

ERA Fellowships – Green Hydrogen 2024

Research fellowships and internships for PhD 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 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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The fellowship programme offers funding for all subject areas regarding Green Hydrogen.

PhD students, currently enrolled at a German university, university of applied sciences or non-university research institutions, 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)

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

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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1 to 12 months for research fellowships and 2 to 6 months for internships. 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
- a monthly research allowance of 102€ (not available if you receive funding for an internship)

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
- 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 an internship)
- Green Mobility Top Up (Support for climate-friendly travel) or reimbursement of carbon offset payments for air travel
- grant for participation in a conference regarding Green Hydrogen

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 or 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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Special consideration will be given to:

Academic qualifications

- academic performance and progress (incl. grade point average, grade progression)

- If applicable, scholarly achievements after graduation, (e.g. publications, lectures, conference papers)
- if applicable, Knowledge of the working language

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. Please read our [Important Scholarship Information](#) / section C, point 5 (only available in German).

WHAT REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET?

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You must have been accepted as a doctoral candidate at a German university at the time of application. If formal acceptance is still pending, proof of the assignment of the dissertation topic is sufficient.

At the time of application, you must not have started your doctoral studies more than three years ago, unless there are special reasons (see [Important Scholarship Information](#) / section A, point 5 – only available in German).

It is also possible to apply if you are not a German citizen. The requirements can be found in our [Important Scholarship Information](#) in Section A, point 1 (only available in German).

LANGUAGE SKILLS

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Very good English language skills are essential (B2 CEFR). However, we do not require an official English test. If English is not the working language at the destination, appropriate language skills must be proven.

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 (max. 3 pages) taking into account the following question: What do you hope to gain from your project abroad (personally, professionally, for your career)? **The letter of motivation must also include a statement in which working group you would like to actively participate** (see [Important Scholarship Information](#) / section B, point 7 – only available in German).
- Detailed proposal (5-8 pages) including:
 - Description of the current state of research and project
 - justification of the necessity of the stay abroad
- Schedule of planned research work/internship, including your monthly (or weekly) work packages
- 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 or the DAAD form "[Confirmation of the assignment of the dissertation topic](#)" (only available in German)
- *For applicants for a research fellowship:* Admission from the host university or host institute about your working space, supervision or research permit with details of the working language, the applicant's language skills and, if applicable, tuition fees; for archive stays: admission to use the facility. If no admission from a host institution is required for your project, please upload a document with a brief explanation in the portal. 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 fellowship.
- *For applicants for a short-term fellowship 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).
- *Summary of your last thesis (usually Master thesis; about 1 page); if your last degree did not include a thesis, please upload a short statement instead*
- List of publications, if available
- Proof of language proficiency, if relevant to your project, e.g. for field research/interviews. In this case, submit either the [DAAD language certificate form](#) or [another language certificate recognised by the DAAD](#). If you use the DAAD language certificate form, you can have your language skills assessed at your German university. Please contact the

language centre of your university or an authorised examiner of the department for the respective foreign language. A guide for authorised examiners and language centres on how to complete the form can be found [here](#). Proof of language proficiency can only be waived in exceptional cases. Please read our [important scholarship information](#). (Section A, points 9 to 15 – only available in German).

- 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 have to 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 anytime, at least 4 months before the planned starting date.
The fellowship can be commenced at the beginning of each month.

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/stipa57685688.

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