Information for fellows from science and industry
in the funding programme entitled 'Konrad Zuse Schools of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence 2022–2027. An initiative for German higher education institutions, research institutions and companies.'

Background:

The establishment of probably three 'Konrad Zuse Schools of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence' involves bringing together academically proven researchers who are interested in innovative teaching and are drawn from several higher education institutions and non-university research institutions. They will also include representatives from commercial research and development departments (fellows). The Schools are intended to provide German and international AI talents with excellent, research-based training at master's and doctoral level.

The choice of name reminds us of Konrad Zuse, the engineer behind the first freely programmable calculating machine based on a binary number system and the computer development that this initiated. Pioneering and inventive spirit should also characterise the AI talents who will benefit from the excellent training, research and experimentation opportunities offered at the future AI Schools in Germany.

The professional excellence and reputation of the fellows from academia and commerce, their role as mentors for early career researchers and a comprehensive range of support services with cross-locational networking will make the AI Schools very attractive and constitute their unique selling points.

Fellows' tasks:

- The fellows are to define strategically significant transdisciplinary topics or innovative fields of application and methods relating to AI as well as the implied structural change;
- they are therefore to offer a transdisciplinary curriculum involving research-based and innovative teaching from the start of a master's degree to the completion of a doctorate, or are to assist in developing such a curriculum that could also be aligned with the BMBF's 'AI Campus'[1] initiative;
- they act as advisors for Master theses and dissertations;
- they offer (scientific) internship and, if appropriate, other formats to foster professional training in practice;
- they are to identify extraordinary talents for a master's degree and steps for AI innovations that build thereon;
- they are to create a framework for intense, transdisciplinary collaboration via innovative, digitally-supported teaching/learning formats and are to integrate mentors from the business world into this;
- they are to align these activities with especially promising solutions for business and academia;
- they are to ensure the provision of a cross-locational support service that ranges from summer schools and joint teaching modules to cross-locational project work, the establishment of commercial contacts and visits to companies, research institutions and relevant trade fairs, and ensure that this contributes to networking between the Schools, the students and the researchers.

[1] See https://ki-campus.org/?locale=en