ABAAD
Afghan Women Forward

EAGT
EMPOWER AFGHAN GIRLS TOGETHER

DAAD scholarship guide through
GLOBAL PATHWAYS FOR GIRLS (GPG)

Initiative under EAGT Empower Afghan Girls Together

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Country: Germany

Presented by: Abaad: Afghan Women Forward

Introduction to Germany:

Population

- Germany has a population of approximately **83.4 million people** by 2024, making it the most populated country in the European Union.
- It has a **diverse population, with a significant number of immigrants**, particularly from Turkey, Poland, and Syria but also from all over the world. By 2023, 40% of children under 5 came from a migration background.
- Germany's **population is aging** due to low birth rates, which poses challenges for its workforce and social security systems and provides **opportunities for young adult migrants both students and workers**.

Culture

- Some famous persons from Germany include **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Albert Einstein**.
- The country is known for its **classical music, literature, and contributions to philosophy**, with important figures like Immanuel Kant and Friedrich Nietzsche.
- Traditional festivals such **as Oktoberfest in Bavaria and Christmas markets** across the country showcase Germany's traditions and heritage.
- Germany is home to **54 UNESCO World Heritage sites**, many history, natural and modern science and art museums.
- In Germany you will find persons from different nationalities, markets and restaurants with **foods from different regions** and **cultural events and venues**. Food alternatives such as **vegetarian, vegan and halal options** are often available in many restaurants.
- **Environmentally friendly living is an important aspect of German life and culture**. Rules on how to properly recycle and dispose of waste and incentives to recycle or reuse plastic such as Pfand are the norm in the country.

Economy

- Germany has **the largest economy in Europe** and **the fourth-largest in the world**. It has a powerful industrial sector, known for its automobile industry, with companies like Volkswagen, BMW, and Mercedes-Benz. Other major sectors include engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and finance.

Educational System

- **Germany has a highly regarded education system that emphasizes both academic and vocational training**. The country has *Universitäten* (universities) with a higher academic focus and *Hochschulen* (technical or practical focused universities), both with high quality education programs for different fields of study.

- **Since 2014, there are generally no tuition fees in German universities in all 16 federal states both for national and international students**. Exceptions may apply for example, to some private universities. Only a small fee is charged per semester, which is **usually no more than 300 euros, and tends to include a semester transportation ticket** which allows you to use almost any regional and local train, bus, subway or tram in the entire country unlimited times.

About the DAAD: The German Academic Exchange Service

The DAAD is the world's largest funding organization for the international exchange of students and researchers. In 2023, the DAAD funded more than 140,000 German and international scholars worldwide.

Scholarship details:

The DAAD has mostly Master's programs and post-graduate (PHD or post-doctorate) programs. There are generally two types of scholarships from the DAAD:

- **University-bound scholarships:** Some DAAD scholarships will require that you apply and are selected to a specific set of universities (for example: Helmut-Schmidt Scholarship for Good Governance and Public Policy).
- **Funding scholarships regardless of university of choice:** Scholarships provided given that you are accepted into a German university in a specific field (for example: architecture, business, science, among others). It is up to you to find a university program of your interest, apply and share with the DAAD your acceptance to receive the funding. The majority of DAAD scholarships are not bound to specific universities.

What do these scholarships generally cover?

- Scholars taking a **Master's program** typically receive **EUR 992** per month which scholarship holders can use to pay rent, food and other living expenses. Additional stipends can be granted for rent subsidies, for example if living in a high-rent city and under approval of the DAAD. Scholarship holders are generally responsible for finding their own accommodation.
- **DAAD grants an allowance towards travel expenses in the form of a lump sum** for travelling from your country of origin to Germany. This is usually calculated internally by the DAAD depending on distance, prices or other factors. It is up to you to buy the tickets.
- Under certain conditions, DAAD offers an allowance for accompanying spouses, child allowance and insurance benefits for spouses, registered partners and children ("partner allowance"). The **"partner allowance" is 276 euros per month**. If you are not entitled to state child benefit, you can apply for a DAAD child allowance in the amount of the state child benefit. Currently, you receive **255 euros per month per child**.
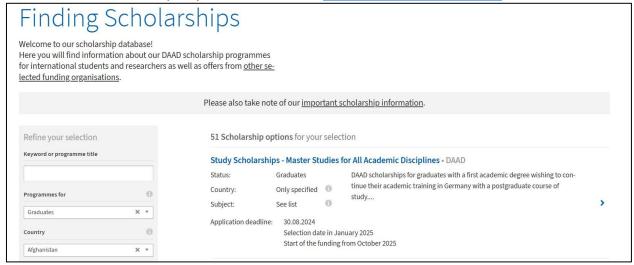
- DAAD scholarships generally grant **health insurance for scholarship holders and their family**, usually under a private insurance provider.
- Depending on the specific scholarship or program, the DAAD can cover a few months of in-person German courses or virtual German courses before the beginning of the semester. Additional funding for continuing to learn German during the Master's course can also be granted if approved by the DAAD.
- Additional benefits for disability or chronic illness may apply upon previous approval of the DAAD.

