

Research Grants – Doctoral Programmes in Germany • DAAD

Overview

Objective

The aim of this grant programme is to support doctoral projects in Germany.

Who can apply?

Excellently-qualified young academics and scientists 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?

Doctoral programmes at a state or state-recognised institution of higher education or a non-university research institute in Germany:

- individual projects under the supervision of a university teacher or academic adviser
or
- participation in a structured doctoral study programme

Duration of the funding

- a maximum of four years; the length of the grant is decided by a selection committee and depends on the project in question and the applicant's work schedule.
- Grants are initially awarded for a maximum of one year. Extensions depend on whether the selection committee considers the previous award period to have been successfully completed.
- For doctoral projects in Germany that require several years of research, research phases outside Germany can be supported if these are critical for the successful completion of the doctoral degree. Planned stays must be specified in the application in the work and time schedule and should not exceed a quarter of the anticipated total funding period.

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 \[https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/pdfs_nicht_barrierefrei/im-ausland-studieren-forschen-lehren/daad_reisekostenzuschuesse_stipendiaten.pdf\]](https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/pdfs_nicht_barrierefrei/im-ausland-studieren-forschen-lehren/daad_reisekostenzuschuesse_stipendiaten.pdf)
- One-off research allowance

Under certain circumstances, grant holders may receive the following additional benefits:

- monthly rent subsidy
- monthly allowance for accompanying family members

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- 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 \[https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/mobility-with-a-disability/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/mobility-with-a-disability/)

To enable grant holders to improve their language skills in preparation for their stay in Germany, 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.**
- Allowance for a personally chosen German language course during the grant period
- Reimbursement of the fees for the TestDaF or DSH 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

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 \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/) / Section E.

Application requirements

What requirements must be met?

- As a rule, applicants should not have graduated any longer than six years before the application deadline. If you are already working on a doctoral degree, it also applies that the start of the doctorate should not be longer than three years ago. Please also read our [Important Scholarship Information / Section A, point 2 \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/).
- 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 \[http://www.daad.de/extrainfo\]](http://www.daad.de/extrainfo).

- A Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science degree of 2nd class upper division level and a Master of Arts/Master of Science degree are required.
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- For francophone countries: A Licence or Maitrise degree of "assez bien" level and a DEA/DESS degree or a Master corresponding to the LMD system are required.

Language skills

- Good German language skills - especially for students taking arts subjects - are usually a requirement for study and research projects in Germany. Exceptions are possible if the project is carried out in English.
- A prior German language course of 4 to 6 months is generally included in the scholarship

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 \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/).

In the case of individual projects supervised by a university teacher (academic adviser)

- Letter confirming supervision by a university teacher in Germany (academic adviser)
- Schedule of planned research work

In the case of planned participation in a structured doctoral study programme:

- Letter of admission to a study programme; this can be subsequently submitted before the grant-supported research begins if it is not available at the time of application.
- Proof of existing contacts to the coordinator of the doctoral programme in the form of copies of correspondence

Also for all applicants:

- 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 and voluntary commitment etc.)
- All university certificates on all annual examinations with individual grade(s), incl. explanation of grading system.
- German or English translations of documents submitted in the national language (to be uploaded with the corresponding documents)
- Proof of admission to a doctoral programme at the home university insofar as the applicant intends to take a doctoral degree there

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 \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/plan-your-studies/cefr/\]](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 \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](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".

Current information on application deadlines until 31.12.2021: Due to the current pandemic situation, applications can be submitted without an application reference. The absence of a reference does not lead to a formal rejection of your application. Submitted references are included in the assessment. We therefore recommend, if possible due to the pandemic, submitting references with the 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.

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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:

29.10.2021

Application location

Regional Office Nairobi

German Academic Exchange Service, Regional Office for Africa

Madison Insurance House, 3rd floor, Upper Hill Close, P.O. Box 14050

00800 Nairobi

Kenya

Tel.: +254 (733)/92 99 29

E-Mail.: info.nairobi@daad.de [<mailto:info.nairobi@daad.de>]

WWW.: <https://www.daad.or.ke> [<https://www.daad.or.ke>]

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.)

[listThe DAAD portal closes at 24.00 hrs. (CET or CEST) on the last application day.]

- Incomplete applications cannot be considered. You are responsible for ensuring that your applications are complete.
- 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

German Academic Exchange Service, Regional Office for Africa
Madison Insurance House, 3rd floor, Upper Hill Close, P.O. Box 14050
00800 Nairobi
Kenya
Tel.: +254 (733)/92 99 29
E-Mail.: info.nairobi@daad.de [<mailto:info.nairobi@daad.de>]
WWW.: <https://www.daad.or.ke> [<https://www.daad.or.ke>]

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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