

Scholarships

Information for
international students
at Goethe University



Scholarships and grants are welcome means to help finance your studies in Germany. Foundations that award scholarships have varying objectives and profiles, and as a rule applicants have to have special characteristics or skills. In most cases, applicants are expected to perform above average in their studies and show sociopolitical commitment. However, this does not apply to all scholarship providers. Research the relevant requirements carefully so that you don't put lots of effort into an application in vain. The application often requires a lot of work, but it may be worth it.

Scholarship databases

These databases enable focused research targeted for example at scholarships that apply exclusively to certain study subjects or countries of origin. This is your starting point for finding a scholarship that suits your needs.

You can access a good and comprehensive overview of various scholarship providers as well as all scholarships awarded by the DAAD here: [Scholarship database of the DAAD](#)

The Federal Ministry for Education and Research also has a comprehensive data base, the *Stipendienlotse* (scholarship pilot).

Further **general information on scholarships** in Germany is available here:

www.dw.de/studienfinanzierung/a-6148908

1. Scholarships offered by Goethe University

1.1. Goethe University Deutschlandstipendium

The *Deutschlandstipendium* is available to students of all nationalities at German universities, including Goethe University. It provides support to students whose career so far promises outstanding study results, and it is available as of the first semester. The *Deutschlandstipendium* has specific requirements. The selection process is determined by the universities.

Criteria required at Goethe University: Besides high achievements at school and/or university, requirements include social engagement, for example in clubs or in university politics, in church-run or political organisations, as well as getting involved in the social environment, family or a social institution. Any special obstacles resulting from a student's family background or cultural origin are taken into consideration. The details of the selection process are determined by the universities.

Two-phase selection process: The first phase takes into account only the grades achieved; for the initial study period, this is the result of the *Abitur* or other form of university entrance qualification. For the main period of studies in a Bachelor's programme, a specifically calculated average grade of all study and examination results achieved so far is taken into account and for a Master's programme, the grade of the Bachelor's degree. The second selection phase considers social engagement, personal and social competences and specific personal achievements.

Amount of funding: 300 EUR per month, irrespective of other income available to the students or their parents.

Information regarding the *Deutschlandstipendium* and application for this scholarship at Goethe University is available from the Student Service Center (SSC):

www.deutschland-stipendium.uni-frankfurt.de

Contact: Beate Firla, Project leader Deutschlandstipendium

Email: ssc-ds@uni-frankfurt.de

1.2. Goethe University Graduation Scholarship

Goethe University offers graduation scholarships for international students enrolled in Bachelor's and Master's programmes and programmes leading to a state exam (*Staatsexamen*). Applications are open to students of any subject area offered by Goethe University.

The following requirements must be met: registration for the final examination and acceptance of a Bachelor's, Master's or state exam thesis; partaking of the written and oral examinations; and, for medical students, preparation for the second part of the German medical exam.

Doctoral students and students studying for a second degree are not eligible for this scholarship. Likewise, students who are entitled to receive *BAföG* are not eligible for this scholarship, irrespective of whether they receive or have received *BAföG* or not.

More information: www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/62938950/100_Scholarships-GU

A limited number of graduation scholarships are available for **international doctoral students** at Goethe University in the framework of the GRADE programme.

Further information: www.uni-frankfurt.de/52618918/700_Informationen_zur_Finanzierung

Contact: Stefan Christ (christ@grade.uni-frankfurt.de)

1.3. Scholarships for internships that advance the studies

Furthermore, Goethe University offers international students scholarships for internships that advance their studies. These scholarships are open to students from all subject areas that are enrolled in a Bachelor's, Master's or state exam programme.

Key for the application is whether the internship is designed to advance the studies. It is possible to get funding also for voluntary internships, i.e. internships that are not prescribed by the study regulation, as long as they are orientated towards a profession or science and are particularly conducive to the applicant's study goals.

Further information: www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/62938950/100_Scholarships-GU

1.3. Scholarship advice offered by the International Office

Contact: Barbara Budzisz

Email: B.Budzisz@em.uni-frankfurt.de

Where: Campus Westend, PEG building, 2nd floor, International Office

When: Thursdays 9:00-12:00; no appointment necessary

1.4. Goethe Goes Global – Master Scholarships

This programme, which runs from 2016 to 2020, offers scholarships for certain research-oriented Master's programmes to students with a postgraduate degree from a foreign country. Applicants should demonstrate a high level of interest in scientific research and should be considering a doctorate after their studies.

Further information:

www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/58572942/Goethe-Goes-Global-Master-Scholarships

2. Scholarship providers for international students in Germany

2.1. Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD) –full scholarships

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the world's largest funding organisation for the exchange of international students and researchers. It supports German and foreign students with a variety of scholarship programmes.

Search the scholarship database to find the right DAAD scholarship, or just get some information [here](#).

