-created and machine-generated music. Interdisciplinary approaches that combine AI-based composition with other art forms are likewise eligible for support.

- ▶ Particular consideration is given to collaborative approaches. The scholarship may, for example, include a self-directed artistic residency phase in music studios (or in other spaces or institutions appropriate to the research context); in addition, collaboration with AI specialists – whether researchers or programmers – as well as with musicians and other artists, is strongly encouraged.

3. Grant recipients / scholarship recipients

The scholarship programme is aimed at professional freelance music practitioners working in the field of contemporary music, as defined by the statutes and funding guidelines of the Musikfonds. It is directed in particular at established artists who have already developed an independent artistic profile.

Applicants must also satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

- Primary residence in Germany since no later than 1 January 2025
- Several years of professional experience as a musician and/or composer (with verifiable international concert activity or performances at international festivals)



- Experience in the field of technology, new media or in the artistic application of AI systems (demonstrable in the applicant's catalogue of works); affiliation with the field of computer music/music informatics is not required
- The scholarship programme is aimed at freelance musicians/composers. Applicants holding a permanent position exceeding 50% employment are excluded from funding

The scholarship programme is open to all music practitioners who meet the application requirements; applications from practitioners with disabilities and/or from migrant backgrounds are expressly welcomed. The programme also addresses music practitioners working in the DIY sector without formal academic training. As a general rule, students are not eligible to apply.

4. Type and scope of the grant / scholarship

With STIP-6, the Musikfonds is launching a time-limited scholarship programme on the topic of artificial intelligence in 2027. The scholarships are awarded for a period of twelve months and amount to €30,000 in total, payable in twelve monthly instalments.

The scholarships are awarded for the period January 2027 to December 2027.

At the conclusion of the scholarship period, a report must be submitted outlining the development process and the extent to which the artistic objectives have been realised. Image and audio material produced in the course of the project must be included. In addition, a brief statement suitable for publication is required for documentation purposes.

5. Application procedure

5.1 Applications must be submitted exclusively online **between 1 June 2026 and 30 June 2026** (18:00 CET).

5.2 The following documents are required for the application:

- Description of the compositional project to be developed within the framework of the scholarship
- Description of the AI systems to be used
- Where applicable, description of the planned collaboration (see section 2)
- Recent music samples making use of new technologies, new media and/or AI systems
- Tabular CV, consisting of:
 - Information on the applicant
 - Information on education and artistic career (including prizes, awards, etc.)



- List of particularly important concerts/performances/productions in the years 2022 to 2025/2026
- Discography: selection of the most important releases
- Proof of membership in the Künstlersozialkasse (KSK) or in another professional or trade association (e.g. GEMA, GVL, etc.); if no membership exists, a justification must be provided
- Proof of primary residence (copy of identity card / registration certificate (*Meldebescheinigung*) / passport / residence permit)

▶ The Musikfonds awards the scholarships on the basis of decisions taken by an independent, six-member expert jury and within the limits of the available budget.

Further information on the scholarship programme can be found at the following link:
[Funding programmes | Musikfonds e.V.](#)

6. Period of validity

- Public announcement of the programme: 28 April 2026
- Application deadline: 30 June 2026
- Planned funding period: January 2027 – December 2027