

Ph.D. in Germany Via DAAD Scholarship: Finding a Supervisor

A Mentorship Seminar

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Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Ph.D. in Germany

DAAD Research Grants for Doctoral Candidates for 2023/24!



1. One-Year Grants for Doctoral Candidates

Offers the opportunity to carry out research in Germany primarily as part of doctoral projects in the home country:
www.daad.de/go/en/stipa57140602

2. Doctoral Programmes in Germany

Offers the opportunity to pursue your doctoral degree in Germany: www.daad.de/go/en/stipa57135739

3. Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees / Cotutelle

Offers the opportunity to carry out research in Germany primarily as part of doctoral projects in the home country up to 24 months: www.daad.de/go/en/stipa57507783

4. Kenyan-German Postgraduate Programme (Kenyans only!)

Trains staff members of Kenyan Universities and research institutions for Ph.D. in STEM and agriculture:
www.daad.de/go/en/stipa50015259

Overview



- No age limit
- Deadline for 2023/24 applications is October 31, 2022
- Open to those with MSc



Funds:



- Individual doctoral projects supervised by a university professor
- Structured Ph.D. programmes
- Duration: 4 years; 1 year renewable grants

Funding includes:

- 1200 EUR per month
- Health insurance
- Travel allowance
- Annual research allowance

May also include:

- Rent subsidy
- Allowance for accompanying family member



Requirements:

- **A good proposal** (10-15 pages)
- Good academic recommendations
- A supervisor in a German university or non university research institute OR
- Admission to a structured program in a German university or non university research institute

How to write your research proposal

- Be precise: say exactly why you are writing and what your research project is.
- Give precise details of what your research involves – and what it doesn't involve.
- Explain what you want to discover in your research, what problem you would like to solve.
- Focus on your research topic and do not get lost in sideshows.
- Develop a coherent and convincing argument in favour of your research project.
- Don't get tied up in minor details.
- Don't forget to mention the most important works in your research area.
- Make sure your grammar and spelling are correct.

Traditional vs Structured Ph.D.



Traditional Route/Individual Doctorate

- Own topic (more often)
- Self-driven
- Independent



Traditional Route/Individual Doctorate

- May be no expert in group
- Steep learning curve
- Needs discipline



Structured Program

- Mostly in research institutes
- Incorporated into larger ongoing projects
- Close supervision
- Mandatory coursework



Finding a supervisor

Initiating and Maintaining Contact



Searching a database

- There is no central admissions or selection office for Ph.D. students
- The first step is to find a supervisor
- No shortcuts



International Structured Programs


<https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/studienangebote/international-programmes/en/>

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN GERMANY 2022/2023

2109 Programmes available

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SEARCH 16

Structured Programs in Universities

<https://www.hochschulkompass.de/en/study-in-germany.html>

Finding a supervisor for Individual Ph.D.

GERit – German Research Institutions

<https://gerit.org/en/>

GERiT – German Research Institutions

Are you interested in researching or studying in Germany? GERiT – German Research Institutions – provides an overview of 29,000 research institutions in Germany. Here you will find institutional profiles, job vacancies, the doctoral regulations for specific institutions and subject areas, and links to DFG-funded projects.



Start search

Ph.D. Positions Database

<https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/promotion/phd/en/13306-phdgermany-database/>

PhDGermany Database

Doctoral Positions in Germany

[Registration](#) / [Login](#) for German universities
and research institutions

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Keyword

Type of Position

Financing

Field of Research

Working Language

City

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90 PhD offers for your selection

Sorted by:



Doctoral Researcher Position in Materials Sciences • Friedrich Schiller University
Jena • Otto Schott Institute of Materials Research • Jena

Working Language: English
Application Deadline: 10 Oct 2022
Starting Date: 01 Feb 2023

Last updated: 30 Aug 2022 (Published: 30 Aug 2022)



PhD Position in Mathematics (Discrete Optimization) • Friedrich-Alexander-
Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg • Lehrstuhl für Analytics & Mixed-Integer
Optimization • Erlangen

Working Language: German
Application Deadline: 30 Sep 2022
Starting Date: 01 Dec 2022

Last updated: 30 Aug 2022 (Published: 30 Aug 2022)

Higher Education Compass

<https://www.hochschulkompass.de/en/study-in-germany.html>



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Extended search >



Making the First Contact

- Invest time and effort
- Demonstrate interest
- Why the specific Professor?

Making the First Contact

- Subject should fit the supervisor's interests
- Show that you are well informed
- **Be brief and precise**

Email Etiquette

- Subject should be precise
- Use one email thread per topic
- Main point first, followed by context
- Change undo send option to 30 sec



> Dear Prof Dr [REDACTED],
>
> I am a prospective applicant for the PhD DAAD scholarship in Germany, and
> one of the requirements is to look for a supervisor. Having looked at the
> kind of research that your group is involved in, I have seen that my
> proposed work is related to the work you do. Therefore, I wish to express
> my interest in working with you as my supervisor.
>
> My proposed work involves studying the effect of modifying a Glassy Carbon
> Electrode, with polyaniline and Pt and Pd nanoparticles, on the
> electrocatalytic oxidation of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).
> This is with a view to come up with an electrochemical sensor platform for
> PAH sensing. I have attached an abstract of the proposed work, but more
> information can be availed on your request. I also wish to assure you that
> I am open to any suggestions to tailor my proposal to fit in your research
> interests.
>
> I am very curious and highly interested in the field of electrochemistry
> and would love to build my expertise in it with a researcher of world
> standing like you. I am also willing to put in the necessary work required
> to produce good research results worthy of publication.

Main points

Brief details

Additional points

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