The DAAD has two main programme areas that cover international students:

A. Scholarships for international students planning to come to Germany

- This applies mainly to graduates, i.e. students who have already completed an undergraduate course.
- Support focuses on Master's and postgraduate programmes and on students who want to do their PhD in Germany. There are special programmes for limited target groups (e.g. graduates of DSD schools abroad) which allow applications for undergraduate studies.
- A number of countries are excluded from DAAD scholarships, for example if equivalent scholarships (e.g. government-funded scholarships) are available in the country in question.

It is possible for students to apply while they are still in their home country. They must apply at the latest 15 months after their arrival in Germany (counting back from the DAAD's application deadline – on this date, the student may only have been in Germany for a maximum of 15 months).

B. Scholarships for full-time students in Germany who would like to study abroad

- As of 2015, this applies to all students who are enrolled in full-time studies at a German university, irrespective of their nationality (initially limited to a one-year test phase)
- Studies in the home country of the student in question are excluded.
- Support is awarded for semesters abroad, research visits abroad and for internships.

2.2. Scholarship providers for specific target groups

Otto Benecke Stiftung e.V.: Garantiefonds-Hochschule

This foundation specifically supports immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, Jewish migrants, and late repatriates. It focuses on integration, migration and minorities. Applications must be submitted before the applicant turns 30. Support may be awarded for studies as well as for attending a *Studienkolleg* (preparatory college), for language courses (as of level B2) and special preparatory courses for studies (e.g. TestDaF, TestAS).

Further information: www.obs-ev.de/startseite-und-aktuelles/

Katholischer Akademischer Ausländerdienst (Catholic Academic Service for Foreigners, KAAD)

The KAAD programme is designed for international students, in particular from developing and emerging countries. It is not possible to apply directly; scholarship candidates must be proposed by the *katholische Hochschulgemeinde* (KHG, the catholic students community).

Further information: www.kaad.de/en/stipendien/

Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst – Protestant Development Service “Brot für die Welt“

Brot für die Welt, or 'Bread for the World', “supports the academic and vocational education of young men and women in Germany and overseas. Its aim is not primarily to advance individual careers, but rather to contribute to personnel qualification in the partnering institutions overseas. It supports projects that contribute to peace, justice and the conservation of Creation.“

The programme primarily targets candidates from developing countries who already have an academic degree. There is a church/theology oriented scholarship programme as well as one focused on developmental politics and related issues.

Further information: info.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/stipendien

3. Institutions fostering the intellectually gifted

In Germany, there are 13 *Begabtenförderungswerke*, or institutions that foster the intellectually gifted. These have joined together under the umbrella term of *StipendiumPlus*. The scholarship providers represented here have diverse religious, political or social foci, and therefore the conditions for awarding scholarship vary. Below you will find a list with short descriptions of all the scholarship providers of this network.

Further information: www.stipendiumplus.de

Comprehensive information on the talent programmes and foundations and a list of their *Vertrauensdozent_innen* (contact professors) at Goethe-University can be accessed via the scholarship information page of the SSC: www.uni-frankfurt.de/63117866/Die-Begabtenfoerderwerke

3.1. Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes

The *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*, or German Academic Scholarship Foundation, is the Federal Republic of Germany's oldest and largest organisation sponsoring the intellectually gifted. According to its statutes, it fosters the "academic education of young people whose outstanding academic or artistic talent and personality promise special services to society." Selection and sponsoring of the candidates is unrelated to any political, ideological or religious parameters.

Candidates can be proposed by teachers or apply directly. There is non-material support by way of networking, exchange, advice and a broad range of educational offers. In addition, all scholars receive financial support in the form of a monthly flat-rate allowance to cover the costs of studying, and they can apply for an additional basic stipend. The foundation also offers funds for studies abroad.

Students from EU member states can receive a scholarship if they study in Germany and aim for a degree. Other international students may receive a scholarship if they have acquired their qualification to study at a German university in Germany and have a permanent residence permit for Germany (so-called *Bildungsinländer*, foreign students who qualified to study at a German university in Germany): www.bafög.de/de/-8-staatsangehoerigkeit-224.php

Further information: www.studienstiftung.de

3.2. Foundations affiliated to political parties

There are several foundations that are considered "affiliated to a political party", i.e. they are close to one of the major political parties in Germany. These look for scholarship candidates who subscribe to their ideals and values and show commitment and engagement accordingly. You can find more information on foundations affiliated to political parties here:

www.dw.de/studienfinanzierung-die-politischen-stiftungen/a-6000110

International students from EU member states and students who are considered to be *Bildungsinländer* pursuant to §8 BAföG (the law governing government-funded grants; for further information see above) can usually apply in the same way a German student would. Some special programmes are available to other international students, however some foundations exclude them altogether.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung:

- Target group: international students (different programmes for EU/§8 BAföG and non-EU); students must have already started their studies
- Requirements: Excellent study results and socio-political activity
- Knowledge of German required
- Political affiliation: social democrat
- **Information**: www.fes.de/studienfoerderung

Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung:

- Target group: international students (different programmes for EU/§8 BAföG and non-EU); support for students from non-EU members is only offered for Master's studies
- Requirements: Excellent study results and socio-political activity
- Political affiliation: liberal
- **Information**: www.freiheit.org

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung:

- Target group: all international students, support is only offered for Master's studies
- Requirements: Excellent study performance and socio-political activity
- Excellent knowledge of German required
- Political affiliation: green, ecological, social
- **Information**: www.boell.de/de/stipendien

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung:

- Target group: international students (different programmes for EU/§8 BAföG and non-EU); support for students from non-EU members is only offered for Master's studies
- Requirements: Excellent study results and socio-political activity
- Knowledge of German required
- Political affiliation: Christian democrat
- **Information**: www.kas.de

Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung:

- Target group: international students (different programmes for EU/§8 BAföG and non-EU); students from non-EU members can only be supported in their Master's studies or after completion of undergraduate studies, respectively
- Requirements: Excellent study results and socio-political activity
- Excellent knowledge of German required
- Political affiliation: democratic socialism
- **Information**: www.rosalux.de

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung:

- Target group: EU citizens and students who are considered *Bildungsinländer* pursuant to §8 BAföG
- Requirements: Excellent study results and socio-political activity
- Political affiliation: Christian Social Union
- **Information:** www.hss.de/stipendium.html

Hans-Böckler-Stiftung (Federation of German Trade Unions):

- Target group: EU citizens and students who are considered *Bildungsinländer* pursuant to §8 BAföG, groups typically disadvantaged in educational matters
- Requirements: trade union activity and socio-political activity
- Political affiliation: trade unions
- **Information:** www.boeckler.de

3.3. Faith-based scholarship sponsors

As a rule, you should belong to the denomination in question. Exceptions may be possible in individual, well-reasoned cases.

Target group: Members of the relevant faith, students from EU member states and *Bildungsinländer* pursuant to §8 BAföG. Further information: www.bafög.de/de/-8-staatsangehoerigkeit-224.php

Further links:

- *Avicenna-Studienwerk* (Islamic): www.avicenna-studienwerk.de
- *Cusanuswerk* (Catholic): www.cusanuswerk.de/de/foerderung/stipendien/
- *Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst* (Protestant): www.evstudienwerk.de
- *Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk* (Jewish): www.eles-studienwerk.de

3.4. Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft (Foundation of the German Industry) – Studienförderwerk Klaus Murmann

The *Studienförderwerk* takes its name from its founder, the entrepreneur and former president of the Confederation of the German Employers' Association, Klaus Murmann. It awards scholarships to students and doctoral students who demonstrate community spirit and entrepreneurship. Candidates are selected according to their level of performance, their commitment and their potential for development. They have the drive and the ability to assume responsible positions in the future to help shape society.

Target group: Students from EU member states and *Bildungsinländer* pursuant to §8 BAföG.

Further information: www.sdw.org

4. Tips for your scholarship application

Read the scholarship application requirements very carefully to determine whether you are eligible. You can use the scholarship databases for this. Some scholarships have certain requirements or they are eligible only for specific target groups (e.g. students of a particular subject area). Check if you fulfil the requirements. If you are not sure, contact the scholarship provider.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Often it is not simply a matter of being “the best“ student. Besides a good or satisfactory study performance, you often also have to prove your commitment or special personal achievements (e.g. overcoming obstacles resulting from your personal history). If you are not sure whether you are eligible for a specific scholarship, give it a try and wait for the reaction. If you are not selected, ask why. Sometimes it is only due to formal errors, and sometimes the feedback helps you to develop further and enables you to apply for a scholarship again, at a later time.

Be confident! In your application, describe your strengths and goals carefully and in detail. In Germany, your application must emphasise any strengths rather too much than too little (for internships and for jobs), even if you are normally more reserved or if this is not appropriate in your home culture.

If a personal statement (motivational letter) is required, make sure you allow sufficient time for this. Adapt the personal statement to the relevant scholarship provider. Research the values and sponsoring principles of the foundation in question. This way, you will be able to emphasise why you specifically are eligible for their scholarship.

It is imperative that you ask a native speaker to proof-read your documents. There should be no spelling mistakes in your application.

Take care that the required documents are complete (it is best to bring certified copies of important documents such as report cards or certificates to Germany with you, just to be prepared). You must submit the documents exactly as required by the scholarship provider – complete and correct documentation counts very highly.

In any event, submit your application on time. Many scholarship providers have deadlines for each year and do not accept later applications.

Further links:

Süddeutsche Zeitung: www.sueddeutsche.de/thema/Stipendium_Bewerbung

Studis online: www.studis-online.de/StudInfo/Studienfinanzierung/stipendien-bewerbung.php