

## ERA Fellowships – Green Hydrogen 2026

### Study fellowships and internships for Master students from Germany

#### 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 Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR), 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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The fellowship programme offers funding for all subject areas regarding Green Hydrogen.

Graduate students who are interested in any topics related to Green Hydrogen (GH<sub>2</sub>) 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)

#### WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

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The programme provides funding for

- up to one semester of study as part of a Master's degree
- or
- a Master's thesis
- or
- a self-organized internship in a company or at a non-university institution in the field of GH<sub>2</sub>.

The fellowship grants access to international working groups. Active participation and involvement in a group is expected and supposed to continue after the fellowship ends.

[Here](#) you can learn more about the working groups.

## DURATION OF THE FUNDING

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The fellowship is intended for stays between 3 and 6 months, for a Master's thesis or internship between 2 and 6 months. Funding for internships abroad for more than 3 months requires a case-by-case assessment with regard to country-specific minimum wage regulations.

The fellowship cannot be extended.

Funding for the fellowship programme is available until the end of 2026.

## VALUE

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The fellowship covers:

- a [monthly fellowship instalment](#) depending on your destination
- 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:

- Monthly allowance for accompanying members of family.
- allowance for the participation in a language course (for the working or national language)
- subsidy for travel costs in your host country if they are directly related to your funded project (if specified in your application)
- 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](#)
- Subsidy for tuition fees (not available if you receive funding for a Master's thesis or an internship)
- Green Mobility Top Up (Support for climate-friendly travel) or reimbursement of carbon offset payments for air travel
- grant for participation in international conferences related to GH<sub>2</sub>

## 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 researchers from German universities and research institutions. 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 achievements
- Course of studies
- Knowledge of the language of instruction or working language

### Quality of the study or internship project

- Quality of the project and of the preparation (preliminary information, choice of degree programme or internship, host university or institution and establishment of contacts)
- Integration of the project into the course of study, if relevant

### Potential of the applicant

- Motivation: academic and personal reasons for the stay in Germany, German language skills (if different from the working language)
- Prospects: Significance of the stay in Germany for further academic, professional and personal development, use of international networking in the working groups as well as own active contribution in the working groups
- 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. Please read our [Important Scholarship Information](#) / section C, point 5 (only available in German).

## WHAT REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET?

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Graduates who have completed one of the following final examinations at a state or state-recognised higher education institution in Germany or an accredited course of study at a university of cooperative education, or who have an equivalent foreign qualification, are eligible to apply:

- Bachelor's degree of at least three years
- Master's degree
- Magister degree
- Diploma degree
- 1st or 2nd law examination

The university degree must not be more than five years old at the application deadline, unless there are special reasons (see [important scholarship information](#) /section A, point 5 – only available in German). If a Bachelor's and Master's degree have already been obtained, the deadline is counted from the date of the Master's degree. If you have already passed the 2nd state examination in law, the deadline starts from the date of passing the 1st state examination in law.

It is also possible to apply if you do not have German citizenship. You can find the requirements in our [important scholarship information](#) under section A, point 1 (only available in German).

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

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Proof of English language proficiency at level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) must be provided. If English is not the working language at the destination, appropriate language skills must also be proven.

## 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)
- Letter of motivation (up to pages) which includes a statement about academic and personal reasons for the planned project **and in which working group you would like to actively participate**. Please also read our [Important Scholarship Information](#) / Section B, Point 7 (only available in German).
- Study plan (max. 5 pages): detailed description of your planned study programme/project/internship, including a schedule how your project is embedded in your Master studies/Master thesis (see Section B, point 6 of our [Important Scholarship Information](#) – only available in German)
- *For applicants for a study scholarship:* Admission from the foreign host university for the desired degree programme. Please note that you are responsible for applying for admission to the host university in due time. If admission has not yet been granted at the time of application, it can be submitted later, at the latest by the start of the scholarship.
- *For applicants for a short-term scholarship for an internship:* internship confirmation or correspondence with the host institution. If the confirmation is not yet available at the time of application, it can be submitted later, at the latest by the date of the selection meeting (see below).
- If applicable, overview about necessary trips in the host country
- If applicable, learning agreement
- Current overview of grades/ transcript of records with individual grades
- University degree certificate and transcript of records for your last degree programme: the certificate must be subsequently submitted by the time funding starts if you have not yet completed your programme at the time of application.
- Proof of knowledge of language(s) of instruction in the chosen study programme or internship (should not be older than 2 years). Please submit certificates via the DAAD portal even if the university does not require proof of language skills.
- Other documents you think might be of relevance to your application (e.g. certificates of employment, proof of extracurricular engagement)
- English translations of documents submitted in the national language (to be uploaded with the corresponding documents)

- One recent letter of recommendation (should not be older than six months) 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 must be submitted in **English**.

Documents that are not yet available by the application deadline (e.g. the letter of admission) can be submitted later. Please upload a free-form statement to your application in which you explain why the documents are not at hand yet and when they will be available.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

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Applications can be submitted from September 15 until October 20, 2025. The selection meeting will be held in January 2026. The fellowship can be commenced earliest (at the beginning of each month) from March 1, 2026.

## 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](mailto:gh2@daad.de)

## MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

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You must apply for the fellowship via the DAAD portal which you can access via our scholarship database at <http://www.daad.de/go/stipd57685685>

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

## FUNDED BY

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With funding from the:



Federal Ministry  
of Research, Technology  
and Space