NOTE: DAAD scholarships generally do not cover semester fees, which are usually around 300 euros per semester. These must be budgeted and paid for by the scholarship holders.

Working part-time while on a scholarship: Working part-time, internships or volunteer work is only possible if authorized by the DAAD and academic heads of your program. DAAD will verify that the part-time employment does not interfere with the purpose of the scholarship. Additional income exceeding **EUR 556 gross per month** shall be deducted from the monthly scholarship payment.
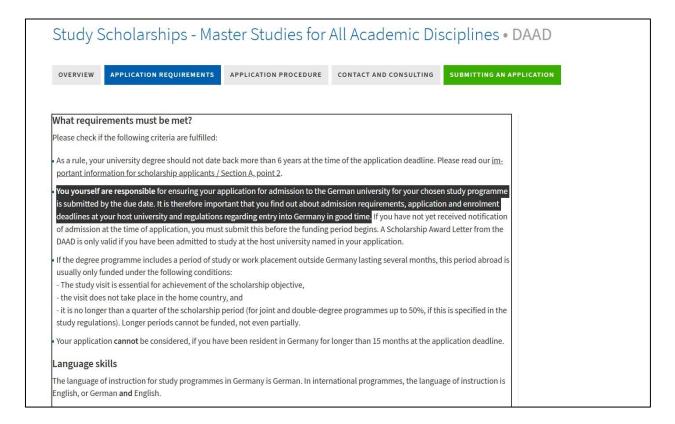
Where to start?

1. Find the scholarship of your interest in the [DAAD Scholarship database](#).

Finding Scholarships

Welcome to our scholarship database!
Here you will find information about our DAAD scholarship programmes for international students and researchers as well as offers from other selected funding organisations.

Please also take note of our important scholarship information.

Refine your selection

Keyword or programme title

Programmes for ℹ

Graduates ✕ ▼

Country ℹ

Afghanistan ✕ ▼

51 Scholarship options for your selection

Study Scholarships - Master Studies for All Academic Disciplines • DAAD

Status:	Graduates	DAAD scholarships for graduates with a first academic degree wishing to continue their academic training in Germany with a postgraduate course of study....
Country:	Only specified ℹ	
Subject:	See list ℹ	

Application deadline: 30.08.2024
Selection date in January 2025
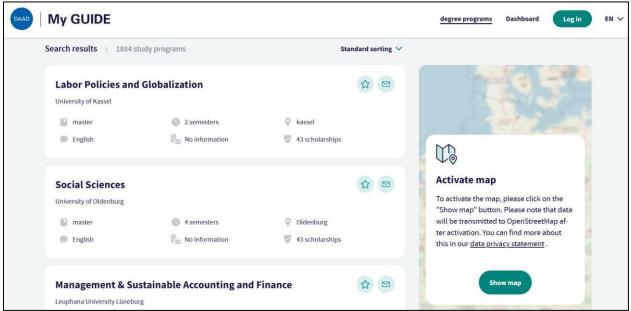Start of the funding from October 2025

Source: Screenshot taken from DAAD.de

2. Identify if it is linked to a specific set of programs or if it is your responsibility to find and be accepted to a program from any German university in the relevant field.
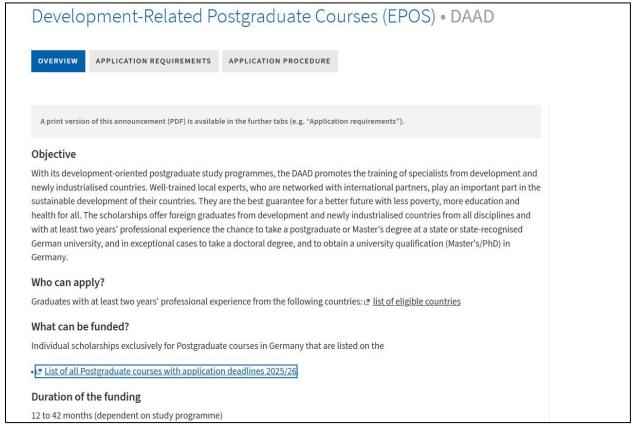
Source: Screenshot taken from DAAD.de while manually highlighting relevant requirement

3. If it is not linked to a specific set of programs, check the [DAAD My Guide portal](#) where you may explore thousands of different university programs and filter according to your preferences such as language, field of study, duration, application deadlines, location, among others.

4. If it is linked to a specific set of programs, check the possible universities and courses. Make a list of their requirements, deadlines and important notes. You may have to choose only two to which apply for the scholarship so research and choose wisely.

