

Bachelor scholarship opportunities through

# GLOBAL PATHWAYS FOR GIRLS (GPG)

Initiative under EAGT Empower Afghan Girls Together

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Country: Germany

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# 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 Scholarships for Bachelor's Degrees in Germany

Scholarships for Bachelor's Degrees in Germany are not very common as most universities and universities of applied science do not charge tuition fees and may only request some semester fee which tends to represent a low cost. Additionally, student jobs in all fields are quite common for up to generally a maximum of 20 hours per week and allowed for persons with a student visa. For this reason, the few available scholarships for Bachelor's Degrees tend to focus on aiding students with their living expenses and may require some specific conditions such as already being enrolled in a university or having finished a certain amount of semesters with good academic performance before applying.

### 1. **Socially Better World (SBW) Scholarships, Berlin or Potsdam**

Berlin is the capital of Germany and an international city with a highly developed transportation system. Berlin and Potsdam are next to each other and easily accessible by train. The BVG public transport system includes buses, trams, and U-Bahn/S-Bahn, with a semester ticket covering all zones. This scholarship provides accommodation and generally does not allow part-time jobs.

### 2. **Merit Scholarships for International Students, University of Hamburg, Hamburg**

International students in Hamburg can find affordable housing in student dorms (around €250–€500), shared apartments, or private rentals. The city has excellent public transport, and a semester ticket offers unlimited travel at a discount. Students can work up to 20 hours per week in sectors like retail, hospitality, or as research assistants, with German skills improving job prospects.

### 3. **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Basic Funding for Foreigners Scholarship Program, Germanywide**

This scholarship can be taken to carry out studies in any university or university of applied sciences in Germany.

#### 4. Deutschlandstipendium (Germany Scholarships), numerous universities in Germany

This scholarship is available in 290 different universities and universities of applied sciences in various Federal States across Germany.

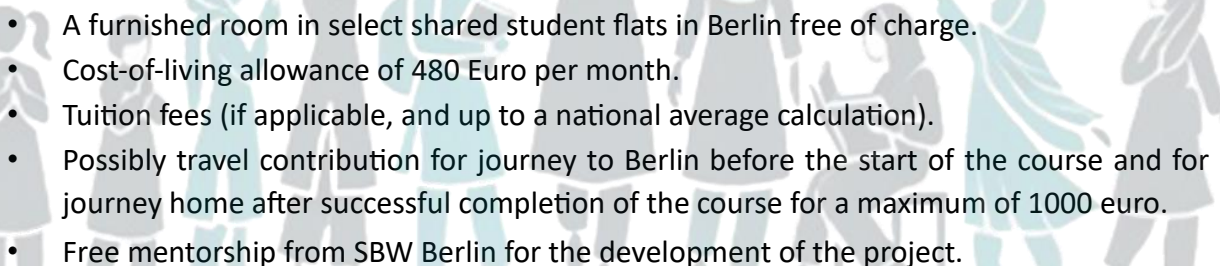
### 1. SBW Berlin Scholarship

**Name of Hosting Institution:** Socially Better World (SBW) for any university or applied sciences university in Berlin or Potsdam.

#### Scholarship details:

The SBW Berlin Scholarship requires applicants to develop a project in their home country alongside an NGO or local social organization. Additionally, the scholarship allows for two options after being selected, returning to applicants' home country for 18 months or remaining in Germany but repaying the scholarship in 12-month interest-free installments starting 3 months after the end of studies. This is an option for example for students who have found employment after their studies ended and wish to remain working in Germany. A total of 20 scholarships can be awarded per semester.

#### Scholarship benefits:

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- A furnished room in select shared student flats in Berlin free of charge.
  - Cost-of-living allowance of 480 Euro per month.
  - Tuition fees (if applicable, and up to a national average calculation).
  - Possibly travel contribution for journey to Berlin before the start of the course and for journey home after successful completion of the course for a maximum of 1000 euro.
  - Free mentorship from SBW Berlin for the development of the project.

#### After being granted the scholarship, recipients are expected to:

- Proactively work on their project between 2 and 8 hours per week.
- Participate in workshops at SBW Berlin, prepare project reports, and give lectures or presentations on their project.
- Maintain good academic performance.
- Not work in Germany (unless an exception is granted).

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Being between 18 and 30 years old.
- Be a foreign national whose home country has need for development assistance or a holder of a student visa in Germany or residence permit allowing studies (you can apply from your home country or from Germany).

