

Completion scholarships for international doctoral candidates – Frequently Asked Questions –

Who will decide on my application?

The applications are screened and summarized by members of the central GRADE support unit. Formally, the GRADE Board of Directors makes the final decision based on the supplied summary material and the original applications. The Board of Directors includes faculty members from different academic fields and also PhD and postdoc representatives.

When will I get feedback about my application?

The deadline for submission is May 2, 2023. We will try to process the applications as quickly as possible. The selection is made by the GRADE Board of Directors (see above). Therefore, it might take 4-5 weeks until a final decision is reached.

What are the exact criteria for the selection? What should I emphasize in my application?

The selection is primarily based on the scientific excellence of the candidates, in accordance with the DAAD regulations. If applications are comparable in terms of their academic track record, social aspects and the financial situation can be considered in addition. Therefore, it is important that you include references to all materials, certificates and activities (publications, conference contributions, other presentations, scholarships, honors and awards, grades) that distinguish you as an excellent young researcher with a very good academic performance.

Why do I have to specify my current contract situation and details about other scholarships?

To a certain extent, completion scholarships can co-exist with other types of funding. But for legal reasons, you cannot receive a scholarship and have a substantial employment or have a second scholarship at the same time. Legal employment options during a scholarship include:

- An employment of up to 16 hours / month with an income of no more than 6.000 € / year, if the content and purpose of the employment are clearly different from the scholarship
- Teaching assignments at the university
- An employment as a scientific assistant at the university of no more than 42 hours / month

Detailed guidelines can be found in the „[Guidelines of the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main on awarding stipends to doctoral candidates and post-doctoral candidates](#)“. We are required to check for and take into consideration any double financing.

Goethe Research Academy

For Early Career Researchers



What if my contract situation changes after the submission of my application?

The completion scholarships can be combined with other types of support under certain conditions. Since we need to find a specific solution for each single case, it is important that you inform us about any changes concerning your positions, scholarships, and contracts after your application has been submitted. Otherwise, we cannot ensure that the completion scholarship can be disbursed.

What are the prerequisites for an application?

- Admission as doctoral candidate at Goethe University Frankfurt
- Doctoral thesis is expected to be submitted in 2023 or early 2024
- University entrance qualification was acquired outside of Germany
- No German citizenship

