Overview

Objective
The primary aim of this programme is to promote research projects within the context of doctoral programmes.

Who can apply?
Excellently-qualified doctoral candidates and young academics and scientists (except postdocs) who have completed a Master’s degree or Diplom, or in exceptional cases a Bachelor’s degree at the latest by the time they begin their grant-supported research.

What can be funded?
A research project or course of continuing scientific education at a state or state-recognised institution of higher education in Germany or a non-university research institute, which is being carried out in coordination with an academic adviser in Germany.

Duration of the funding
- 7 months to a maximum of 12 months; the length of the grant is decided by a selection committee and depends on the project in question and the applicant’s work schedule.
- The grant is non-renewable.

Value
- Depending on academic level, monthly payments of
  euros 861.- for graduates,
euros 1,200.- for doctoral candidates
- Payments towards health, accident and personal liability insurance cover
- [Travel allowance](https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/pdfs_nicht_barrierefrei/im-land-studieren-forschen-lehren/daad_reisekostenzuschuesse_stipendiaten.pdf), unless these expenses are covered by the home country or another source of funding
- One-off research allowance

Under certain circumstances, grant holders may receive the following additional benefits:
- monthly rent subsidy
- monthly allowance for accompanying members of family
- In the case of a disability or chronic illness: subsidy for additional costs which result from the disability or chronic illness and are not covered by other funding providers: [Further information](https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/mobility-with-a-disability/)

To enable grant holders to learn German in preparation for their stay in the country, DAAD offers the following services:
- Payment of course fees for an online language course after receipt of the Scholarship Award Letter
- if necessary: Language course (2, 4 or 6 months) before the start of the research stay in Germany; the DAAD decides whether to fund the grant holder’s participation and for how long depending on language skills and project. If a language course scholarship is granted and the working language at the host institute is German, participation is compulsory. Due to the pandemic, German courses may take place online.

Updated 2022-04-01

Scholarship Database - DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
• Allowance for a personally chosen German language course during the grant period
• Reimbursement of the fees for the TestDaF or DSH test which is either taken in the home country after receipt of the Scholarship Award Letter or in Germany before the end of the funding period

Selection
An independent selection committee consisting of specialist scientists reviews applications.

Central selection criteria are:

• a convincing and well-planned research or training project
• academic achievements

Furthermore, additional documents submitted that prove the applicant’s professional aptitude or provide information about extracurricular commitment will also be included in the evaluation.

In addition, in order to ensure equal opportunities, the selection committee may take into account special life circumstances, about which you can provide information in the application form. For further information on the selection procedure, please refer to the Important Scholarship Information / Section E.

Application requirements

What requirements must be met?

• As a rule, you should not have graduated any longer than six years before the application deadline. If you have already started your doctorate, it also applies that the start of the doctorate should not be longer than 3 years ago.
• Your application cannot be considered, if you have been resident in Germany for longer than 15 months at the application deadline.

Note:
For applicants from the fields of human medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry, other regulations are applicable. Please refer to www.daad.de/extrainfo.

Language skills

• The required language level depends on the applicant’s study plans and subject: In the arts, social sciences and in law, at least a good knowledge of German is usually expected. For the natural sciences and engineering, proof of good English language skills may also be accepted if English is spoken at the host institute.

Application Procedure

Application documents
Certificates, proof of credits, certifications and translations may be scanned in non-certified form and uploaded to the DAAD portal. The DAAD reserves the right to request certified copies of the documents.

Documents to be uploaded to the DAAD portal

• Online application form
• Full curriculum vitae in tabular form (max. 3 pages)
• List of publications (max. 10 pages), if applicable
• A proposal, prepared and formulated by yourself, as well as a description of previous research work (max. 10 pages in total). A proposal is an extensive and detailed description of the research project which has been discussed with the academic adviser. Please also read our Important Scholarship Information / section B, point 2.
• Schedule of planned research work
• Letter confirming supervision by an academic adviser in Germany, which refers to the applicant’s proposal and confirms that the host institute will provide a workplace
• University degree certificate indicating final grade(s): the certificate must be subsequently submitted before the grant-supported research begins if it is not available at the time of application.
• Other documents which support your application (example: certificates of employment, proof of practical training/internships or social commitment etc.)
• School leaving certificate with all individual grades (to be uploaded in the portal under “University entrance qualification”)
• German or English translations of documents submitted in the national language (to be uploaded with the corresponding documents)
• All university certificates on all annual examinations with individual grade(s), incl. explanation of grading system.
• Detailed description of study or research programme (Research Proposal)
• Language certificate
• Abstract from S1 and S2
• Academic transcript (S1 and S2), covering the complete duration of academic studies
• Evidence of current employment status

Current note: If a language certificate is part of the application documents, please note the following: In the absolute exception, if you are unable to submit a language certificate due to Corona (e.g. due to the closure of universities or language test centres and if no digital language test is possible either), please upload an appropriate justification with a self-assessment of your current language level according to the CEFR [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/plan-your-studies/cefr/] instead of the missing document (tips for self-assessment of your language skills can be found here, under section A, point 8 [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/]).

In these cases, the absence of a language certificate does not lead to a formal rejection of your scholarship application by the DAAD. However, submitted language certificates are included in the assessment. If you acquire language certificates after the application deadline, please submit them later.
Please note that you will still need proof of language proficiency in order to apply for a place at a German higher education institution and thus to be able to take up the scholarship.

To be submitted by post
One recent reference from a university teacher which provides information about your qualifications (hand-signed, no digital or scanned signature). Please regard the instructions given on the tab "Submitting an application".

You are also required to send 1 copy of the “Application summary” (PDF file), which is generated in the DAAD portal after the online application procedure has been completed, by post to the application address.

The application procedure occurs online through the DAAD portal. You are also required to send 1 copy of the “Application summary” (PDF file), which is generated in the DAAD portal after the online application procedure has been completed, by post to the application address.
Please note that the access to the application portal only appears while the current application period is running. After the application deadline has expired, the portal for this programme is not available until the next application period.
The access to the DAAD portal generally opens about 6 weeks before the application deadline at the latest.

To apply, please select the call for applications for this programme in the scholarship database (www.funding-guide.de). From here, you can enter the portal by clicking the tab "Submitting an application".

Application deadline
Application deadlines are updated at least once a year. In most cases, they are in the same period as the previous year. You can find the current dates here:

October 20th each year
Please also take note of our important scholarship information. The application documents remain with the DAAD. Your personal data is saved by the DAAD in accordance with the Federal Data Protection Act and with the EU Data Protection Regulation insofar as this data is needed to process the application.

Contact and Consulting

Information and advisory centres

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More detailed information

- DAAD website section "PhD studies and research" [https://www.daad.de/deutschland/promotion/de/]
- Website "Research in Germany" [https://www.research-in-germany.org/en.html]
- Website "GERIT – German Research Institutions" [https://www.gerit.org/en/]
- DAAD website "Important information for DAAD scholarship applicants" [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/]

Please also take note of our important scholarship information [https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/].