- Professional or volunteer experience with a non-profit or social organization in home country.
- Intention to pursue professional goals for at least 18 months after the end of funding period or graduation in home country or engaging in non-profit work in Germany while completing the repayment plan.

### Application Requirements:

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Professional or volunteer experience in the non-profit/social sector (proven by a social institution's letter of recommendation).
- Able to prove that they have not stayed in Germany for more than 18 months before the application.
- Qualification for university entrance.
- Intention to work in their country of origin for at least 18 months after graduation or to engage in non-profit work until the repayment plan has been fulfilled.
- Able to prove a relatively low net income.
- Average grades corresponding to a German grade point average of at least 2.010.
- No first-degree family members who reside permanently in Germany.
- Application before the start of their university education or fully enrolled in the first, second or maximum third semester at a state-recognized university (in Germany or abroad).

Applications which do not meet all the requirements stated above cannot be considered.

### Application documents:

- Letter of recommendation from a non-profit organization or social institution or one of SBW Berlin's partner organizations (by email).
- Application form (a link will be shared with outstanding applicants).
- Project description (two to five pages).
- Qualification for university entrance.
- Information about the net household income.
- Copy of the last school or university certificate that shows the grade point average and a grade overview.
- Copy of the highest academic degree (high school diploma or university certificate) that shows the grade point average and a grade overview.
- **If available**, copies of the following documents should also be included:



- Admission to a university or university of applied sciences in Berlin or Potsdam.
- Internationally recognized language certificate for the language in which studies will be taught.
- All already obtained university certificates and records of achievements (graded and ungraded).
- All previous work, training, apprenticeship and internship certificates and references.
- It is **recommended but not mandatory** to also submit the following:
  - One or two letters of recommendation from professors, schoolteachers, employers, etc.
  - Evidence of the net household income.

The application and all enclosed certificates and supporting documents must be submitted in German or English, accompanying translations to German or English if the documents are issued in another language. Non-certified copies and simple translations are sufficient for the application.

**Note:** After the successful completion of the selection process, certified copies are sometimes required in the verification process.

#### **Deadlines:**

**There is no fixed application deadline; applications are accepted all year round.**

#### **Website/Contact Information:**

SBW Berlin Scholarship for International Students: <https://sbw.berlin/en/portfolio-items/sbwberlin-scholarship>

Guidelines and Criteria for the scholarship: [https://sbw.berlin/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Guidelines\\_SBWBerlinScholarship\\_InternationalStudents-2.pdf](https://sbw.berlin/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Guidelines_SBWBerlinScholarship_InternationalStudents-2.pdf)

#### **Tips for Success:**

- **Build your expertise:** Start engaging in possible volunteer roles in your community, charities or even family businesses in your area of interest. Do not be afraid to take on simultaneous roles as long as you feel you can sustain them. Think of your experience as a portfolio with a transversal line, look at how they link to your area of interest. Fill any gaps with online courses or justify this adaptation to the project.
- **Project proposal:** Do not leave your project proposal for the last minute. It is a key consideration of your application. First identify the key area you want to focus on and that is relevant to your previous experience. Be creative and look up similar projects but analyze what yours might stand out for or be done differently to improve what has already been done.

## 2. Merit Scholarship for International Students at the University of Hamburg

**Name of Hosting Institution:** University of Hamburg

### Scholarship details:

Merit scholarship aimed at supporting international students already enrolled and studying in the University of Hamburg in all disciplines and degrees who are academically outstanding and committed in social or intercultural contexts.

### Scholarship benefits:

- Maximum funding of 930 euros per month.
- Scholarships are awarded for 12 months in total, and a new application is possible after receiving the scholarship for a maximum of 2 years of funding.

### After being granted the scholarship, recipients are expected to:

- Not transfer to another university for a semester abroad.
- Not take semesters off while on the scholarship.

### Eligibility Criteria:

Students eligible for funding are those who:

- Have been enrolled at the University of Hamburg for at least two semesters and be aiming for a degree.
- Do not have German citizenship.
- Are not entitled to funding under the Federal Training Assistance Act (which is aimed at permanent residents and refugees, student visa holders are generally unable to apply to this act and can therefore apply to this scholarship).
- Have good or very good academic achievements.
- Have verifiable knowledge and skills (for example, publications, qualifications)
- Have Social and/or intercultural commitment (for example, voluntary work proved through written confirmation from an institution).

