Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme Sub-Saharan Africa

Call for Master's Scholarship Applications 2027
at West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), University of Ghana
Master of Philosophy in Seed Science and Technology

Supported by the
Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Application Closing Date in the DAAD Portal
(for all candidates):
12th November 2026

The awarding of scholarships is subject to the provision of funds by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

To successfully complete your application, it is essential that you read ALL of the following sections.

INDIVIDUAL FUNDING

In-Country/In-Region Master Scholarships - West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), University of Ghana, Ghana, 2027

1 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The programme aims to foster strong, internationally oriented higher education systems in Sub-Saharan Africa with the capacity to contribute to sustainable development. For this purpose, scholarships for development-related Master's studies are awarded to individuals who plan to pursue a career in teaching and/or research at a higher education institution in Sub-Saharan Africa.

By training future academic and professional leaders, the programme contributes to the following **long-term impacts**:

- Qualified professionals' involvement in the solution of development-related problems in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Graduates strengthening education and research in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Structural strengthening and regional networking of partner institutions and partner universities

To achieve these long-term impacts, the following outcomes have been formulated as programme objectives:

Programme objective 1: Graduates have qualified to take over responsible positions in their or for their region of origin

Programme objective 2: The participation of women and underprivileged groups is reinforced

Programme objective 3: Organizational, financial and personal capacities of partner institutions are strengthened

As part of the „In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme", the DAAD offers scholarships for Master studies. The programme is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and designed primarily for university staff in the first line, whilst also catering to the public sector demand of academically trained personnel.

The target group for scholarships is graduates from Sub-Saharan Africa with a first academic degree, who want to pursue Master's courses, either

- in their home country

  (**In-Country scholarships** are designed for students who study in their home country or in the country for which they have a residence permit.)

- or -

- in another country in Sub-Saharan Africa

  (**In-Region scholarships** are designed for students who want to participate in a study programme in a country of their home region (here: Sub-Saharan

Africa /outside their home country/in the country for which they do not have a residence permit).

Applicants should be

a) a staff member of a public university
b) a candidate considered for teaching or research staff recruitment
c) from the public sector, and/or
d) an alumnus/alumna of the DAFI-programme.
e) Fresh graduates, professionals and other candidates who do not fit into the above categories are also invited to apply for the programme.

Female applicants, refugees with recognised refugee status, and candidates from marginalized regionsor groups are especially encouraged to participate in the programme.

It has been agreed that the DAAD cooperates with the West Africa Centre forCrop Improvement (WACCI), University of Ghana by offering **up to up to three (3) In-Country and eight (8) In-Region. scholarships for Master studies** at the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) for the intake 2027

The awarding of scholarships will be subject to the provision of funds.

2 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

Applicants for a Master's degree

- are graduates with a first academic degree, who have successfully completed a three-/or four-year university degree (Bachelor or equivalent) with above average results (at least: Second Class/Upper Division or equivalent, if applicable). **Candidates who cannot provide a Second Class/Upper Division or a higher result are not eligible;**
- demonstrate clear motivation and strong commitment;
- possess thorough knowledge of the language of instruction;
- must have completed their **last** university degree no more than 6 years before the time of application;
- must be nationals or permanent residents of a Sub-Saharan African country;

Please note:

If you have already received a Master's scholarship from the DAAD, you are not eligible for further Master's funding from the DAAD. Please also remember that the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) may have additional requirements for admission.

If you plan to apply for more than one Master's programme within the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme, you must provide a clear

preference (ranking) in the Letter of Motivation. A maximum number of three applications will be considered during the selection process.

3 ELIGIBLE FIELDS FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

The In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme supports studies in subject areas with strong relevance to national development.

Scholarships at the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) are available for the following programme:

- *Master of Philosophy in Seed Science and Technology*

4 PLACE OF TENURE FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana

5 DURATION AND COMMENCEMENT FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

Scholarships are awarded for the standard period of study for the chosen programme, up to a maximum of **24** months). In your application, please indicate the entire period for which you are seeking a scholarship. For example, if you plan to pursue a 2-year degree programme, you must specify the two full years as your desired scholarship duration in your application. After the first year of study, your academic achievements will be reviewed as part of a further funding procedure. If your assessment shows that you will successfully complete your programme within a reasonable period of time, the scholarship will continue as planned.

