



# German Egyptian Research Short-Term Scholarship Program (GERSS) • DAAD

## Overview

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### Objective

The scholarships offer young Egyptian scientists and academics the opportunity to travel to Germany. The scholarship shall enable advanced graduate students and young scientists to pursue part of their master's, doctoral or post-doctoral research in a specific research project at German universities, archives, libraries or research institutes.

### Who can apply?

The programme is aimed at Master's students, doctoral candidates and young postdocs following the plan and regulations of the Central Mission Department and Cultural Representation of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Egypt. Scholarships are not awarded for general-information gathering, visits or for the participation in scientific meetings.

### What can be funded?

This programme funds research visits to a research institute, a state or state-recognised private university in Germany.

### Duration of the funding

The scholarships are awarded for a period of 3-6 months. Scholarship periods are not extendable.

### Value

#### Monthly scholarship payment according to academic status:

- MSc scholarship holders will be granted an amount of Euro 850 (eight hundred and fifty Euros) per month
- Doctoral scholarship holders will be granted an amount of Euro 1200 (one thousand and two hundred Euros) per month
- Post-Doctoral scholarship holders will be granted an amount of Euro 2000 (two thousand Euros) per month
- GERSS scholarship does not include family allowances
- The DAAD will take out health-, personal liability and accident insurance for each scholarship holder
- A lump sum will be paid as travel allowance

### Selection

Selection will take place at the [DAAD Regional Office Cairo \[http://daad.eg\]](http://daad.eg).

The candidates will be selected in two rounds. First, a pre-selection is a paper-based procedure which will identify the group of applicants who will be invited for the second phase consisting of a personal interview with the GERSS independent selection committee. Pre- and final selection of the eligible candidates should be conducted according to, but not limited to the following criteria:

- Excellent Research proposal
- Scientific merits, including:
  - Benefit to Egypt
  - Quality of the proposal
  - Preparation and feasibility of the project
  - Quality of the acceptance letter
- Excellent study achievement
- Aptitude of the applicant academically
- Value of references and recommendation
- Linguistic ability

## Application requirements

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### What requirements must be met?

- Applicants must be affiliated to one of the Egyptian public Universities/research institutions following the plan and regulations of the MHESR.
- Applicants for a GERSS scholarship must be registered for Master or PhD degree or have already obtained the PhD degree.
- Age Limits:
  - Graduates: should not be older than 26 years by the day of announcing the call
  - Medicine / Dentistry Graduates: should not be older than 29 years by the day of announcing the call
  - PhD candidates: should not exceed 35 years by the day of announcing the call
  - Post doc candidates:
    - Lecturer: should not exceed 40 years old by the day of announcing the call
    - Assistant professor: should not exceed 50 years old by the day of announcing the call
    - Full professor: should not exceed 55 years old by the day of announcing the call
- Candidates should fulfill a complete 2 years of employment by the travel date, in case of final acceptance.
- Generally, candidates residing outside Egypt for a period longer than 6 months are not allowed to apply for the GERSS programme.
- Candidates who have been granted the GERLS scholarship may apply for GERSS – at least - one year after returning from Germany, provided that they have changed their academic status/ position.
- Applicants who have been rejected 3 times in the GERSS programme, are not entitled to reapply
- Applicants submitting dual applications in MHESR or DAAD programmes are obliged to inform the DAAD Regional Office Cairo in writing
- Candidates who received a DAAD/MHESR funded scholarship at a certain academic stage are not allowed to apply for GERSS, unless they change their academic status
- Candidates from the field of medicine / dentistry can only apply for GERSS, if they intend to visit Germany for research purposes with no direct contact with patients
- Applicants, whose research require transferring samples to Germany; have to pay attention to the Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) and the legal procedures to be followed accordingly.

### Language skills

All applicants must submit a proof of English language skills/abilities. The proof should be either IELTS (band 6.0) certificate or equivalent TOEFL certificates. Research projects submitted in German language in the fields of German studies, Islamic studies and Archaeology are exempted.

Please note: To receive the scholarship, the requirements of the German host institution (e.g. language skills) have to be met as well.

## Application Procedure

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The application is only valid, when all required documents are uploaded on the DAAD portal and submitted as one hard copy to the Regional Office Cairo. Please note that the access to the DAAD portal only appears during the application period.

### Application documents

An extensive description of application documents and samples of all forms are available from 15th October 2019.

