



HILDE DOMIN PROGRAMME

Call for Scholarship Applications for Doctoral
Candidates 2021/22

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Hilde Domin Programme

Call for Scholarship Applications for Doctoral Candidates 2021/22

OVERVIEW

Programme objectives

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) administers the scholarship programme “Hilde Domin Programme” with funds from the Federal Foreign Office (AA). The programme serves to support students and doctoral candidates from across the globe, who are at risk of being formally or *de facto* denied educational or other rights in their country of origin, and to provide these students and doctoral candidates with an opportunity to begin or complete a study or research degree at a higher education institution in Germany. Students and doctoral candidates nominated and accepted under the programme will be enrolled in degree courses of any personal subject choice and according to individual qualifications and receive a scholarship sufficient to cover the necessary costs incurred in the course of their study resp. research stay.

The long-term goal of the scholarship programme is to enable students and doctoral candidates to complete their higher education studies resp. research project in a secure environment, in order to be able to contribute towards meaningful political, economic as well as social development in their countries of origin (respectively in Germany or third countries) upon completion of their studies in Germany. All beneficiaries of the scholarship programme will further be qualified in an accompanying interdisciplinary programme, in order to enhance the prospects of a free development of their personality and their contributions towards society.

Who can be nominated?

Doctoral candidates worldwide* resp. with a recognised refugee status and/or an entitlement to asylum who are at risk of being formally or *de facto* denied educational rights in their country of origin, due to their ethnic, sexual, gender or religious identity and/or their political or civic engagement. By definition of the DAAD, political, civic and similar engagement encompasses either the participation in groups or individual actions based on liberal and democratic principles aspiring to contribute to a positive social change in communities.

*Except for the following countries: EU/[EEA](#)/[EFTA](#) countries as well as Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and the United Kingdom.

What can be funded?

Doctoral project at state resp. state-recognised university or a non-university research institute in Germany:

- individual projects under the supervision of a university teacher (thesis supervisor) or
- participation in a structured doctoral study programme

Important to note for all applicants: If the applicant is already enrolled for a doctoral programme at a university in Germany, the recognition of the academic achievements must be ensured.

Duration of funding

- A total of up to max. 48 months; the funding period is determined by a selection committee depending on the project and the work plan.
- 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.
- Applicants who are already enrolled in a doctoral study programme resp. who have already started their doctoral project in Germany at the time of application can apply for a scholarship up to the finalisation of their doctoral degree at any time according to the application deadline.

Value

- a monthly scholarship payment of 861 EUR for graduates (before the acceptance as doctoral candidate at the higher education institution) resp. 1.200 EUR for doctoral candidates
- payments towards health, accident and personal liability insurance cover
- a travel allowance
- an annual research allowance

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

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

To enable scholarship 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) for six months after receipt of the Scholarship Award Letter
- if necessary, language course (for two, four or six months) before the start of the study visit; the DAAD decides whether to fund participation and for how long depending on German language skills and project. Participation in a language course is compulsory if the study programme is taught in German.
- allowance for a personally chosen German language course during the scholarship 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

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Selection procedure

In the selection process, both risk and academic performance are assessed by independent selection committees of specialist scientists and experts appointed by the DAAD.

Academic performance includes the following criteria as part of the assessment:

1) Academic qualification

Documented by university degree certificates, list of publications:

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

2) Quality of the research project

Documented by presentation of research project, time plan, 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 quality of project presentation and preparation (preliminary information, contact with host institution)

3) Additional criteria

Documented by curriculum vitae, if applicable, certificates:

- additional knowledge and skills (e.g. through professional or voluntary activities)
- involvement in academic self-governance, higher education policy issues
- political, social, cultural, social commitment

In addition, the selection committee takes into account special risk and living conditions to ensure equal opportunity.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

What requirements must be met?

