



ERA Fellowships – Green Hydrogen 2023

Research fellowships for international PostDocs

OBJECTIVE

1 Climate neutrality by the middle of the 21st century is the declared goal of Germany and the EU. Green hydrogen is an important component in the transformation of the energy sector and the decarbonization of emission-intensive sectors. Within the framework of the German and the European hydrogen strategies, we intend to recruit and qualify future specialists and young scientists. In addition, international cooperation, especially in the European Research Area, shall be strengthened and interdisciplinarity and innovative capabilities promoted. The ERA Fellowships – Green Hydrogen programme, funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), is complemented by comprehensive networking measures and the establishment of four working groups¹. Fellows will continue to be involved in those after the end of the funding period and thus will both receive and offer long-term support from and to the German research and innovation location for green hydrogen.

WHO CAN APPLY?

2 PostDocs working in the field of *Green Hydrogen (GH₂)* from universities in the extended European Research Area² who want to actively participate in one of the four working groups, also after the end of the fellowship.

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

3 The programme provides funding for a research project or continuing academic training at a state or state-recognised institution of higher education in Germany or a non-university research institute, which is being carried out in agreement with a supervisor in Germany.

The fellowship grants access to international working groups and allows for active participation and involvement in a group that can continue after the fellowship ends.

DURATION OF THE FUNDING

4 1 to 24 months.³

The fellowship cannot be extended.

¹ The working groups will focus on: production, transport and infrastructure, market stimulation (i.e. further development of the market for hydrogen) and cross-cutting issues (i.e. regulation, socio-economic and legal framework).

² Applicants from the following countries are eligible to apply for a fellowship: EU member states, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Israel, Kosovo, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Türkiye, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

³ Please check paragraph 11 for further details regarding the funding duration, application deadline, etc.

VALUE

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The fellowship covers:

- a monthly fellowship instalment of 2,800 Euros
- payments towards health, accident and personal liability insurance cover
- a [lump sum](#) towards international travel costs

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

- In the case of a disability or chronic illness: subsidy for additional costs which result from the disability or chronic illness and are not covered by other funding providers: Further information
- Green Mobility Top Up (Support for climate-friendly travel) or partial reimbursement of carbon offset payments for air travel
- grant for participation in a congress

SELECTION

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The selection committees are composed according to subject and, if applicable, regional criteria. The committee members are appointed by the DAAD Executive Board and are primarily university teachers from German universities. They evaluate the applications and decide on the awarding of the fellowships. DAAD staff members organize the meeting but have no voting rights.

SELECTION CRITERIA

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The selection criteria are:

Academic qualification

- Academic performance (general grade point average, grade development, dissertation grade)
- Course of studies and doctorate
- Academic achievements after graduation, (e.g. publications, lectures, conference papers)

Quality of the research project

- Quality of research proposal and preparation (originality, topicality and relevance of the project, choice of host institution and first contacts)
- Feasibility and consistency of research plan and schedule (analysis and evaluation stages)
- Suitability of the applicant's profile and the research project to the objectives of the program (potential for personal and professional development, use of international networking in the working groups as well as own active contributions in the working groups)

In addition, the selection committee will give due consideration to aspects of equal opportunities, on which you can provide information in the application form.

For further information on the selection procedure, please refer to the [Important Scholarship Information](#) / Section E.

WHAT REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET?

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Please check if the following criteria are fulfilled:

- As a rule, applicants should not have completed their PhD any longer than two years before the application deadline.
- Your application **cannot** be considered, if you have been resident in Germany for longer than 15 months at the application deadline

LANGUAGE SKILLS

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Very good English language skills are essential. However, we do not require an official English test. **The author of the invitation letter must confirm that your English language skills are sufficient** to pursue the research project in Germany.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

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Certificates, proof of credits, certifications and translations may be scanned in non-certified form and uploaded to the DAAD portal. The DAAD reserves the right to request certified copies of the documents.

Documents to be uploaded to the DAAD portal:

- Online application form
- Full curriculum vitae in tabular form (max. 3 pages)
- List of publications (max. 10 pages), if applicable
- Letter of motivation (1-3 pages) taking into account the following question: What do you hope to gain from your project in Germany (personally, professionally, for your career)? **The letter of motivation must also include a statement in which working group you would like to actively participate.**
- A proposal, prepared and formulated by yourself, as well as a description of previous research work (max. 10 pages in total). A proposal is an extensive and detailed description of the research project which has been discussed with the academic adviser. Please also read our [Important Scholarship Information](#) / section B, point 2.
- Schedule of planned research work
- Confirmation from the academic host in Germany; the confirmation must refer to your project and guarantee that the host institute in Germany will provide you with a workplace. Also read our [Important Scholarship Information](#) / section C, point 3.
- University degree certificate and transcripts of records of your last academic degree (as a rule, PhD; Master, if you have not yet completed your PhD at the time of application). If the documents of your last academic degree are not yet available at the time of application, please be sure to submit them subsequently as soon as possible.
- Other documents which support your application (example: certificates of employment, proof of practical training/internships or social commitment etc.)

To be submitted digitally (by a university teacher):

- One recent reference from a university teacher which provides information about your qualifications. Please regard the instructions given on the tab “Submitting an application” in the DAAD scholarship database.
For this call for applications, it is possible to send in references digitally. Please check the DAAD scholarship database for further details.

All application documents have to be submitted in English.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

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Applications can be submitted anytime.
The fellowship can be commenced at the beginning of each month.
Please note that applications have to be submitted at least 4 months before the planned starting date.

Funding for the fellowship programme is available until the end of 2025. Please keep this in mind if you want to apply for a fellowship for more than 18 months.

INFORMATION AND ADVISORY CENTRES

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Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service
Section ST43 – Research Fellowship Programmes
Team Green Hydrogen
Kennedyallee 50
53175 Bonn
E-Mail: gh2@daad.de

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

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You have to apply for the fellowship via the DAAD portal which you can access via our scholarship database at www.daad.de/go/en/stipa57685694.

Additional information about the fellowship programme and the four working groups can be found at www.daad.de/gh2. There you will also find a short [checklist](#) for the application documents.

FUNDED BY

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Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research