

How can I apply for a DAAD PhD scholarship?

Step 1

Collect information about the scholarship from our website and check the eligibility criteria.

Step 2

Once you have the letter of acceptance from your supervisor/admission letter from your university, complete the scholarship application procedure. The application deadline falls in October of the current year for a PhD beginning October next year.

Step 3

Shortlisted applicants from Sri Lanka will be invited for an interview. The final decision will be announced around March/April.

Step 4

Once selected, you will attend a mandatory German language course, which is an important part of your scholarship.

Step 5

After the successful completion of your language course in Germany, your PhD will begin in October.

Where can I learn more about students' experience in Germany?

To know more about student life or read what international students have to say about Germany, check out the DAAD Young Ambassadors page and video gallery on www.daad-sri-lanka.org and www.study-in-germany.de

Can I work in Germany?

As an international student, you are permitted to work for 120 full days or 240 half days in a year. This will help you in getting a bit of extra pocket-money!

After completing your degree in Germany, you can stay on in the country for up to 18 months to look for a job that is in keeping with your qualification. Once you find a job, you will be issued a work permit that allows you to take up gainful employment.

Where can I find more information?

Study & Research in Germany

www.daad-sri-lanka.org/phd

www.research-in-germany.org

www.gerit.org

www.phdgermany.de

www.dfg.de/gk

Scholarships for Germany

www.daad-sri-lanka.org/scholarship

www.funding-guide.de

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DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

PhD Degree in Germany



The German doctorate enjoys an outstanding reputation in all disciplines, with the country producing about 25,000 doctorates every year. The number of foreign students registering themselves for a PhD has more than doubled in the last 12 years.

There are numerous reasons for this. These include among others International Programmes taught in English medium, excellent quality of education, low or no tuition fee, promising career opportunities and above all the vibrant social and cultural milieu.

Where can I do my doctorate?

You can carry out your doctoral research at universities or research institutions. When you conduct your research at a research institution, the PhD degree is awarded by a partner university. Universities of Applied Sciences (FH/HAW) do not award doctoral degrees.

How can I do my doctorate?

There are two ways: individual doctoral studies and structured PhD programmes.

Individual doctoral studies involve working with a supervisor who is willing to guide your research. This system offers a lot of freedom with no compulsory attendance, deadlines or curriculum, but calls for a great deal of personal initiative and discipline. It takes about 3-5 years to complete the doctorate.

Structured PhD programmes usually have a fixed curriculum within which you work toward your doctorate and write your dissertation. These are conducted largely in English. Supervision is carried out by several university professors. These programmes lead to a PhD in about three years. For example:

- Doctoral programmes and Graduate Schools www.daad.de/international-programmes
- DFG Research Training Groups www.dfg.de/gk

Am I eligible to apply for a PhD?

In Germany, every university is autonomous and has its own set of criteria for admitting students. So please check the university website and specifically the programme you are interested in to find out the exact admission requirements.

Generally as a Master degree holder from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal or Sri Lanka you are eligible to apply for a PhD. In some cases, further assessment of eligibility may be required. Some universities may ask for the proof of your English language proficiency in form of TOEFL or IELTS scores.

How do I apply?

It is advisable to start your preparations about a year in advance.

Step 1

Shortlist potential professors if you want to go for individual doctorate. A good place to start is www.gerit.org and www.phdgermany.de. Alternatively, identify suitable structured PhD programmes.

Academicians from your country who have collaborations with German academicians or your seniors who might be carrying out research in Germany can be a great source of information.

Step 2

If you decide to go for individual doctoral studies, contact and convince a supervisor. Approach the potential supervisor the right way and in good time. Send a brief and well-structured communication with an overview of your research proposal and academically relevant information about yourself. If the supervisor approves your proposal, you will receive a letter of acceptance.

In case of structured PhD programmes, contact the course coordinator at the selected institution. This will be your most important source of information as far as exact details about eligibility, programme structure, application procedure etc. are concerned. Do check the application deadline for the programme chosen, and send your application packet well in time. If selected, you will receive a confirmation of admission.

Step 3

Apply for a student visa as soon as you have the admission letter, as the procedure can take 8 to 12 weeks. To find out where you should apply for a visa, visit the website of the Germany Embassy. Proof of funding for the first year of studies is required.

Arrange for accommodation. The International Office of the university can be of help.

Step 4

Arrive in Germany at least a week before your course begins. Contact the International Office of your university for further guidance. Get your residence permit within the first three months of your stay in Germany from the Foreigners' Registration Office.

Do I need to know German?

Germany offers numerous PhD programmes with English as the sole or primary medium of instruction and the language for your thesis. As a student in Germany however, your life will not be limited to the university campus. You will surely want to interact with people, travel and make the most of your time there. This is where knowledge of German will present a great advantage!

Universities offer beginner and advanced level courses where you can learn German. You can also start learning the language while you are still in your home country at the Goethe-Institut.

What kind of budget should I have in my mind?

Doctoral students are generally exempted from paying tuition fees. Thus in Germany virtually every doctoral student gets a scholarship! You will need to pay semester contribution ranging from Euro 50 to 350, depending upon the university and the services or benefits provided.

Apart from the semester contribution, you will require about Euro 853 per month for housing, food, clothing, study material and other expenses such as health insurance and leisure activities. This amount can vary from city to city and depends on your lifestyle!

Can I get a scholarship?

www.daad-sri-lanka.org/scholarship will provide you an overview of DAAD scholarship programmes. A database of scholarships offered by various German organisations can be found at www.funding-guide.de. As a doctoral student you can also work as a research assistant. More information can be found at www.research-in-germany.org/funding