Nominated candidates from all disciplines are eligible, except for fine arts, performing arts, design, visual communication, music, film and architecture, as well as human medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine,

- who are of legal age (as a rule at least 18 years old) at the point of nomination
- who have a recognised master's degree (or comparable) with the aim of pursuing a doctoral degree until the start of the scholarship

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- whose last university degree for an intended master's degree programme was as a rule no longer than two years ago at the point of application
- who can prove or credibly demonstrate a threat to their personal well-being or safety (e.g. physical violence, arrest, denial of civil and educational rights, etc.) to the nominating institution and who are at risk of being formally or *de facto* denied educational rights in their country of origin, due to their ethnic, sexual, gender or religious identity and/or their political or civic engagement
- who are entitled to study at the desired level (doctorate) according to the database www.an-abin.de at a university in Germany

Language skills

In the case of insufficient German language skills, participation in a preparatory language course will be offered according to a candidate's previously acquired German language skills, while simultaneously taking into consideration the German language level required for successful participation in the intended doctoral study programme resp. for the intended doctoral project. Should English be the language of instruction of the doctoral study programme, proper English language skills are a requirement, and relevant language certificates or other proof of English language proficiency must be submitted as part of the application process (see Application documents).

Important to note for all applicants: Further information regarding the application requirements can be found under the menu item [FAQs](#) of the [website](#) of the Hilde Domin Programme.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Application documents

The application takes place online via the DAAD portal.

Eligible candidates upload the following documents to the DAAD portal:

- online application form
- valid identification document (ID card, passport and the like)
- full curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages long)
- letter of motivation (1 to 3 pages long) outlining the personal risk situation as well as the professional and personal motives for completion of a doctoral project at a German higher education institution
- if available, additional proof of evidence which describes and approves the threat to their personal safety and well-being or which proves that a forced withdrawal from the study programme resp. doctoral project is due to individual actions based on liberal and democratic principles aspiring to contribute to a positive social change in communities
- copy of school-leaving certificate which entitles holders to study at a university in the home country (with all individual grades)
- other documents you think might be of relevance to your application (e.g. certificates of employment, proof of placements)
- language certificates or proof of their English or German language proficiency (equivalent to level B2 of the [CEFR](#)), not older than 2 years at the point of application

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- if applicable, proof of documentation affirming the current doctoral degree status on all annual examinations with individual grade(s), incl. explanation of grading system,
- diploma or master degree certificate indicating final grade(s); the certificate must be subsequently submitted before the scholarship-supported programme begins, if studies have not been completed at the time of application
- all university certificates on all annual examinations with individual grade(s), incl. explanation of grading system
- 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
- in the case of individual projects supervised by a university teacher (academic adviser):
 - 1) Letter confirming supervision by a university teacher in Germany (academic adviser)
 - 2) Schedule of planned research work
- in the case of planned participation in a structured doctoral study programme:
 - 1) 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
 - 2) Proof of existing contacts to the coordinator of the doctoral programme in the form of copies of correspondence

Important to note for all applicants:

All candidates have to upload German or English translations of documents submitted in the national language. The DAAD reserves the right to request certified copies of the documents, if necessary.

If applicable: When choosing your university, please take into account that the DAAD generally does not cover tuition fees.

Application deadline

The application portal is open all year round for successfully nominated candidates with the following application deadlines:

31 July 2021

31 January 2022

Application location

Please use the following **link** for your initial application via the DAAD portal:

https://portal.daad.de/sap/bc/bsp/sap/z_set_cookie/setcookie.htm?fund_ar=stv&id=57594145

And this is how you proceed:

- 1) Register on the portal: www.mydaad.de/en/ or in German: www.mydaad.de/de/
- 2) Log in to the portal
- 3) Go to the tab “Personal funding” → “Application”
- 4) The programme is preallocated. Now you have to select your status.
- 5) Apply online in the DAAD portal (read instructions on how to apply in the portal) → https://www.daad.de/sapportal/hilfe/hb_portal_pdf/02_Bewerbung_PBF_AUSL.pdf

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If you have already started or sent an application, kindly use the link <https://funding.mydaad.de> to access the portal again.

Applications submitted through other channels or via other authorities will not be considered or accepted.

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

Contact person for programme related matters

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Technical support for your application via the DAAD portal

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