The scholarship usually begins on *1st November* of the following year.

Please note that the maximum duration of the scholarship consists of the year you apply for, plus the time left to the end of the regular period of studies in that programme. For example, if you apply for a DAAD scholarship starting in your second semester of a 18-month programme, the maximum scholarship duration is one year.
The standard period of study and the start date are based on the Affiliate Agreement between the host university and the DAAD.

Please also note: If you arrive after the official start date, the duration of your scholarship will be shortened accordingly.

6 SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

The scholarship covers:

Benefits	Payment Schedule	Amount
Tuition Fees*	annually	The regularly charged amount will be specified in the Letter of Award.
Study and research allowance	annually	460 EUR
Thesis publishing costs	once towards the end of scholarship	400 EUR
Monthly Scholarship (Accommodation, food etc.)**	monthly	In-Country: 400 EUR In-Region: 500 EUR
Travel allowance (In-Region only)	For programmes **longer than 12 months**, payment **is made twice**, typically at the beginning and end of the scholarship period. The exact schedule depends on the standard duration of the study program.	The flat rate travel allowance will be specified in the Letter of Award.
Health insurance (In-Region only)	annually	Further information regarding health insurance will be specified in the Letter of Award.

***Please note: In some cases, the DAAD may not be able to cover <u>all fees and costs</u> mentioned in the institution's official fee structure.** This may occur e.g. if agreements with the funding organisation prevent the DAAD from funding certain items, or if some cost items are expected to be covered through individual scholarship benefits. The DAAD will transfer fees directly to the host institution. The DAAD cannot cover additional fees resulting from the repetition of exams. The tuition fees are subject to possible changes. Fee increases by the institution may not be covered by the DAAD.

****The monthly scholarship rates are reviewed annually and adjusted where necessary. Accordingly, the amounts may be subject to change.

7 PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The DAAD will endeavour to transfer the first monthly payment as quickly as possible after your arrival and the official start of your scholarship. Processing the initial transfer of funds may take some time, especially if you can only open your bank account after arrival in your destination country. To cover your expenses before receiving your first scholarship payment, we **recommend bringing sufficient funds to cover at least two months.**

Payments cannot be made in advance, before the start of the scholarship and before the official start of your studies at the host university. No

additional benefits beyond those listed in this call for applications, such as benefits for family members, can be made.

Please note: The travel allowance for In-Region scholarship holders will be transferred only together with the first scholarship payment, i.e. after arrival in the host country.
Scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to the scholarship holder's bank account. Further details will be provided in the Letter of Award after you are admitted to the scholarship programme.
The DAAD reserves the right to terminate the scholarship agreement and discontinue payments immediately if good cause is found. Good cause includes, in particular, violations of the rules of good scientific practice or the DAAD-guidelines.

8 ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

DAAD In-Country/In-Region scholarship holders in research-based (or researched and coursed-worked based) **Master's programmes are** also:

a) Encouraged to apply for a **short-term research stay in Germany** from 3 up to 6 months.
Please note:

- **The short-term research stay in Germany should be indicated in your initial scholarship application** and can only be granted if sufficient funding is available.
- If you wish to apply, please note that the funding period for the short-term research stay in Germany must be part of the In-Country/In-Region programme and the regular study period of the programme may not be exceeded by the short-term research stay in Germany. It must be included in the regular study period of the In-Country/In-Region programme. Further information will be provided **upon request** via the DAAD Portal after you have received your In-Country/In-Region scholarship.

The short-term research scholarship includes:

- A monthly scholarship payment for living expenses
- Health, accident, and personal liability insurance
- A flat-rate travel allowance

All DAAD In-Country/In-Region scholarship holders are also:

b) Invited to participate in further training opportunities, such as E-Trainings.

