

GROW – Global Research Opportunities for the South • DAAD

Overview

Objective

The programme is aimed at early career researchers as well as established academics and scientists from [countries on the OECD DAC list in Sub Saharan Africa](#) [https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/pdfs_nicht_barrierefrei/in-deutschland-studieren-forschen-lehren/grow_dac-liste.pdf]: Latin America and Asia are additionally envisaged as target regions. It funds short research stays in Germany as well as preparatory and cooperation visits to support the implementation of development related research projects and the establishment of international scientific collaborations.

Scholarship holders will deepen their subject specific, methodological and analytical skills, expand their scientific networks and increase their visibility in the international research context. After completion of the funding period, they will apply the knowledge and contacts gained at their home institutions and contribute there to research, teaching, knowledge transfer and institutional development.

The programme is financed by funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Funding Contingency

The implementation of the scholarship programme and the awarding of scholarships are subject to the approval of the requested funding by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Until a legally binding grant notification has been issued by the BMZ, there is no entitlement to funding. No legal claims can be derived from the application or any selection decision, in particular no claims to the conclusion of a scholarship agreement or the payment of scholarship funds.

Who can apply?

Applications are open to doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, university teachers and established academics and scientists from [countries on the OECD DAC list—primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa, but also in Latin America and Asia](#) [https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/pdfs_nicht_barrierefrei/in-deutschland-studieren-forschen-lehren/grow_dac-liste.pdf], who are employed at a university or a research institute in their home country.

Women, socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals and persons from disadvantaged regions or groups are especially encouraged to apply.

You are not eligible to apply if you are already in Germany at the time of application or are conducting your entire doctoral or postdoctoral research at a German higher education institution.

What can be funded?

The programme is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide an internationally recognised framework for addressing global challenges in areas such as health, education, climate, governance, social inclusion and innovation systems.

Both programme lines support research and cooperation projects that have a clear reference to at least one SDG and are expected to yield concrete development related benefits. The SDG reference serves as a substantive orientation for evaluating proposals and underscores the programme's aim to support development relevant and transfer oriented research.

The programme includes two programme lines:

- **Programme Line 1: Preparatory and Cooperation Visits**

Funding is provided for stays at a public or state recognised university or non university research institution **in Germany**, aimed at identifying and developing joint research topics/projects (including the development of joint publication ideas and third party funding proposals) with high development relevance and establishing

international cooperation and networks.

- **Programme Line 2: Research Stays**

Funding is provided for research stays to carry out an independent research project (with high development relevance and a clear transfer concept for implementing results in the home country) at a public or state recognised university or non university research institution **in Germany**, in coordination with the host academic supervisor. These stays may also include preparatory and cooperation elements as needed.

Travel for attending conferences or giving presentations is **not** funded in either programme line.

Duration of the funding

- **Programme Line 1:**

Preparatory and cooperation visits: 1 to 2 months

- **Programme Line 2:**

Research stays: 2 to 6 months

The funding period in both programme lines cannot be split into multiple segments. Stays conducted in different countries outside Germany are not eligible for funding. Please indicate your desired funding period in the application form. The funding period will be determined by the selection committee during the selection process, taking your work schedule into account.

The period of funding must begin in 2026 and be completed by 31 January 2027. Funding or extension beyond 31 January 2027 is not possible.

Scholarships cannot be extended.

Value

- monthly **scholarship payments** of 1.400 euros for doctoral candidates and postdocs, 2.000 euros for assistant professors and lecturers, and 2.150 euros for full professors
(* Definition of postdoctoral researchers: the PhD must have been completed no more than four years before the application deadline)
- payments towards **health, accident and personal liability insurance cover** (see also our → [important information for scholarship applicants \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/) / section F, point 4)
- **travel allowance** [https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/pdfs_nicht_barrierefrei/im-ausland-studieren-forschen-lehren/daad_reisekostenzuschuesse_stipendiaten.pdf]

Under certain circumstances, you can apply for the following **additional benefits after start of funding:**

- In case of a disability or chronic illness: on application, a subsidy may be provided for justified additional costs incurred abroad that are necessary to realise the project in Germany and that are not covered by a third party; whether and to what extent a subsidy will be paid, will be reviewed and determined on an individual basis (see → [important information for scholarship applicants \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/) , section F, point 8)

Benefits from third parties are partially credited towards the DAAD scholarship. Information on this can be found in the

→ [important scholarship information \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/)

in section F, point 6.

