

PhD Scholarships and Research Grants

DAAD offers different PhD scholarship programmes and research grants that vary in duration, requirements and specification. The application deadlines differ from programme to programme. More information about the different programmes can be found on the www.funding-guide.de.

- **Research Grants- Doctoral Programmes in Germany** (*deadline is 1st September*)
- **Research Grants- Bi- nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees** (*deadline is 1st September*)
- **Research Grants- Short Term Grants** (*deadline is 1st September*)
- **Research Grants- One- Year Grants** (*deadline is 1st September*)
- **Bilateral Exchange of Academics** (*deadline is 1st September*)
- **Re-invitation Programme for Former Scholarship holders** (*deadline 1st September*)
- **Leibniz- DAAD Research Fellowships** (*deadline is 9th March*)
- **DLR/DAAD Research- Fellowship-Programme** (*application deadlines differ*)
- **Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience (P.R.I.M.E.)**
- **Sustainable Water Management: Study Scholarships and Research Grants - Doctorate in Germany** (*deadline 31st October*)

Note: we highly recommend that you check the chosen program before applying, as the deadline might change without prior notice.

If you wish to **obtain a DAAD scholarship**, you will have to either prove that you have gained admission to a structured doctoral program or at least that you applied at such a program OR you will have to hand in the letter of the supervisor confirming that a he/ she accepts you as his/her doctoral student.

How to find a placement for doctoral studies in Germany

This leaflet shall give you some advice for your plans to do your PhD in Germany (not the medical degrees: Dr. med." / "Dr. dent." / "Dr. vet."!).

However, make sure you also read the general information on doctoral studies in Germany carefully:
<http://www.research-in-germany.org/en/jobs-and-careers/info-for-phd-students.html>

Introduction:

In Germany there are generally two ways to gain a doctorate (PhD / Dr.) in Germany:

- 1) Recent years have increasingly seen **structured doctoral programs** (International Postgraduate Programs, Graduate Schools, Doctoral Colleges, Graduate Centers or Graduate Colleges) develop. These programs have been introduced in order to facilitate interdisciplinary research and to guide and assist doctoral candidates post by the help of a structured curriculum (see below: 1).
In order to enter a structured doctoral program, you should seek admission according to the individual requirements of the respective program. After successful completion, doctoral candidates will usually graduate with a PhD degree ("Dr.").
- 2) The more traditional – and still most common way – to gain a doctorate in Germany is the **individual PhD**. Postgraduates following this approach agree on their research topic with a supervising professor and then write a thesis or dissertation as a piece of independent research work (See below: 2).
In order to pursue this kind of doctoral studies you will not apply to a department or a university but will have to seek for a letter of supervision by a professor in Germany. Doctoral candidates conducting an individual PhD will usually graduate with a PhD degree ("Dr.").

1. Structured Doctoral Programs

If you are a potential PhD candidate you may first want to find out if you can do your research within the framework of a structured doctoral program. These programs are university graduate training programs established at a center of academic excellence in a specific field. This ensures that your course meets the highest academic standards. The students work on their thesis within the framework of a coherent and often interdisciplinary research program; they participate in an accompanying study program organized by the faculty members and to some extent by the students themselves.

All participants of such international programs have regular contact with the university teachers responsible for their program and are given the opportunity to engage in collaborative intensive research. Cross-faculty courses and colloquia offer forums for interdisciplinary dialogue. German and international doctoral candidates jointly attend courses from the accompanying curriculum. Teaching includes visiting lectures given by foreign academics and scientists. The doctoral thesis may be written in English; also oral examinations are held in English. More information on structured doctoral programs and a data base listing doctoral programs can be found at:

<http://www.research-in-germany.org/en/jobs-and-careers/info-for-phd-students/>

2. Individual PhD

If you intend to conduct an individual PhD, you will need to find a German professor who accepts you as his/her PhD student. While finding an academic supervisor in Germany can sometimes be tricky, there are several ways of identifying a potential partner. You will need to invest a little time, but your efforts are likely to be worthwhile. You may want to consider the following pieces of advice:

- Do you know any lecturers or colleagues within your field who are already in touch with German academics or who will attend an international conference soon? If so, ask them to help you establish contact. A brief introduction or a short letter of recommendation can help you facilitate communication.
- Visit the website www.daad.de/idp which is a database of international degree programs offered by German universities. Use this database to identify postgraduate courses closely related to your area of research. Then approach the program coordinators via email with a short research proposal and ask them whether they can suggest a potential PhD supervisor you could contact.
- In order to find university departments in your area of interest go to the website: www.hochschulkompass.de. In the section “Doctoral studies” you can find a search engine, where you can key in your area of research to obtain a list of the existing programs. You can then enter the websites of the universities and look for a lecturer or a professor who does research in an area close to yours.
- A comprehensive search of the German research landscape can also be conducted with an online database, called Research Explorer: http://www.research-explorer.de/research_explorer.en.html?
- If you feel you have exhausted your own possibilities, but you have still not found a suitable supervisor, please contact the DAAD Information Center Amman for any advice at info@daad-jordan.org

Open PhD-positions for both structured and individual PhDs can also be searched for within this database:
www.phdgermany.de

Tips on how to approach German Professors via email

While there are no hard and fast rules how to write a successful email, here is some advice you may find useful when first contacting a German professor:

- Make sure your email does not contain any grammatical or typing mistakes. This includes minor errors such as capital letters or punctuation. Keep in mind that you want to convince the German professor that you are capable of producing academic work of the highest standard!
- Avoid impersonal letters (“Dear Sir/Madam”). Research has shown that you are more likely to receive a reply if your mail is geared towards a specific person. Never ever send the same email to more than one person!
- Keep in mind that being informal and using casual phrases is mostly not appreciated in first contacts.
- Explain to the professor your reason for contacting him/her. The reason should be matching research areas (name them!) and not a general phrase like “I know you are a renowned professor”.
- Attach a concise description of the kind of research you would like to undertake (also see our leaflet: “How to write a research proposal” on our website in the Download section), yet also show that you are open to discuss your project.