



Graduate School Scholarship Programme (GSSP) Information Sheet

Overview:

New for 2021: for the incoming 2021 HDS PhD Program student cohort, international applicants may apply for two competitively awarded scholarships (each with a duration of three years) generously funded by the DAAD's (German Academic Exchange Service) Graduate School Scholarship Programme (GSSP). These scholarships are reserved for outstanding international students applying for a structured graduate program for their doctoral studies, who either relocate to Germany for their studies or have been residing in Germany for only a short period of time (see eligibility details below).

Application deadline:

- **March 31st, 2021** (for scholarships starting October 2021).
- Note: this scholarship opportunity will be offered again in 2022 for students interested in first applying in early 2022 and enrolling in the program in October 2022.

Eligibility criteria/conditions for the DAAD scholarship:

1. At the time when the DAAD receives the nomination letter from the HDS PhD Board (anticipated: end of April 2021), the student's last final exam (date of completion of Master's degree or equivalent) must have taken place **no longer than six years ago**.
2. At the time when DAAD receives the nomination letter from the HDS board (anticipated: end of April 2021), applicants must not have resided in Germany for more than 15 months (i.e., did not move to Germany before February 2020).
3. The scholarship recipient spends no more than 25% of their scholarship funded period abroad (i.e. in our case, away from the Charité in Berlin, Germany)
4. The scholarship recipient must have completed their final exam (Master's degree or equivalent) before the start of the scholarship (October 2021)

Scholarship benefits:

The DAAD scholarship provides funding for **three years (the duration of HDS PhD Program)**. An extension of an additional 12 months (i.e. up to 48 months in total) may be possible in some circumstances. Selected scholarship nominees will receive detailed information about the terms and conditions from the DAAD. A list of benefits include:

- Scholarship installments of **€ 1,200** per month
- Travel allowance
- Payments towards health, accident and personal liability insurance

- Research allowance:
 - For scholarship holders from emerging countries: **€ 460**
 - For scholarship holders from industrialized countries: **€ 230**

Under certain circumstances, grant holders may receive the following additional benefits:

- Monthly rent subsidy
- Monthly allowance for accompanying family members:
 - Child allowance: About **€ 200** per child
 - Marriage allowance: About **€ 275**
- Preliminary German language course (optional, if possible due to the starting date of the scholarship. Note: German language skills are not required for HDS PhD Program but can be useful to navigate life in Germany).
- Material resource and supervision allowance of currently **€ 1,000** per year, which is paid upon application to the host institution.

How to apply:

- **The DAAD GSSP stipend selection process is directly embedded in the HDS PhD program application process.** This means that you will need to submit all required HDS PhD program application documents (see Application Checklist) to be considered for the competitive program **AND** provide the following two additional items upon application:
 1. On the HDS Application Form, check the designated box to be considered for the DAAD GSSP scholarship in the funding section. If you are considering other possible sources of funding, we recommend that you also mention these on the Form.
 2. In addition to the letter of recommendation required for all HDS PhD program applicants, you additionally need to submit **two completed DAAD recommendation forms from professors and/or lecturers from your previous (home) university** for the DAAD GSSP scholarship. Please note:
 - It is possible for the professor/lecturer who provided the letter of recommendation for the main HDS PhD program application to complete one of the two recommendation forms required for the scholarship application.
 - The form and guidelines for the recommendation letter are available on the [HDS PhD program website](#).
- At the end of the HDS PhD Program selection process, up to two students will be formally nominated to the DAAD to receive the scholarship by the HDS PhD Program selection committee (up to two alternate nominees may also be proposed).
- After receiving the official confirmation of nomination, each nominees must formally register through the [DAAD portal](#) within four weeks of receiving notification about the nomination by submitting the following documents (note: several items overlap with the original HDS PhD Program application requirements).
 1. An abstract of your proposal (max. 1 page); including the name of the participating graduate school nominating you (HDS PhD Program, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin)
 2. Curriculum vitae (CV)

3. Letter of motivation
4. Schedule of your proposal including information about possible field studies/stays abroad. If you plan a field study/stay abroad, please submit also a short working plan and schedule of the field trip/stay (when, where, what, how long)
5. Bachelor's and Master's degree certificates and certificates of annual examinations taken at the home university (transcript of records) including grades and explaining the home university grades' system (description of grade scale)
6. Documents certifying knowledge of English language proficiency Level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
7. Documents certifying any completed practical work (internship, etc.)
8. List of publications
9. Confirmation of nomination (will be issued by the HDS coordination team)

Approximate 2021 timeline (dates subject to change):

- **March 31st, 2021:** HDS PhD Program Application deadline
- **Early April 2021:** Students notified whether they have been selected for an interview
- **Mid-April 2021:** Interviews (online) & selected applicants notified
- **End of April 2021:** Final GSSP scholarship nominations submitted to DAAD by HDS PhD Board
- **May 2021:** Each nominee must submit all additional required GSSP documentation to the DAAD portal

Please note:

- If you are already funded by the DAAD, another German funding organization, or another state agency in Germany, you cannot receive an additional scholarship from the DAAD in parallel. E.g., an Erasmus scholarship is not compatible with a full DAAD scholarship.
- Scholarship holders wishing to work part-time during their scholarship period, i.e. pursue gainful employment, always require the approval of the DAAD, their academic supervisor, and the HDS PhD board. DAAD and/or the HDS board will verify that the part-time employment does not interfere with the purpose of the scholarship. Any additional income exceeding € 450 gross (brutto) per month shall be deducted from the monthly scholarship payment.
- You can find the full guidelines and information about the GSSP scholarship using the following link. In case of any discrepancies, please rely on these official regulations from the DAAD:
<https://www.daad.de/en/information-services-for-higher-education-institutions/further-information-on-daad-programmes/gssp/>

IMPORTANT

Since the application and nomination for the DAAD scholarship is not a guarantee for receiving the scholarship, funding alternatives should be considered in the application for the HDS program.