Further details about these additional benefits and the corresponding application processes will be provided after admission to the scholarship programme.

9 APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

As a first step, all applicants must submit a complete application for the programme via the DAAD Portal. This portal serves as the central upload platform for all programme applications; some documents listed may not be mandatory for your specific application. Please review your programme call to confirm which documents are required.

Please be aware of the DAAD's application deadline as well as the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement's (WACCI) **deadline.**

The application process for DAAD scholarships consists of the following steps:

1. Register on the DAAD portal https://portal.meindaad.de/sites/personalfunding/#PBFApplication-Start?fundingProgramInstance=57883920
2. Log in to the portal.
3. Carefully read the portal instructions for applying.
4. Submit your application via the portal by the deadline indicated on the cover page of this document

Ensure that your application is complete and meets DAAD requirements for the In-Country/In-Region Programme before submitting. Otherwise, your application cannot be considered.

The DAAD will conduct a formal review of the applications received via the DAAD portal only, according to its criteria.

▶ **In addition to the DAAD application process, applicants must also apply for admission** at the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement using the institution's contact details and procedures**. Please note that the host institution sets its own admission deadline.** Please familiarize yourself with the host institution's application process early.

Please note: In some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, you must submit a document from the **Qualifications Authority** (e.g., from SAQA in South Africa) for university admission. Obtaining these documents can take time and it is the applicant's responsibility to secure them from the relevant authorities in time.

In a final selection organised by the DAAD, applications that have fulfilled **both** the admission requirements at the host university (including the university's pre-selection ranking) and the DAAD's formal criteria are reviewed by an independent selection committee. This committee consists of international university teachers and experts from German and foreign universities, and

alumni. Applications are assessed based on the submitted documents, considering the institution's pre-selection ranking. Evaluation criteria include academic performance and quality, extracurricular activities, motivation, and, if applicable, relevance of the research topic. Interviews may also be conducted. The selection process typically takes place between April and September. The final decision for the region of Sub-Saharan Africa will be announced approximately six months after the application process has been concluded.

Please note that the details of the selection process and the deadlines for an announcement of the final decisions are a subject to change.

The DAAD reserves the right of final decisions.

10 APPLICATION DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Documents for the DAAD scholarship application to be submitted through the DAAD portal (in either English or German):

Mandatory Documents[1] **Important: Ensure you have all necessary files ready before starting your online application!**		
Name of the Document	**Formal Requirements**	**Upload Section in the DAAD Portal**
Online Application Form	Must be fully completed and submitted.	

Mandatory Attachments to the Application		
Curriculum Vitae	Tabular format	→ "Mandatory Attachments"- Curriculum Vitae
DAAD form Letter of Recommendation	Must be completed, **signed** and, if possible, stamped by a university teacher who can provide information about your qualifications.	→ Download the form **here**[2], send it to your university teacher to complete and return. **Upload under** → "Mandatory Attachments"**- Letter of Recommendation.** **This specific Letter of Recommendation form** is mandatory and **is the only format accepted** by the DAAD.
Copy of the most recent **Bachelor's Degree** Certificate	For at least a successfully completed three-/or four year university degree, Bachelor or equivalent, with above average results (at	→ "Mandatory Attachments"- University degree certificates

[1] All mandatory documents must be fully completed and submitted by the specified deadline.
[2] https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/pdfs_nicht_barrierefrei/in-deutschland-studieren-forschen-lehren/daad_letter_of_recommendation_en.docx

Copy of the most recent **University Degree Certificate**, including final grades	least Second Class/Upper Division or equivalent). Please note that you can only apply with a final degree certificate. **No provisional certificates will be accepted by DAAD.** Only if you experience restrictions beyond your control with regard to the issuance of the degree certificates, please submit a statement from the institution explaining the reasons. If available, please also provide a grading scale for your final university degree and information on the recognition of your university degree certificate in the host country.	
Transcript of Records	Transcript of records of your most recent university degree	→ "Mandatory Attachments"- Transcript of records/academic achievements
Letter of **Motivation**	1-2 pages (at least 300 and not more than 1000 words) with a personal, social and academic motivation for choosing the studies together with a possible Master's project. If you are applying for a course -based Master's programme, please outline the time schedule of your studies and your course project. If you plan to apply for more than one Master's programme within the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme, you must provide a clear preference (ranking) in the Letter of Motivation. A maximum number of three applications will be considered during the selection process.	→ "Mandatory Attachments"- Study project / Motivation letter
Copy of a valid **Passport** or a copy of a valid	This document must be valid at the time of application. In-Region applicants who are	→ "Mandatory Attachments" Passport / Identity card

