

INDIVIDUAL  
FUNDING

## ERA Fellowships – Green Hydrogen 2024

### Research fellowships for PostDocs 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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PostDocs who are currently doing research in Germany, 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 a research stay abroad or a part of a research project.

Participation in training courses, workshops, etc. cannot be funded. 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 12 months.<sup>1</sup>

The fellowship cannot be extended.

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

## VALUE

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The fellowship covers:

- Monthly fellowship instalment of 1,750 euros
- Expat allowance and purchasing power equalisation (varies according to host country and location), which increases if accompanied by family and depending on the number of children. Example for Paris, France:
  - 1,001 euros for a single
  - 1,591 euros if you are accompanied by your spouse or registered partner and one child
 (These are non-binding calculation examples; changes may result from changes in purchasing power equalisation)
- Child allowance for children under the age of 18 (400 euro per month for the first child and 100 euro for each additional child)
- Childcare subsidy: If accompanied by children under the age of 12, the monthly childcare costs may be covered up to a maximum of 1,200 euros.
- Material cost allowance of 250 euros per scholarship month for the purchase of books, attendance at conferences, etc.
- [Travel allowance](#) for travelling from home to the host institute and back.

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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Important criteria are

- Professional qualification, which you document with the presentation of the course of study, academic achievements, reviews and publications
- Quality and scientific ambition of the research project
- Suitability of the applicant's profile and the planned research project to the objectives of the programme (potential for personal and professional development, use of international networks in the working groups and own active contributions in the working groups)
- Concept of the implementation

- Expertise of the host institute in the research area

When assessing the application, great importance is given to a clear and detailed justification of the research project. In addition to referring to the applicant's own preliminary work, the justification should also address the significance of the project for German research and the question of why it is important to work on this project abroad and at the proposed institute.

From the reviewers' point of view, the following points are also of central importance:

- The documentation of previous research achievements in publications. In addition to the number of publications and the author's own contribution (if several authors are involved), the quality of the journal or publisher is also an important criterion. The duration of previous research activities and the specific publication culture of the respective discipline are also considered.
- The academic independence of the applicants. This should be demonstrated by the fact that a new research focus and a new research environment are chosen following the doctorate or with the planned project. If these conditions are not met, we recommend explaining the reasons for this in the supplementary explanations.

In addition, to ensure equal opportunities, the selection committee may take into account special circumstances, which you can provide information on in the online application form. Please read the [important scholarship information](#) / section C, point 5 – only available in German.

## WHAT REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET?

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Only candidates with an excellent academic career can be considered. They must have completed their doctorate with very good results before starting the fellowship (at least magna cum laude/very good in the case of a doctorate in Germany). The DAAD selection committee will decide if the doctorate is not graded.

As a rule, applicants should not have completed their PhD any longer than four years before the application deadline. See our [important scholarship information](#) in Section A, point 5 (only available in German) for further details.

It is possible to apply in the final phase of your PhD.

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 expected (C1 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

## 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 (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.**
- **Abstract of your research proposal including a working title and keywords (about half a page; it is not sufficient to include the abstract in the online application form)**
- A proposal, prepared and formulated by yourself, as well as a description of previous research work (max. 5 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
- Invitation letter from the academic host, explaining why the chosen host institution is particularly well suited to carrying out the research project, what support will be provided and who will act as mentor/scientific host.
- 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.  
If your PhD has not been completed at the time of application your supervisor has to include the expected date of completion in her/his reference or a separate statement.
- Publication list, organised by publications in reviewed journals, books, conference papers including the type of publication (original work, review, etc.). The status of each publication must be indicated (published, in print, accepted, submitted). Complete bibliographical details (including the first and last page number) are required. If available, the URL, DOI and any other identifiers must be provided for processing by the selection committee.
- Naming of the most important publications (min. 1, max. 3) and reason for their selection (particularly important scientific results, high relevance for the planned research project, new methodological approach, etc., maximum 1 page in total). If several authors are involved, your own contribution must be specified. For each of the publications, the URL, DOI and, if applicable, other identifiers must be provided, if available. If the publications are not available online, individual articles can also be

made available as an upload in exceptional cases. However, please refrain from attaching entire monographs to your application.

- Summary of your dissertation (1-2 pages)
- Other documents which support your application (example: certificates of employment, proof of practical training/internships or social commitment etc.)
- Language certificate, if needed  
We expect English to be the working language at the host institute and do not require a language certificate. If additional language skills are required for your research project, please provide appropriate documentation.
- One recent reference from the supervisor of your PhD 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.

## 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 have to apply for the fellowship via the DAAD portal which you can access via our scholarship database at [www.daad.de/go/en/stipa57685690](http://www.daad.de/go/en/stipa57685690).

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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Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research