#### Application documents:

A complete application consists of the following documents (14 items) that must be uploaded on the DAAD Portal:

1. The online application form which is available on the DAAD Portal which can be only accessed through the following link [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de) [[www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)] (When you enter your desired travel date in the online application, please make sure that your first travel day either starts on the 1st day of the month or on the 15th day of the month)
2. A research proposal including the reference list. Please refer to the document “[Research Proposal](https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerss-research_proposal.docx)” [[https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerss-research\\_proposal.docx](https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerss-research_proposal.docx)], which contains questions to be answered concerning your proposal and insert the reference list on the last page
3. A detailed CV
4. Complete list of publications, if available
5. Acceptance letter from a German host professor showing that the research project under preparation is feasible and can be conducted in Germany under his supervision. The acceptance letter should state the title, the time frame and the objectives of the project. The acceptance letter should not be older than six months at the time of application
6. Copies of the B.A. or B.Sc. certificate and the M.A. or M.Sc. and PhD certificate, if applicable
7. Transcripts for all the required certificates in English
8. All applicants have to submit proof of English language skills/abilities. The proof should be either IELTS (band 6.0) certificate or or equivalent TOEFL certificates. Sufficient proof of English skills is an eligibility criterion. Research projects submitted in German language in the fields of German studies, Islamic studies and Archaeology are exempted
9. Endorsement letter from the applicant’s home institution. The endorsement letter has to be stamped and signed by the Head of the Institution, Dean of the Faculty or President of the University (Please use the template which is available [here](https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerss-endorsement_letter.docx) [[https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerss-endorsement\\_letter.docx](https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerss-endorsement_letter.docx)], print it and fill it out.)
10. A detailed official statement of employment issued from the applicant’s institution/university in Arabic language. The statement should indicate that the applicant is affiliated to this institution/university at the time of application under the current position and should reflect a complete history of employment  
Please note: The endorsement letter as well as the statement of employment must be issued from the same home institution and should not be older than 6 months at the time of application.
11. The form “[General Required Information](https://www.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerssgeneral_required_information.pdf)” [[https://www.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerssgeneral\\_required\\_information.pdf](https://www.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerssgeneral_required_information.pdf)]  
Please note: For technical reasons, please convert this file to a normal Pdf document/scan it to be able to upload it on the DAAD portal. Meanwhile, we are kindly asking you to send the file in its original formatting to the GERSS account: [gerss@daadcairo.org](mailto:gerss@daadcairo.org) [<mailto:gerss@daadcairo.org>]
12. Proof of pre-master, master’s or PhD registration. (not applicable for PhD holders)
13. A copy of your passport
14. Confirmation of Acknowledgment stating the applicant’s awareness that the submitted research project will undergo a plagiarism check of during the pre- and final selection phase with the help of a software defined by DAAD Cairo office Regional Office Cairo as well as the full commitment to the language course and intercultural training as a part of the scholarship awarded. The declaration template is available [here](https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerss-declaration_of_consent.docx) [[https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerss-declaration\\_of\\_consent.docx](https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/gerss-declaration_of_consent.docx)]

#### Please note

The following document has to be sent in sealed envelopes to the DAAD Regional Office Cairo:

15. One original reference s from a university professor at the applicant's home university; it should refer to the candidate's academic achievements and the quality of the proposed research or study plan. Please use the template "Request for letter of recommendation" available on the DAAD Portal after registration

## Application deadline

15.10.2019 – 30.11.2019

## Application location

DAAD Portal and [Regional Office Cairo \[http://cairo.daad.de/en/office/aboutus/findus\]](http://cairo.daad.de/en/office/aboutus/findus) (1 hard copy by post)

Candidates have to apply online through the DAAD portal. In addition, 1 hard copy of the application summary and the original recommendation letter have to be sent to the DAAD Regional Office Cairo via post or handed over in person (from 10:00 am till 12:00 pm) latest by the deadline.

## Please note

Reapplication rule

- Former GERSS/ MHESR scholarship holders may reapply for the GERSS programme, however these candidates can only be supported once at every stage of their research career (as Bachelor's, Master's, PhD holders)
- GERSS candidates, who have been accepted last call but could not make use of the scholarship due to justifiable reasons or accepted on the reserve list due to budget limitations will be exempted from the pre-selection procedure and will be automatically invited to the interview of the call following the year of their application. The re-application process applies only, if the scholar is applying with the same proposal and same acceptance letter with a recent date. Normal application procedure is, however, mandatory for these candidates and the eligibility criteria of the call must be met.