Selection

An independent selection committee consisting of specialist scientists reviews the applications.

Selection Criteria - Programme Line 1: Preparatory and Cooperation Visits

Academic Qualification

- specific academic achievements relevant to the project, to be demonstrated in the CV

Quality and Development Relevance of the Proposal

- quality of the proposal and development relevance (To what extent does the project have a clear link to development challenges in the country of origin and to one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?)
- plausibility of the choice of host institutions in Germany
- extent of academic coordination and prior contact
- consistency, feasibility and appropriateness of the work and time plan

Potential and Sustainability

- potential to effectively integrate results into the academic and institutional context of the home country
- contribution to establishing or deepening scientific networks and partnerships between the home country and Germany, and likelihood of continuation beyond the funding period
- contribution to capacity building and sustainable knowledge transfer in the home country, with expected multiplier effects

Selection Criteria - Programme Line 2: Research Stays

Academic Qualification:

- for doctoral candidates and postdocs: academic grades (Master's and PhD)
- scientific achievements (e.g. publications, presentations)

Quality of the research proposal:

- quality, originality, currency and development relevance of the research proposal, including the choice of host institution and prior contact
- clear, realistic transfer concept outlining concrete measures for implementing results in the home country
- feasibility and consistency of the work and time plan
- for doctoral students: integration of the research project into the overall doctoral project (in terms of content/time)

Potential of the applicant:

- career prospects: significance of the research and stay in Germany for academic and professional development
- motivation: academic and personal reasons for the stay, and relevance of the project for institutional capacity building in the home country
- extracurricular engagement: additional skills and societal commitment

The selection committee also gives due consideration to **equal opportunities**; you can provide relevant information in the application form (see

→ [important scholarship information \[https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/scholarships/information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/scholarships/information-for-scholarship-applicants/)

, section E, point 3).

For more information on the selection procedure, go to

→ [important scholarship information \[https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/scholarships/information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/scholarships/information-for-scholarship-applicants/)

, section E.

Application requirements

What requirements must be met?

Please check if the following criteria are fulfilled (also read our

→ [important scholarship information \[https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/scholarships/information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/scholarships/information-for-scholarship-applicants/)

, section A):

- Doctoral students: The start of your doctorate should not be more than 3 years ago at the application deadline.
- Scientists: must be employed at a university or research institute in their home country
- You may receive funding in the GROW programme more than once per academic stage if there are sufficient technical grounds for this, but only once per year.
- Your application **cannot** be considered, if you have been resident in Germany for longer than 15 months at the application deadline.

Application Procedure

Application deadline

Application deadlines are updated annually in the second quarter. In most cases, they are in the same period as the previous year. You can find the current dates here:

30.04.2026

Date of selection approx. in June, earliest start of funding in August

Application documents

Certificates, proof of credits, certifications and translations may be scanned in non-certified form and uploaded to the DAAD portal. The DAAD reserves the right to request certified copies of the documents.

If you submit documents in your national language, please include **German or English** translations.

Documents to be uploaded to the DAAD portal:

Programme Line 1: Preparatory and Cooperation Visits

- **online application form**
- **curriculum vitae** (max. 2 pages): complete, in tabular form
- **detailed description of the project justifying the purpose and objectives of the stay** (max. 1–2 pages): Please outline the objectives pursued with the preparatory/cooperation visit and explain how the results achieved and the cooperations initiated are expected, after your return, to contribute to the strengthening of scientific structures and to the promotion of early-career researchers in your country of origin. Please also refer to the specific development challenges in your home country addressed by the project (including reference to the relevant Sustainable Development Goal(s) (SDGs).
- **clearly structured time schedule and itinerary** (host institutions / academic hosts) of the planned research stay (to be uploaded in the portal under “Schedule”)
- **written confirmation from the academic host in Germany**; the confirmation must explicitly refer to your project (including the working language) and confirm that a workplace will be provided by the host institution in Germany
- **proof of affiliation with a higher education institution in your home country** (e.g. proof of employment, admission to doctoral studies, certificate of enrolment, etc.)
- **[Declaration from the scientific supervisor or host in Germany \[https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/word-excel-nicht-barrierefrei/in-deutschland-studieren-forschen-lehren/a436_zusatz_betreuungsusage_dual-use.docx\]](https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/word-excel-nicht-barrierefrei/in-deutschland-studieren-forschen-lehren/a436_zusatz_betreuungsusage_dual-use.docx)** on safety-relevant and ethical aspects of the research project. Please upload the document in addition to the confirmation from the academic host in the portal under ‘Scientific ethics/research safety ‘.

