



ERA Fellowships – Green Hydrogen 2024

Research fellowships and internships for international PhD students

OBJECTIVE

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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 groups. 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?

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PhD students who are interested in any topics related to Green Hydrogen (GH₂) and want to be an active part in one of the four working groups:

- Production
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Market stimulation (i.e. further development of the market for hydrogen)
- cross-cutting issues (i.e. regulation, socio-economic and legal framework)

PhD students enrolled in universities in the following countries are eligible for the GH₂ program: EU member states, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Ghana, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Kosovo, Mexico, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Senegal, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Togo, Türkiye, Tunisia, Ukraine, USA and the United Kingdom.

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

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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 or
- a self-organized internship in a German company or a non-university institution in the field of GH₂.

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

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1 to 18 months¹ for research fellowships and 2 to 3 months for internships.

The fellowship cannot be extended.

VALUE

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The fellowship covers:

- a monthly fellowship instalment of 1,300 Euros
- payments towards health, accident and personal liability insurance cover
- a [lump sum](#) towards international travel costs
- if the fellowship is awarded for more than six months: one-off study allowance (usually 260 Euros; if you come from a [DAC country](#), you will receive an allowance of 460 Euros)

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

- if the fellowship is awarded for more than six months: monthly rent subsidy
- if the fellowship is awarded for more than six months: monthly allowance for accompanying members of family. Please also read our [important Scholarship Information](#) / section F, point 3
- 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 active participation in a conference

To allow you to improve your language skills in preparation for your stay in Germany, the DAAD offers the following benefits:

- if necessary: German language course (2 or 4 months) before the start of the study stay in Germany; the DAAD decides whether to fund participation and for how long depending on German language skills and project. Participation in a language course is compulsory if the study programme is taught in German.
- if the fellowship is awarded for more than six months
 - Payment of course fees for an online German language course after receipt of the Fellowship Award Letter
 - allowance for a personally chosen German language course during the fellowship period

¹ Please check paragraph 11 for further details regarding the funding duration, application deadline, etc.

- reimbursement of the fee for a TestDaF or DSH test, which you can take either in your home country after you have received your Letter of Award or in Germany during your funding period.

Please note that the DAAD does **not** cover tuition fees.

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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Special consideration will be given to:

Academic qualifications

- academic performance and progress (incl. grade point average, grade progression)
- Knowledge of the language of instruction or working language
- If applicable, scholarly achievements after graduation, (e.g. publications, lectures, conference papers)

Quality of 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 study plan and schedule (analysis and evaluation stages)
- Incorporation of project within the overall doctorate (in terms of content and time)

Potential of the applicant

- Suitability of the applicant's profile and the research project/internship 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)
- Motivation: professional and personal reasons for the stay abroad and the host university/the internship provider, knowledge of the local language (if different from the working language); regional knowledge
- Extracurricular commitment: extracurricular knowledge and skills, social commitment

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

WHAT REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET?

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Please check if the following criteria are fulfilled:

- As a rule, applicants should not have graduated any longer than six years before the application deadline.
- If you have already started your doctorate, it also applies that the start of the doctorate should not be longer than 3 years ago. Please also read our [Important Scholarship Information](#) / Section A, point 2.
- Your application **cannot** be considered, if you have been resident in Germany for longer than 15 months at the application deadline.

For applicants for a self-organized internship:

- Applicants have to be enrolled at their home university.
- Funding is only available from the starting date of the internship

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.**
- **For applicants for a research fellowship:** 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.
- **For applicants for an internship:** detailed description of your planned internship in Germany (max. 3 pages)
- Schedule of planned research work/internship
- Confirmation from the academic host or the host institution of your internship 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, Master or equivalent; Bachelor, if you have not yet completed your Master 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.
- Proof of admission as a doctoral candidate at the home university
- Other documents which support your application (example: certificates of employment, proof of practical training/internships or social commitment etc.)
- 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.

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 12 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/stipa57685693.

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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of Education
and Research