SCHOLARSHIPS
for international students
at Goethe University
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FACTS ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

Grades are important but not everything
While academic achievement is important, do not be deterred from applying for a scholarship if your grade point average is lower than 1,0. Various further aspects of your profile, such as your country of origin, social engagement, family background and subject of study, are also taken into consideration.

Opportunities are diverse
There is a wide variety of scholarship opportunities available for all phases of your time as a student. In addition to programs to which you would apply in your first semester, there are scholarships for covering semesters abroad, internships, the end-phase during which you write your final thesis or prepare for exams and more.

Minimal effort yields maximum benefit
Often all you need to apply is a CV, a motivational letter and a letter of reference. While this requires a bit of time and effort, the potential rewards are worth it.

Financial security is possible
Some full scholarships are sufficient for covering all of your living costs.

Options extend beyond Germany
In this brochure, we have compiled a list of scholarship sponsors in Germany, but you should also research scholarship sponsors in your home country!
Who is eligible for a scholarship?
This depends on the scholarship program, many of which are only available to specific groups of international students. For example:

- All German and international students at Goethe University irrespective of their country of origin are eligible to apply for a Deutschlandstipendium.
- International students at Goethe University irrespective of their country of origin can apply for Graduation Scholarships.
- Students from EU (and EEA) member states and/or Bildungsinländer*innen pursuant to §8 BAföG* are eligible for various federally funded programs.
- Students from non-EU member states have access to special programs such as those of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

*What is BAföG?
BAföG (Bundes-Ausbildungs-Förderungs-Gesetz) is the national law governing educational grants and support. §8 of this law determines who is eligible for state-funded support for their studies in Germany (Bildungsinländer*innen) and what conditions must be met (e.g. certain age limits, income below a certain threshold). Since many scholarship sponsors receive state funding, they are bound to BAFöG rules in their decisions about awarding scholarships. Some special programs for international students are exempt from these rules. A detailed list of those eligible for support and the applicable conditions can be found here: www.bafög.de

Tips on finding and applying for scholarships

Consult the database of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service):
Here you can search for scholarships offered by the DAAD as well as other providers according to your personal profile: www.daad.de/stipendiendatenbank

Apply for more than one scholarship
Submit applications to more than one program. Please note: you should be careful about applying to more than one program associated with StipendiumPlus and only choose the program(s) that genuinely match(es) your qualifications and profile.
Show confidence

Describe your strengths and objectives in strong, positive and detailed terms in your application. If a motivational letter is required, take time for this and adapt it to each scholarship provider.

Ensure your application documents are correct, complete and on time

Make sure that you submit your documents in good time and in accordance with the formal requirements of the scholarship provider. It is advisable to bring certified copies of important documents such as certificates and diplomas with you to Germany. Ask a native German speaker to proofread your documents. There should be no spelling errors in your application!

Try again

If your initial application(s) is/are unsuccessful, try applying for further scholarship programs. Also, do not be hesitant to ask why your application was unsuccessful. Perhaps it was a formality. Feedback on your application will only help you grow and be better prepared for future opportunities.

Make use of Goethe University’s scholarship counselling services

We are here to help! Do not hesitate to contact our office regarding any matters related to the scholarship application process – from finding the right programs to preparing for interviews. We offer individual counselling sessions by appointment.

Global Affairs Study and Teaching
Department for Career Service, Prizes and Scholarships

Campus Westend
PEG-Building, 2nd Floor

Contact: Dr. Elizabeth Kovach
Email: stipendien@uni-frankfurt.de
www.stipendien.uni-frankfurt.de
Deutschlandstipendium of Goethe University

The Deutschlandstipendium is available for students of all nationalities at German universities, including Goethe University. It provides support to students whose career promises outstanding study results. It is possible to apply for a Deutschlandstipendium before beginning your first semester or after commencing your studies.

Requirements

In addition to high academic achievements at school and/or university, social engagement is an important aspect in candidates’ profiles. This can include engagement in student clubs and initiatives, involvement in university politics, activities in church-run or political organizations, leadership roles, volunteer work, and involvement in your social environment, family or a social institution. Obstacles resulting from a student’s family situation or other personal circumstances are also taken into account.

Two-step selection process

In the first step, grades are evaluated. If you apply before you commence your studies, this means that the grade achieved in the Abitur or equivalent university entrance qualification is considered. If you apply after beginning a bachelor’s degree at Goethe University, an average grade based on study and exam results is calculated. If you apply as a master’s student at Goethe University, the grade of your bachelor’s degree is included in this calculation. In the second step, social engagement, personal and social competences and further achievements are considered.

Funding

300 EUR per month for the duration of one year, irrespective of any other income students or their parents may have. It is possible to apply for an additional year of support.

Deadline

One application deadline is set for the summer of each year.
Graduation Scholarships

Goethe University offers Graduation Scholarships for international students enrolled in bachelor’s and master’s programs as well as majors that end with state examinations. Applications are open to international students of any subject area offered at Goethe University.