Programme Line 2: Research Stays

→ [online application form](#)

- **online application form**
- **curriculum vitae** (max. 2 pages): complete, in tabular form
- **list of publications** (max. 2 pages) of your most important published work
- **letter of motivation** (max. 1 page): statement about the academic and personal reasons for the planned research project in Germany, taking account of the following question: What do you hope to gain from your project in Germany (personally, professionally, for your career)? Please upload the letter of motivation under 'study project/motivation' in the DAAD portal.
- **Proposal including a transfer concept** (total max. 5 pages): Please submit a detailed and precise description (independently prepared and written by yourself) of your research project, which has been coordinated with the academic host in Germany. Please explain the relevance of the project to specific development challenges (including reference to the relevant SDG(s)) addressed by the project. Furthermore, please describe, by means of concrete measures, how you will use the knowledge and contacts gained after your return to contribute to scientific and institutional capacity building in your country of origin (transfer concept). Please also read our [→ important scholarship information \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/) / section B, point 2. Please upload the proposal under 'research project' in the DAAD portal.
- **time schedule** of planned research work
- **confirmation from the academic host in Germany**; the confirmation must refer to your project and guarantee that the host institute in Germany will provide you with a workplace. Also read our [→ important scholarship information \[https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/) / section C, point 3. Please upload the confirmation from the academic host under 'acceptance of host institution' in the DAAD portal.
- **Declaration from the scientific supervisor or host in Germany** [\[https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/word-excel-nicht-barrierefrei/in-deutschland-studieren-forschen-lehren/a436_zusatz_betreuungszusage_dual-use.docx\]](https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/word-excel-nicht-barrierefrei/in-deutschland-studieren-forschen-lehren/a436_zusatz_betreuungszusage_dual-use.docx) on safety-relevant and ethical aspects of the research project. Please upload the document in addition to the confirmation from the academic host in the portal under 'Scientific ethics/research safety '.

Doctoral Candidates and Postdoctoral Researchers must additionally submit:

- **university degree certificates** (e.g. Master's, doctorate) stating your final grade(s); please submit only the most recent degree certificate. If you do not have your most recent degree certificate (doctoral candidates: Master's; postdocs: doctorate) at the time of application, you must submit it before the start of your scholarship. Please upload your certificate(s) under 'university degree certificates' in the DAAD portal.
- **Proof of admission to doctoral studies / enrolment in a doctoral programme / letter of supervision from a faculty member at the home university** (doctoral candidates only). Please upload the document in the portal under "Admission"
- One recent supporting **letter of recommendation** (on a DAAD-form) from a university teacher (for doctoral students, from the supervisor of your doctoral thesis) which provides information about your qualifications. Please regard the instructions given on the tab '**Submitting an application**'.

Applications must be submitted online via the DAAD Portal.

Please note that the access to the application portal only appears while the current application period is running. After the application deadline has expired, the portal for this programme is not available until the next application period.

Please note

- Your application is only valid if you submit all the required documents to the DAAD portal by the application deadline.
- The DAAD portal closes at 24.00 hrs. (CET or CEST) on the last application day. **If possible, please do not send your application on the final date in case technical problems occur.**
- Incomplete applications cannot be considered. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their applications are complete.

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- 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

Information and advisory centres

DAAD - Referat ST34 Asien, Pazifik
Kennedyallee 50
D-53175 Bonn

Contact Person: Robert Bude
bude@daad.de

More detailed information

- DAAD website
→ '[Important information for DAAD scholarship applicants](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/)' [<https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/>]
- DAAD website section → '[Doing a PhD and Research in Germany](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/phd-studies-and-research/)' [<https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/phd-studies-and-research/>]
- Website '[Research in Germany](https://www.research-in-germany.org/en.html)' [<https://www.research-in-germany.org/en.html>]
- Website '[GERiT – German Research Institutions](https://www.gerit.org/en/)' [<https://www.gerit.org/en/>]

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Please also take note of our [important scholarship information](https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/) [<https://www.daad.de/en/study-and-research-in-germany/scholarships/important-information-for-scholarship-applicants/>].

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