

Scholarships for Development-Related Postgraduate Courses

1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

- Postgraduate courses for young professionals from developing countries
- Internationally recognised master's and PhD degrees
- Duration: 12-24 months for a master's degree (depending on the institution) and 42 months for a PhD degree
- Study courses at German universities and universities for applied sciences
- Scholarships funded by the BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), but admission is also open to self-financing participants or students financed through government or other sources.
- Academic year 2025/2026

2. PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

The ideal scholarship holder:

- Is currently working for a public authority, a state, or a private company in a developing country and is involved in planning and executing directives and projects with emphasis on development policies.
- Holds a bachelor's degree (or a master's degree if applying for a PhD programme) in a related subject.
- Has completed their academic degree/-s with far above average results (upper third) and can prove at least two years of related professional experience after completing their first degree (bachelor's).
- Their academic degrees are no more than six years old.
- Is a national of a country listed on the OECD-DAC list (except Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia (including Kosovo), Turkey)

list of eligible countries

Language skills:

- **For courses in German:** At the time of application, a current German language certificate (not older than one year) must be submitted to prove a minimum of B1 level. The DAAD scholarship includes a preparatory German language course in Germany of up to six months. This course prepares the scholarship holders for the DSH 2 or TestDaF 4 language exams. Passing these exams is a formal requirement for enrolling in the courses in German.
Note: It is not possible to pass the required exams without prior knowledge of German, even with the preceding 6-month German course.
- **For courses in English:** Proof of adequate language skills, according to the regulations of the respective course.¹

¹ The universities are responsible for the information provided in this booklet about their respective programs.

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Proof of current and previous employment:

All applicants must provide evidence of at least two years of professional work experience and state their current employment situation. They must provide the following evidence:

- Certificate(s) of employment stating the exact position and period of employment
- A letter of reference from the employer(s), ideally guaranteeing re-employment after completion of the postgraduate course in Germany.

Letter of motivation:

Applicants must submit a letter of motivation explaining why they are interested in attending a particular postgraduate course with reference to their current employment. They further should describe their development-related motivation and how they intend to make full use of their scholarship and education by taking on social responsibility in their careers and for their home countries.

IMPORTANT: If applying for more than one postgraduate course (maximum of 3 courses), the applicant is only allowed to submit one letter of motivation describing their motivation for all selected study courses. This letter of motivation must include an order of priority of the courses chosen and an explanation of why the courses were chosen in that order of priority.



APPLICATION FORMALITIES:

DAAD application forms are available on the DAAD website (**see 3. “Required Documents”**). [Development-Related Postgraduate Courses \(EPOS\) - DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst](#)

Applications must be sent only to the respective course directly! Please refer to their respective websites for information on the application procedure, the application deadline, and the documents to be submitted. **Applications sent to the DAAD will not be forwarded to the respective course/university. They become property of the DAAD and will NOT be returned. The applicant has no right to claim for reimbursement.** Applications sent to the DAAD via e-mail or the portal to the DAAD **cannot** be considered during the selection process.

Applicants are asked to indicate whether they are able to finance their living costs and their studies in Germany themselves, or whether they require financial support from a DAAD scholarship to complete the postgraduate course. Qualified applicants who can self-finance have a good chance of being accepted onto a postgraduate course. Applicants who have been living in Germany for no more than 15 months at the time of the deadline for applications are also eligible to apply for a DAAD scholarship.

Applicants may apply for up to three courses.

If an applicant is applying for more than one course, they must **list the courses in order of priority** on the DAAD application forms (see 7. Choice of host university/institution in Germany) and **maintain this order of priority** on all according application forms!

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When applying for more than one postgraduate course (maximum 3 courses), **the applicant must submit one motivation letter explaining in detail why they are applying for these specific courses and why they chose that order of priority.** If these instructions are not followed, the application will not be considered and an already awarded scholarship can be withdrawn.

Please note: Scholarships cannot be awarded without the official DAAD application form. Many courses have their own forms, which must be submitted additionally (see course descriptions for details).

APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR DAAD SCHOLARSHIPS:

Please check the relevant deadlines for the individual universities in this brochure.

Admission:

The postgraduate programme and/or the university decide on admission after examining the application documents. Admission to the university is a prerequisite for receiving a DAAD scholarship. However, applicants do not need to apply for early or pre-admission to the university.

Please note that the selection process for all postgraduate courses listed in this booklet runs from the end of October to March.

3. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

DAAD application forms are available on the DAAD website:

[Development-Related Postgraduate Courses \(EPOS\) - DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst](#)

Required Documents for a DAAD scholarship application (in the following order):

- Completed and signed checklist
- DAAD application form “Application for a research/study scholarship”
- A curriculum vitae in reverse chronological order without any unexplained gaps (europass cv) including exact information about your studies and practical experience
- One letter of motivation with detailed reference to academic, professional, and personal reasons for applying to the programme.
- Letter of recommendation from your current employer. The letter must include an official letterhead, a signature, and an official stamp and must be of current date
- Certificate(s) of employment from the employer(s) showing at least two years of relevant work experience after the bachelor’s degree at the time of application. The certificate of employment from the current employer should, if possible, include a guarantee of re-employment after returning to the home country.
- Recent proof of language skills:
 - English – Proof of adequate language skills, according to the regulations of the respective courses.
 - German – Proof only required for study courses taught in German
- Copies of higher education degree certificates including a certified translation if the original is not in German or English.
- Copy of the complete transcript of records including an explanation of the grading system.

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Applicants from the People's Republic of China are asked to submit an APS certificate with their application documents. Note: Some courses may require additional documents. Please refer to the course descriptions on the following pages and on the respective websites for full details.

IMPORTANT: The complete applications must be submitted in English or German to be considered. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

4. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

- **Step 1:** The applicant sends their complete application(s) directly to the postgraduate course(s) they are interested in.
- **Step 2:** A selection committee suggests potential candidates to the DAAD for a scholarship.
- **Step 3:** The suggested candidates are contacted by the DAAD and asked to upload their complete application to the DAAD Portal.
- **Step 4:** The selection process is finalized, and the shortlisted candidates are notified accordingly.

IMPORTANT: Applicants must make sure that they have a copy of each document of their application ready, as these documents (as PDF files) must be uploaded to the DAAD Portal in case they are recommended for a DAAD scholarship!

5. PREPARATORY LANGUAGE COURSE

For most of the postgraduate courses (see course descriptions), a preparatory German language course of 2 to 6 months before the start of the study course is included in the DAAD scholarship.

Participation in the preparatory German language course is compulsory!