Requirements

Candidates are evaluated in terms of academic performance, social engagement and degree of financial need. Registration for the final examination and/or thesis and, for medical students, registration for the second part of the German medical examination, are required for funding to commence. If the documentation verifying this registration is not available at the time of applying, it must be submitted before the scholarship period begins. Doctoral students and students pursuing second degrees are not eligible. Likewise, students who are entitled to receive BAFöG are not eligible for this scholarship, irrespective of whether they have or have not received BAFöG.

Funding

The scholarship is granted for a maximum of 6 months and for 250-500 EUR per month.

Deadline

January 31st and June 30th of each given year.

Contact and further information

E-Mail: stipendien@uni-frankfurt.de
www.stipendien.uni-frankfurt.de
German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the world’s largest funding organization for the academic exchange of international students and researchers. It supports German and foreign students with a variety of scholarship programs (full and partial scholarships, internships and research visits, summer and winter schools, language courses).

Scholarship database: [www.daad.de/stipendiendatenbank](http://www.daad.de/stipendiendatenbank)
[www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

**DAAD scholarships for international students coming to Germany**

- Support focuses on master’s and postgraduate programs as well as students who want to pursue their PhDs in Germany.
- There are special programs for limited target groups (e.g. graduates of German-speaking schools abroad), which allow applications for undergraduate studies.
- A number of countries are excluded from DAAD scholarships – for example, those in which equivalent scholarships (e.g. government-funded scholarships) are available.
- Students should apply while they are still in their home countries via the German embassy, consulate or a DAAD office abroad. Applicants cannot have lived longer than 15 months in Germany at the time of submitting their applications.
DAAD scholarships for students in Germany who would like to study abroad

- This applies to all students who are enrolled as full-time students at a German university, irrespective of their nationality.
- Returning to one’s home country for study abroad is generally not included, though well-reasoned exceptions are possible.
- Support is not granted to students who already receive DAAD funding for their studies in Germany.

www.daad.de/ausland/studieren/bewerbung/de/59-bewerbung-um-ein-stipendium/

Scholarships for specific target groups

Otto Benecke Stiftung e.V.

This foundation specifically supports immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, Jewish migrants, and late repatriates (with a certain form of residence permit respectively, e.g. Duldung, §§22+23 AufenthaltsG, joining spouses). Applications must be submitted before the applicant turns 30. This program only supports those preparing to enter a German university. Funding is offered to those attending a Studienkolleg (preparatory college), language courses (level B2 and higher) and other preparatory courses for becoming students (e.g. TestDaF, TestAS).

www.obs-ev.de
Catholic Academic Service for Foreigners
(Katholischer Akademischer Ausländerdienst)

The KAAD program is designed for international students, particularly those from developing and emerging countries, who want to return to their home countries after graduating. It is not possible to apply directly to the KAAD. Candidates must be proposed by the university’s Catholic congregation (Katholische Hochschulgemeinde, KHG) or partner committees abroad. Requirements are that you are either Catholic or open to interreligious dialogue. Contact the KHG to find out whether you are eligible.

www.kaad.de/stipendien

Protestant Development Service
(„Brot für die Welt“ Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst)

This program primarily targets candidates from developing countries who already have an academic degree and plan to return to their home countries after graduating. The Protestant student congregation (Evangelische Studierendengemeinden, ESG) or regional study-support programs (StudienbegleitProgram; STUBE) can propose candidates. There is a faith-oriented scholarship program as well as one focused on developmental politics and related issues.

www.info.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/stipendien

World University Service & STUBE

These programs support students from Africa, Asia and South America who want to prepare for their return via a study stay or internship in their home countries. The stays should facilitate contacts and access to prospective professional fields. STUBE takes care of travel and insurance costs for those who are granted support.

www.wusgermany.de/de/auslaenderstudium/stube-hessen/bpsa
In Germany, there are 13 state-funded scholarship programs for the gifted and talented known as the Begabtenförderwerke and marketed under the title StipendiumPlus. Each has a different focus, so it is important only to apply to the program that best matches your academic, personal interests and convictions.

[www.stipendiumplus.de](http://www.stipendiumplus.de)

**Political foundations**

There are several politically oriented foundations that are closely related to the major political parties in Germany. They look for scholarship candidates who relate to their ideals and values and show commitment and engagement accordingly. International students from EU member states and students who are considered to be Bildungsinländer*innen pursuant to §8 BAföG can usually apply in the same way that German students would. Only a few special programs are available to international students from non-EU countries.

**Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung**

- Political affiliation: social democratic
- Target group: international students (different programs for EU/§8 BAföG and non-EU); support for undergraduate studies is available
- Requirements: excellent study results and socio-political engagement
- Knowledge of German required

[www.fes.de/studienfoerderung](http://www.fes.de/studienfoerderung)
**Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung**

- Political affiliation: liberal
- Target group: international students (different programs for EU/§8 BAföG and non-EU); support for students from non-EU countries is only offered for master’s studies
- Requirements: excellent study results and socio-political engagement

[www.freiheit.org](http://www.freiheit.org)

**Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung**

- Political affiliation: green, social
- Target group: all international students, support is only offered for master’s studies
- Requirements: excellent study results and socio-political engagement
- Excellent knowledge of German required

[www.boell.de](http://www.boell.de)

**Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**

- Political affiliation: Christian Democratic Union
- Target group: international students (different programs 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 engagement
- Knowledge of German required

[www.kas.de](http://www.kas.de)

**Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung**

- Political affiliation: Christian Social Union
- Target group: students from the EU and Bildungsinländer*innen (§8 BAföG)
- Requirements: excellent study results and socio-political engagement

[www.hss.de](http://www.hss.de)
Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung
- Political affiliation: democratic socialist
- Target group: international students (different programs 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
- Special program: for students from Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Tunisia, Yemen, Jordan, Morocco and Iraq, who want to study in Germany
- Requirements: excellent study results and socio-political engagement
- Excellent knowledge of German required

www.rosalux.de

Hans-Böckler-Stiftung (Federation of German Trade Unions):
- Political affiliation: trade unions
- Target group: EU citizens and students who are considered Bildungsinländer*innen pursuant to §8 BAföG, groups typically disadvantaged in educational matters
- Requirements: trade-union and socio-political engagement

www.boeckler.de

Faith-based foundations
You should only apply for a scholarship from one of these foundations if you belong to the respective denomination. Exceptions may be possible in individual, well-reasoned cases (not in the case of Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk).
Target group: students from the EU and Bildungsinländer*innen (§8 BAföG)
- Avicenna-Studienwerk (Islamic): www.avicenna-studienwerk.de
- Cusanuswerk (Catholic): www.cusanuswerk.de
- Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst (Protestant): www.evstudienwerk.de
- Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk (Jewish): www.eles-studienwerk.de
Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft

Scholarships are awarded to students (bachelor and master) and doctoral candidates who demonstrate community spirit and entrepreneurship. Candidates are selected according to their level of academic performance, social engagement and 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 the EU and Bildungsinländer*innen (§8 BAFöG).

www.sdw.org

Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes

The Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes is Germany’s oldest and largest foundation that sponsors 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 requirements. Candidates can be proposed by teachers, exam offices (based on grade average) or apply directly.

Target group: students from the EU and Bildungsinländer*innen pursuant to §8 BAFöG.

www.studienstiftung.de

Additional talent programs

Kölner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfond

This endowment fund supports students with a special interest in and talent for science and investment in social responsibility. Applications are open to all international students in Germany. Funding is not given before the 3rd semester.

- Requirements: an average score of at least 2.0 on university entrance qualification certificate (Abitur, university assessment test); average marks of at least 2.5 on course assessments (credits, exam results); completion of your study course within the standard period of study; given sufficient reason, a period of study in excess of the standard study period by max. 30% is permissible; completion of a course of study before the age of 30.

- Application periods: February 1st to March 1st and August 1st to September 1st.

www.stiftungsfonds.org
Maincampus – Stipendiatenwerk der Stiftung Polytechnische Gesellschaft Frankfurt am Main

This foundation is dedicated to the support of students (undergraduate to doctoral) in universities and other institutes of higher education in Frankfurt. The foundation offers undergraduate and postgraduate students support in the following subject fields: natural sciences, technical disciplines, education, history, music and music education, visual and performing arts, architecture. You cannot apply directly. Instead, the university puts forward candidates who have distinguished themselves through outstanding personal and academic achievements, motivation and competency. Contact a lecturer or professor who knows you well to discuss the possibility of them nominating you.

www.sptg.de

Stiftung Begabtenförderung Berufliche Bildung

This foundation supports those looking to enter a program of study after having already completed vocational training, demonstrated a high degree of professional capability in their training and work, and with at least two years of job experience. Target group: students from the EU and Bildungsinländer*innen (§8 BAföG).

www.sbb-stipendien.de
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SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR REINTEGRATION AND REPATRIATION

Reintegration programs are mainly directed at nationals from developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America who plan to return to their home countries after graduating in Germany. These programs are targeted towards development objectives.

Centrum für Internationale Migration und Entwicklung (CIM)
CIM has the objective of helping technical experts and managers find employment worldwide. Its services include a database for job opportunities worldwide (listed by country), with a focus on developing and emerging countries. In specific cases, there may be subsidies for travel costs, salaries and setting up a workplace.

www.cimonline.de

Reintegration program of the Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst
This reintegration program targets specialists and graduates from Africa, Asia and Latin America who live in Germany but want to return to their home country after having been engaged in issues of developmental politics. The skills acquired in Germany should be used in developmental work in cooperation with partner organizations.


STUBE – Preparational Internships and Study Stays
This program is for students from Africa, Asia and South America who want to prepare their return via a study stay or internship in their home countries. The stays should help facilitate contacts and further knowledge of prospective professional fields. STUBE takes care of travel and insurance costs for those who are granted support.

www.wusgermany.de/de/auslaenderstudium/stube-hessen/bpsa
Contact

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
Campus Westend
PEG-Gebäude Postfach 3
Theodor-W.-Adorno-Platz 6
60323 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Tel.: +49 (069) 798-3838
www.stipendien.uni-frankfurt.de

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