

## Research Grants - Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees / Cotutelle • DAAD

### Overview

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#### Objective

The aim of this programme is the funding of bi-national doctoral projects at the home university and at a university in Germany.

The programme offers two options:

**Option a) Doctorate with bi-national supervision:** The doctoral project is supervised both by a university teacher at the home university and an academic adviser at the host institute in Germany (so-called "sandwich model"). The project must be coordinated with both supervisors. Based on this flexible, multi-phase funding system, doctoral candidates start their doctoral degree in their home country but subsequently spend research periods in Germany. The doctorate is completed in the home country with participation of the German academic adviser; the doctoral degree is awarded by the home university.

**Option b) Doctorate following the "Cotutelle" procedure:** Funding of bi-national doctoral degrees at the home university and at a university in Germany according to the so-called "Cotutelle" procedure. The prerequisite is an individual cooperation contract between the participating universities about the doctoral project which is to be supervised. After successful completion of the doctorate, the German university and the foreign partner university award a doctoral degree together.

#### Who can apply?

Depending on the nature of the project:

- Bi-national supervision following the "sandwich model": Applicants who have completed a Master's degree or Diplom (in exceptional cases a Bachelor's degree) at the latest at the beginning of their scholarship.
- "Cotutelle" procedure: Applicants who have admission to a doctoral programme at the latest at the beginning of their scholarship.

#### What can be funded?

Option a) Doctorate with bi-national supervision following the "sandwich model": Research stays at a state or state-recognised institution of higher education or a non-university research institute in Germany as part of a doctoral programme in the home country.

Option b) Doctorate following the "Cotutelle" procedure: Research stays at a state or state-recognised institution of higher education for the preparation of a doctoral thesis, which is supervised and carried out bi-nationally on the basis of an individually concluded cooperation contract.

#### Duration of the funding

- Total maximum 2 years

For both options the following applies:

- The grant may also be used within the framework of several shorter stays. The length of the grant is decided by a selection committee and depends on the project in question and the applicant's work schedule
- Applicants should outline how they plan to divide their time between Germany and the home university and possibly specify plans to visit a third country (e.g. for the purpose of collecting material) in a work and time schedule in their application.

- During stays at their home university, the grant is interrupted.
- Option a) Bi-national supervision following the “sandwich model”: Grants are initially awarded for up to 12 months. Extensions depend on whether the selection committee considers the previous award period to have been successfully completed.
- Option b) Doctorate following the “Cotutelle” procedure: Grants are initially awarded for up to 18 months; there is the possibility for a one-off study completion grant for up to 6 months.

## Value

- Monthly payments for doctoral candidates during the stay in Germany: 1,200 euros.
- Payments towards health, accident and personal liability insurance cover
- Travel allowance, unless these expenses are covered by the home country or another source of funding
- One-off research allowance
- Travel and accommodation expenses according to the German Federal Travel Expenses Law for supervising university teachers for one trip of up to 10 days
  - undertaken by the foreign university teacher to Germany to monitor progress
  - undertaken by the German university teacher to the home university of the scholarship holder to take part in final examinations.
 The nature of the trips should be specified in the work and time schedule submitted with the application.

Under certain circumstances, grant holders completing an uninterrupted stay of over 6 months in Germany may receive the following additional benefits:

- monthly rent subsidy
- monthly allowance for accompanying members of family

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 the online language course "Deutsch-Uni Online (DUO)" ([www.deutsch-uni.com](http://www.deutsch-uni.com)) for six months after receipt of the Scholarship Award Letter
- if necessary: Language course (2, 4 or 6 months) before the start of the research stay; 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.
- Allowance for a personally chosen German language course during the grant period
- Reimbursement of the fees for the TestDaF test which has either been taken in the home country after receipt of the Scholarship Award Letter or in Germany before the end of the funding period
- As an alternative to the TestDaF for scholarship holders who have taken a language course beforehand: the fee for a DSH examination taken during the scholarship period may be reimbursed.

## Selection

An independent selection committee consisting of specialist scientists reviews applications.

### Selection criteria:

**Academic Qualification** (documented by: university degree certificates, references, list of publications)

- Academic achievements and duration of studies
- If applicable, academic achievements after graduation (e.g. publications, lectures, conference contributions)

**Quality of the research project** (documented by: presentation of research project, time plan, references, proof of contacts, if applicable, language certificates):

- Quality of research project presentation and preliminary work
- Originality, topicality and relevance of project
- Reasons for choosing Germany and host institution

- Feasibility and consistency of work schedule and time plan (analysis and evaluation steps, if applicable, language skills)
- Integration of the project into the overall doctoral project (in terms of content/time), if relevant
- Importance of the research project and stay in Germany for academic and professional plans

**Additional criteria** (documented by: curriculum vitae, if applicable, certificates):

- Additional knowledge and skills (e.g. through professional or voluntary activities, further training)
- Involvement in academic self-governance, higher education policy issues
- Political, social, cultural, family (parental leave or care periods, etc.), social commitment

For further information on the selection procedure, please refer to the [Important Scholarship Information](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/) [<https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/>] / Section E.

## Application requirements

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### What requirements must be met?

- No more than six years should pass between the final examinations and the application deadline. Doctoral candidates should not have started their doctoral degree any longer than three years previously.
- Applicants who have been resident in Germany for longer than 15 months at the application deadline cannot be considered.

Note:

For applicants from the fields of human medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry, other regulations are applicable. Please refer to the leaflet "Additional information on DAAD Research Grants for applicants from medical fields" ([www.daad.de/extrainfo](http://www.daad.de/extrainfo)) [<http://www.daad.de/extrainfo>].]

## Application Procedure

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The application procedure occurs online through the DAAD portal.

##PAPIEREXEMPLAR##

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.

### 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
- Extensive and detailed description of the research proposal which has been agreed upon with both academic advisers – in the home country and in Germany – and a description of previous research work (max. 10 pages)
- Schedule of planned research work and visits from academic adviser
- Proof of permission to take a doctoral degree at the home university, if applicable
- University degree certificate indicating final grade(s); if it is not yet available at the time of application, it must be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins
- Option a) 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

- Option b) Individual cooperation contract between the home university and the cooperating German University (Cotutelle contract). If this is not yet available at the time of application, it must be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins; in this case, a confirmation of supervision by the academic contact person in Germany, which refers to the applicant's project, must be uploaded to the portal.
- Other documents which support your application (example: certificates of employment, proof of practical training/internships, etc.)

##LBHUNTERLAGEN##

**Current note:** If a language certificate is one of the application documents listed here and you are unable to submit a language certificate due to Corona (e.g. due to the closure of universities or language test centers), please upload an appropriate justification with a self-assessment of your current language level according to the [CEFR \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/plan-your-studies/cefr/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/plan-your-studies/cefr/) instead of the missing document. If you still acquire a language certificate after the application deadline, please submit it. You can find tips for the self-assessment of your language skills [here, see section A point 8 \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/).

#### 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".

**Current note:** Due to the current pandemic situation, applications can be submitted on application dates that lie in 2020 without application reference.

##PAPIEREXEMPLAR##

#### Please note

- Your application is only valid if you submit all the required documents to the DAAD portal on time.
- 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.)
- The DAAD portal closes at 24.00 hrs. (CET or CEST) on the last application day.
- 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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### More detailed information

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

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