

Research Grants for Doctoral Candidates and Young Academics and Scientists

Objective

- ≡ Research grants provide young foreign academics and scientists with an opportunity to carry out a research project or a course of continuing education and training at a German state (public) or state-recognised higher education institution or non-university research institute. The prime goal is the funding of the doctoral dissertation. Specifically, this scholarship serves the following purposes:
- ≡ research projects at a German higher education institution for the purpose of gaining a doctorate in the home country (this includes the doctoral programmes offered for developing and transformation countries under the "DAAD Sandwich Model" - see Information Leaflet, which is also available on the Internet www.daad.de/extrainfo);
- ≡ research projects at a German university for the purpose of gaining a doctorate in Germany; for projects of these kinds, we would particularly refer to the structured doctoral study programmes, such as Research Training Groups or Doctoral Research Groups, International Postgraduate Programmes, Graduate Schools, Max Planck Research Schools, etc. Please go to the following website for further information: www.daad.de/ipp;
- ≡ research projects or continuing education and training, but without aiming for a formal degree/qualification.

Postdocs can also refer to the funding opportunities offered by the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation.

Duration

- ≡ The length of the grant is set by the grant committee at the selection session. Depending on the project in question and on the applicant's work schedule, grants can be paid generally for between one and ten months, in the case of full doctoral programmes in Germany for up to three years, and in exceptions for up to a maximum of four years.
- ≡ Support can only be provided for the completion of a full doctoral programme in Germany when special support policy reasons exist. Such reasons include, for example, the lack of comparable research or academic supervision opportunities in the home country or when the doctoral topic requires several years of research in Germany.
- ≡ Support for full doctoral programmes in Germany is based on a programme length of three years; if foreign graduates first have to qualify for admission to a doctoral programme, then grants can be awarded for a period of four years. Even when support has been awarded for a full doctoral programme, that award will initially be limited to a maximum of one year. Extensions then depend on whether or not the evaluation finds the previous award period to have been successfully completed.

Value

- ≡ Depending on the award holder's academic level, the DAAD will pay a monthly award of 750 euros (graduates holding a first degree) or 1,000 euros (doctoral candidates). As a rule, the scholarship additionally includes certain payments towards health insurance cover in Germany. Furthermore, the DAAD generally will pay an appropriate flat-rate travel allowance, unless these costs are covered by the home country or by another funding source.
- ≡ Award holders completing a stay of more than six months receive a study and research allowance plus, where appropriate, a rent subsidy and family allowance. Funding for attendance of a language course is decided on a case-by-case basis (cf. Requirements).
- ≡ When award holders take doctoral programmes run under the "DAAD Sandwich Model", then the award may include the travel expenses of an academic supervisor - as long as this was already applied for in the first application.

Requirements

- ≡ Applications for DAAD research grants are open to excellently-qualified university graduates who hold a Diplom or Master's degree at the time they commence the grant-supported research and, in exceptional cases, graduates holding a Bachelor's degree or already holding a doctorate/PhD (postdocs).

- ≡ It is required that doctoral candidates wishing to take a doctorate/PhD in their home country will already have been admitted to an appropriate course at their home university.
- ≡ The application papers must generally include written confirmation of academic supervision by a professor in Germany and expressly refer to the applicant's project, thereby confirming that the host institute will provide a workplace. If the applicant is planning to complete a doctorate at the German host university, the letter of confirmation must come from the academic supervisor (Doktorvater/Doktormutter) for the applicant's doctoral programme/thesis.
- ≡ Applicants who intend to gain their doctorate within the scope of a structured doctoral study programme are required to present a letter of admission from their study programme or at least proof that they are being considered for admission.
- ≡ Besides previous study achievements, the most important selection criterion is a convincing and well-planned research or continuing education and training project to be completed during the stay in Germany and which has been coordinated and agreed with an academic supervisor at the chosen German host institute.
- ≡ German language skills are generally required, although the required level also depends on the applicant's project and topic, as well as on the available opportunities for learning German in the applicant's home country. In the natural sciences and in engineering disciplines, in particular, and when English is spoken at the host institute, proof of good English language skills may also be accepted. The DAAD decides on a case-by-case basis whether the applicant can attend a German language course before beginning the research grant (free of charge for the award holder). This option is only available for research grants lasting more than six months. Besides, the internet-based language course "Deutsch-Uni Online (DUO)" is recommended to help improve the German language skills. For scholarship holders with funding to run for more than six months, the DAAD will pay the course fees for six months as from their receipt of the Scholarship Award Letter. Furthermore, scholarship holders with funding to run for more than six months can apply to the DAAD for a subsidy towards a personally chosen German course. Further information will be included with the Scholarship Award Letter. The country-specific information on the DAAD homepage will tell you which language skills are required from applicants from your home country.
- ≡ At the time of application, generally no more than six years should have passed since gaining the last degree; in the case of doctoral students, no more than three years should have passed since starting the doctoral process; and in the case of postdocs, no more than two years should have passed since gaining the doctorate. In the case of postdocs who are applying for a short stay (of up to six months), no more than four years should have passed since gaining the doctorate. Depending on the country of origin of applicants, for example, special conditions prevailing in the home country education system, etc., exceptions are possible. The country-specific information on the DAAD homepage will provide you with more detailed information.
- ≡ Applicants, who have been resident in Germany for longer than one year at the time of application, cannot be considered.
- ≡ Special note for medical students: The special leaflet "Additional information on DAAD-research-grants for applicants from medical fields" provides information on specific requirements (also available on the Internet www.daad.de/extrainfo).

Application papers

- ≡ Detailed information on what application papers need to be submitted can be found on the Application Form for "Research Grants and Study Scholarships" ("Antrag auf ein Forschungs-/Studienstipendium"), which can be obtained on the Internet (www.daad.de/en/form) or from the diplomatic and consular representations of the Federal Republic of Germany, from DAAD Lektors, from the DAAD regional offices or Information and Advice Centres, and from partner organisations.
- ≡ The DAAD will not consider incomplete applications.

Country-specific information, dates and deadlines, application address and advice

- ≡ The DAAD website www.daad.de/stipendien provides further specific information for applicants from your home country. This information includes the language skills which applicants from your country of origin must meet, as well as information on the exact deadlines for the submission of the application papers and on where applications should be sent.
- ≡ Applications must not be sent direct to DAAD head office in Bonn.
- ≡ The above-mentioned website will also provide the addresses of institutions which you can contact in your home country for further information and advice.