National Identification Card	selected for a scholarship funding are responsible for ensuring that their travel documents are valid before departure.	

Mandatory Attachments to the Application (MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN THE START OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING)		
Proof of Admission	This document may be submitted later if it is not available at the time of application, but must be provided before the scholarship begins.	→ "Attachments"- Proof of Admission
Semester Schedule*	For **COURSE-based** Master's programmes only	→ "Attachments"- Time schedule / Schedule / Workplan
Time Schedule*	For **RESEARCH-based** Master's programmes only: if applicable, please mention your planned **short-term-research stay in Germany** (see "Additional benefits")	→ "Attachments"- Time schedule / Schedule / Workplan

***Course-and Research-based:** please include both a semester schedule (for the course work part) and an approximate time schedule for the research portion of the degree**.**

Optional Attachments to the Application Form (if applicable/available)		
A List of **Publications**	If available	→"Attachments" - List of publications
Further University Degree Certificates and Transcripts	If relevant and available	→ "Attachments/Others"
As a refugee, a **valid Refugee Identity Card** and/or the UNHCR registration document	At the time of your application, you must upload a valid document as an attachment.	→ "Attachments/Others"
Additional Documents that might be relevant for your application	For example: **proof of internships, proof of employment**	→ "Attachments/Others"

Your application is only valid if you submit all **mandatory documents** to the DAAD portal on time. Incomplete applications **cannot be considered**. You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete.

In case of technical difficulties during the application process, please contact the IT-support via portal@daad.de.

All documents must be submitted in English or German. For any document in a different language please upload the original document with a certified translation.

Please note that the scholarship becomes effective only after

→ **proof of admission** from the university has been provided. This document must be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins if it is not available before.

AND

→ **proof of arrival** (e.g., airline ticket, letter from supervisor or coordinator, admission test) has been submitted to demonstrate that you are present at the host university to begin your studies. This must be uploaded to the DAAD portal as soon as possible. It is required upon receiving confirmation of the scholarship and before your studies begin.

11 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION VIA THE DAAD PORTAL/ WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Applications must be submitted via the DAAD portal https://portal.meindaad.de/sites/personalfunding/#PBFApplication-Start?fundingProgramInstance=57883920

All documents must be saved in PDF format; only PDF files can be uploaded to the portal.

Deadline: 12th November 2026

Applications submitted through other channels or to other authorities will not be considered.

The DAAD portal closes at 24:00 hours (midnight) Central European Time (CET or CEST) on the application deadline.

If you have technical questions or problems that cannot be resolved by your regional information and advice centres, please contact the DAAD technical Portal by email at portal@daad.de.

Please take potential processing times into account when planning your application

12 INFORMATION SESSION FOR INTERESTED APPLICANTS

The DAAD plans to offer three virtual information sessions for interested applicants on:
October 7, 2026,
October 21, 2026,
November 4, 2026,
Please register via the following link: Register Program - Webex. Here you'll also find more information about the event's respective time slots.

CONTACT AND COUNSELLING

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Enquiries related to the DAAD Scholarship
DAAD Contact Person: Pauline Richter

E-Mail: p.richter@daad.de

Website: https://www.daad.de/incountry-inregion

Enquiries related to the general admission and the study programme at the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), University of Ghana

Contact Person: Mrs. Jennifer Saint-Acquaye

E-Mail: jstacquaye@wacci.ug.edu.gh

Website: MPhil in Seed Science and Technology | West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI)

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