Timeline of the programme:

- Call for application: 15. October 2019
- Deadline: 30. November 2019
- Eligibility Check: December 2019
- Pre-selection results: Mid of February 2020
- Final selections: Mid of March 2020
- Final selections results: Mid of April 2020
- Info session: May 2020
- Language and cultural preparation course: May/June 2020
- First possible travel date: 1. October 2020
- Last possible travel date: December 2020

## Preparation courses in Egypt:

Selected candidates must participate in German language and cultural preparation courses which will be offered in cooperation with the Goethe Institute in Egypt; therefore, a leave of absence has to be taken from work during this period. The duration of the preparation courses is almost 3 weeks.

## Please note:

- If substantial changes to the originally submitted and finally accepted proposal are necessary (after consultation and approval from the German host professor), a new proposal should be submitted and will undergo new evaluation process in which the independent selection committee preserves the right to terminate the scholarship, if needed. In this case the Egyptian Cultural Bureau in Germany has to be notified and the home institution should endorse such changes

- Once the date and time of the final interview are fixed, no change is possible. Candidates who don't show up to the final interview will

be considered as withdrawals

- Candidates awarded the GERSS scholarship have to submit a report about their research stay within a period of 2 months after returning to Egypt
- Host professors in Germany will be asked to fill in a final questionnaire on the performance of the GERSS scholars during their stay in Germany
- Scholarship holders returning to Egypt before completing the grant period may be asked to refund the monthly stipend
- GERSS scholarship holders and applicants whose spouses have been granted a DAAD or MHESR scholarship should inform the DAAD accordingly
- Former GERSS scholarship holders targeting a PhD title are encouraged to apply for the GERLS programme after completing the GERSS scholarship and returning back to Egypt, provided that they fulfill the requirements of the GERLS respective call. For more information about GERLS programme, please refer to the scholarship database ([www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de) [<http://www.funding-guide.de>])
- Priority will be given to younger scientists
- The DAAD is not in the position to inform the applicants about the reasons of the committee's decision
- The award of scholarships is subject to the availability of funds
- If you have any technical inquiries about your application on the DAAD portal, please contact the hotline: (+49) 228/ 882 8888, [portal@daad.de](mailto:portal@daad.de) [<mailto:portal@daad.de>]
- Among the reasons for disqualifying an application are the following:
  - a) Wrong history information and misleading information about previous applications
  - b) Incomplete application
  - c) Applications received after the deadlines and incomplete applications will not be considered
  - d) Submitting two different proposals in the same call
  - e) Creating two different accounts on the DAAD portal in the same call
  - f) Handmade changes and corrections in the acceptance letter
  - g) Plagiarism (e.g. copied data from the internet without stating the references). Please refer to the guide [Rules of Good Academic Practice](https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/rules_of_good_academic_practice.pdf) [[https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/rules\\_of\\_good\\_academic\\_practice.pdf](https://www2.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/rules_of_good_academic_practice.pdf)]. Should you not be fully acquainted of the idea of plagiarism, we recommend applying for the DAAD Kairo Akademie module „Ethics in Science“. Please refer to the following link: <http://dka.daadcairo.org/> [<http://dka.daadcairo.org/>] to learn more about the application dates
  - h) Fraudulent documents
  - i) Residing outside Egypt for more than six months at the time of application
  - j) Dual nationality of the applicant

#### **Please note**

- Your application is only valid if you submit all the required documents to the DAAD portal on time. The DAAD portal closes at 24.00 hrs. Central European Time (CET) on the last application day.
- For submitting references by post, the postmark date serves as proof that they have been dispatched on time. (If further documents are to be submitted by post, please send them as soon as possible.)
- Incomplete applications cannot be considered. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their applications are complete.
- The application documents remain with the DAAD. Data relating to applicants 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**

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### **Information and advisory centres**

Ms. Heba Ahmed

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[DAAD Regional Office Cairo \[https://www.daad.eg/en/\]](https://www.daad.eg/en/)

Kindly note that the information sessions and counseling hours will be announced on the website of the DAAD Regional Office Cairo. Please avoid last minute submission of application, as the GERSS team is not operating on weekends.

**Copy this link:** [daad.de/go/en/stipa50015317](https://daad.de/go/en/stipa50015317)