Note: There is no age limit for applying for the scholarship.

### Application Requirements:

- Register in application portal with your student email address.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Motivation letter following a specified template

- Proof of achievement through transcript of records
- One report from two lecturers at the University of Hamburg following a specified template
- Copy of your visa or residence permit on the specified dates for your application period

#### **Deadlines:**

**Applications can be submitted by the following deadlines:**

April 15 (funding period: October 1 - September 30)

October 15th (funding period: April 1st - March 31st of the following year).

#### **Website/Contact Information:**

University website: <https://www.uni-hamburg.de/en.html>

Scholarship page: <https://www.uni-hamburg.de/en/internationales/studierende/incoming/studium-mit-abschluss/waehrend-desstudiums/finanzierung/leistungsstipendien.html>

#### **Tips for Success:**

- **Contact your lecturer at least 6 weeks prior to applying:** This can ensure that the assessment can be prepared on time. Remind them and provide them with the assessment template from the University.
- **Dedicate weekly time to studying and classes:** As any merit scholarship based on academic achievement, grades will be a key determining factor on applications. Organize yourself so you have read all materials before sessions and can participate in discussions, but also so that your results in final examinations will allow you to apply for the scholarship. Many students, especially when working part time, will not worry about possibly retaking exams or classes. However, this should not be the case if you hope to apply to this scholarship.
- **Write your plans for developing your skills in the motivation letter:** The purpose of the scholarship is to allow high-achieving students to further develop themselves. Following the template provided, remember to highlight your concrete plans on what further volunteer work positions you could take, research projects, among others.

### **3. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Basic Funding for Foreigners Scholarship Program**

**Name of Hosting Institution:** Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)

#### **Scholarship details:**



This scholarship provides financial aid and non-material support for students already studying in Germany so they can concentrate on their studies without financial struggles and have time to dedicate to volunteer work. The scholarship does not have to be paid back and lasts until the end of the study program.

### **Scholarship benefits:**

- Financial support of up to 992 euros per month.
- Costs for health insurance covered.
- Scholarship holders with children can receive an additional 160 euros per month.
- Availability of socio-political seminars, workshops and skills training in different areas.
- Participation in network of past and current scholarship holders.
- Personal support and advice to scholarship holders for their career planning and studies.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Be enrolled and studying in Germany. It is compulsory to have finished at least the first semester and not have more than three semesters before the end of the study period.
- Have initial graded performance certificates from the first semester or previous semester of study.
- Have very good knowledge of German language skills at the C1 level, even if course is completed in English. Possible certificates include:
  - "German Language Examination for University Entrance" passed with at least DSH-2.
  - "German as a Foreign Language" passed with at least level 4
  - "Telc C1 Hochschule"
  - German Language Diploma of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany Level II
  - "Certificate C1" of the Goethe Institute
- Be socially and politically engaged, with emphasis in solidarity as a key value for social democracy. Experience in volunteer work is highly regarded.
- Persons who are the first in their family to study, have a migrant background, are women or are in STEM subjects are given particular consideration.

### **Application Requirements:**

- Fill out the application form including personal motivation (within two to four weeks applicants will either receive a rejection or a request to submit documents).

- Submit a detailed CV, certificates, university entrance qualification and enrollment certificate, letter of motivation, two reports from university lecturers or teachers (at this step, applicants may receive a rejection or a notification of further review).
- Pass two selection interviews (travel expenses for the in-person interview can be reimbursed).

### Deadlines:

Generally, the best time to apply is as early as possible after finishing the first semester to benefit from the scholarship as long as possible. It is possible to apply at any time after the first semester has been completed and up to three semesters before the end of the standard period of study.

### Website/Contact Information:

FES Scholarships general page: <https://www.fes.de/studienfoerderung/stipendium>

Specific scholarship information:

<https://www.fes.de/studienfoerderung/stipendium/grundfoerderung-fuer-auslaenderinnen>

Information about application process: <https://www.fes.de/studienfoerderung/bewerbung>

### Tips for Success:

- **Check the recommendations for preparing for selection interviews:** FES has a document compiling questions, answers and tips for the two selection interviews applicants may encounter as part of their application process. A document with all the trusted lecturers and selection committee members of the FES can be found in the FES annual report updated yearly at the beginning of the year.
- **Link your experience and personal convictions to the core values of FES:** An important consideration for your application is your alignment to the principles of social democracy, solidarity, volunteer work and community engagement. Although you may not have specific experience or interest in political work, aspects such as welfare, community participation, charity, among others are key considerations for your application. Think about how your personal and professional life relates to these principles and highlight them throughout your application.