Examples of possible scholarships of interest:

- Study Scholarships - Master Studies for All Academic Disciplines
- Friedrich Ebert Foundation: Scholarship for International Students
- Hertie School: Human Rights Scholarship
- Development-Related Postgraduate Courses (EPOS)
- Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS): International Scholarships
- Helmut-Schmidt-Programme (Master's Scholarships for Public Policy and Good Governance

Application and Eligibility Requirements:

Requirements **vary depending on the scholarship and university program and it is important to check you meet with both before submitting an application**. Generally speaking, some common requirements are:

- **English or German proficiency.** A DSH or TestDaF tesy is usually required if the language of instruction is German; and a TOEFL or IELTS test if the language of instruction is English. Level C1 is often required; however, this varies from degree program to degree program.

- **English or German translations of key documents** such as transcripts of records and degrees.

- **Age limit:** The DAAD states there is usually no fixed age limit. There are individual exceptions in programs in which this is explicitly requested by an international partner. Most scholarship programs stipulate that only a certain amount of time should have elapsed since the last degree was obtained.

- **Finalized degree:** In programs which require a first university degree, you can apply in your last year of study. You must then meet all the academic requirements set out in the Call for Applications by the time your funding period begins. So, you can hand in your degree later; it must be submitted before the start of the funding period.

- **Good academic and professional achievements:** The DAAD primarily supports individuals with high academic achievements. As a rule, the scholarship programs do not stipulate a minimum grade point average for the application, but academic performance is an important criterion for the award of the scholarship. Good grades are not everything: other aspects are also taken into account that are also important, such as the quality of the project, language skills, motivation, extracurricular commitment, special circumstances, etc.

Deadlines:

Application process dates may vary depending on the scholarship and program of study but **generally from June to August every year** to begin the program in September or October of the next year. For example, persons who apply on 2025 will be notified of their selection and start their program in the fall 2026. **Remember to check the specific dates for the scholarship and program you are interested in!**

Website/Contact Information:

[DAAD Important information for scholarship applicants](#) – more details on benefits, limitations, requirements and funding for specific cases

[DAAD Scholarship database](#) – Portal for browsing all the available scholarships for your country of origin

[DAAD My Guide portal](#) – Portal for browsing courses of study in Germany for scholarship

Tips for Success (Mentor's advice):

- **Tell your story:** Do not be afraid to leave a personal mark on your application, especially in the letter of motivation, but also in all of your application documents. Think about why and

how you came to be interested in your subject of study and how to link your personal or professional experiences and skills. For example, any community or family support you have provided, why you are passionate about the study program and what you aim to achieve with the knowledge you gain. Remember to consider the goals of the DAAD and its slogan "change through exchange", what do you aim to change? Why should it be you that makes this change? Be confident in what you have to offer!

- **Be specific but strategic:** It is good to highlight your personal and professional experiences so that the DAAD and university get to know who you are. However, just adding any previous experience without it linking it to your area of study can cause a negative or confusing effect. Be strategic about what experiences you include and how they can be linked to the program of study. Additionally, some of your experiences may not be self-explanatory. Remember to provide any relevant details on what you did under each roles and how it links to your study course.

- **Take advantage of LinkedIn to Network:** Connect with other scholars from your country or alumni from your programs of interest. Do not be afraid to send messages to ask about their experiences with the program and their previous work and study experience. Generally, alumni are happy to connect with and help potential students. Looking at their profiles can also help you identify key skills or profiles that have been successfully accepted into the program and how your profile fits among them.

- **Build your skills:** If you identify there are key areas you are interested in that may be useful for your application, try to build your knowledge and skills before the application. For example, take a free online course from a university in a relevant area, read papers and documents (especially those published by your program academic staff in your course of interest), engage in possible volunteer roles in your community, charities or even family businesses in relevant areas.

- **Use AI tools wisely:** Generally, it is not too difficult to identify when something is written by AI, it tends to lack personality and can often follow predictable structures. If you use ChatGPT or AI when writing your application documents such as your motivation letter, only use it as a friend giving you advice. You can use it to brainstorm ideas, ask for its opinion or feedback, but do not use it to write the documents for you! The DAAD also requires applicants to disclose if AI tools were used and cite them respectively. *The DAAD states:* "Even when using technical tools, the authenticity of your application must be maintained. *Applicants' unique qualities and characteristics should remain evident as these play an important role in the selection process*."

- **Start with time and stay organized:** This is probably one of the most important tips. Application processes can be overwhelming and can require multiple documents that take time to obtain. If you leave your application until the last minute, it is highly possible that you will not be able to obtain all the documents required. Make a spreadsheet or table where you keep all your deadlines, requirements (step by step) and paste helpful links for example, the program page, the DAAD scholarship specific information, important notes, among others.

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