## 4. Deutschlandstipendium (Germany Scholarships)

**Name of Hosting Institution:** Federal Ministry of Training and Research of Germany

### Scholarship details:

The Deutschlandstipendium aims to support highly talented students in any of the 290 different participating universities without consideration of personal or parent income or nationality. It is awarded by the universities.

### **Scholarship benefits:**

- A financial support of 300 euros per month for at least two semesters and up to the standard period of study at most. This support is provided in lecture-free periods too and is non-repayable.
- Many universities and sponsors provide career support: Mentoring programs, career advice services, networking events and internships.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Be enrolled in one of the 290 participating universities.
- Be a student with outstanding achievements. This concept is broad to encompass academic achievements and willingness to take on responsibility, overcoming obstacles in one's personal life and educational path.
- Comply with the specific requirements established by the university.

### **Application Requirements:**

Specific application requirements will vary from university to university. However, they generally include filling in application forms and submitting documents such as motivation letters. Each university has a section in their webpage dedicated to their specific application process and requirements and some of these may vary from program to program depending on the field of study.

### **Deadlines:**

Application process deadlines will also vary from university to university; however, they tend to be around April for the winter semester.

### **Website/Contact Information:**

Deutschlandstipendium website:

[https://www.deutschlandstipendium.de/deutschlandstipendium/de/services/english/english\\_node.html](https://www.deutschlandstipendium.de/deutschlandstipendium/de/services/english/english_node.html)

Interactive map with participating universities:

[https://www.deutschlandstipendium.de/SiteGlobals/Forms/deutschlandstipendium/de/hochschullandkarte/hochschullandkarte\\_formular.html?nn=326116](https://www.deutschlandstipendium.de/SiteGlobals/Forms/deutschlandstipendium/de/hochschullandkarte/hochschullandkarte_formular.html?nn=326116)

### **Tips for Success:**

- **Prepare for the university-specific requirements:** If your university is participant in the Deutschlandstipendium and look at the requirements for the scholarship beforehand and begin preparing the documents and your profile to fit these.
- **Get in contact with your university focal points:** Each university will have a webpage with information regarding their specific processes and considerations for the scholarship, including the academic or administrative staff in charge of responding to questions regarding the Deutschlandstipendium. Get in touch ahead of time to start familiarizing yourself with the deadlines and steps to prevent missing the opportunity of applying.

## Resources and Tips for studying in Germany as a self-funded student

Since many scholarships for Bachelor's Degrees are only available after having enrolled in university or even after having completed at least one semester, students aiming to study their undergraduate degree in Germany can benefit from the following resources while they obtain a scholarship for their remaining studies:

- **Volkshochschule (VHS) Learning Portal:** Learning German will be key for applying to different scholarships and even for obtaining part-time employment. The VHS offers free German courses in-person and online (self-paced) through their web portal. You can study German in almost any language including Pashto, Arabic and English, and receive certifications from the VHS. Link: <https://www.vhslernportal.de/wws/9.php#/wws/home.php>
- **Studierendenwerk (Non-profit student organizations):** Almost all Federal States and big cities have their own student organization providing subsidized housing in single or shared student rooms, subsidized cafeterias and postings of available student jobs. You can search Studierendenwerk and the name of the city or State you will be staying at and apply to housing well in advance as they tend to be the cheapest options but also very competitive so have back-up options.

Additionally, the following tips apply for Bachelor's Degrees scholarships taking place after enrolling or a select number of semesters:

- **Continue engaging remotely or locally with volunteer work:** Volunteer work is often viewed in high regard when considering the merits of an applicant. Keep in touch with a local organization from your home country and ask how you can stay engaged and provide assistance remotely. Perhaps preparing documents or administrative tasks while in Germany. Consider engaging in volunteer work with a local NGO in your State or city for a topic of your interest.

- **Be proactive and participate actively in classes:** Some scholarships will depend on academic recommendation or will at least benefit from a written recommendation from one of your lecturers. As you will most likely share a classroom with multiple other students, try to stand out by asking questions and studying the materials before class to analytically answer any questions from the lecturers. Do not be afraid to reach out to them on any projects or research that may be available in the university in your areas of interest.





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