

## Students at Risk – Hilde Domin Programme

### Overview

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) administers the scholarship programme “Hilde Domin Programme” with funds from the Federal Foreign Office (AA). The programme serves to support students and doctoral candidates from across the globe, who are at risk of being formally or *de facto* denied educational or other rights in their country of origin, and to provide these students and doctoral candidates with an opportunity to begin or complete a study or research degree at a higher education institution in Germany. Students and doctoral candidates nominated and accepted under the programme will be enrolled in degree courses of any personal subject choice and according to individual qualifications and receive a scholarship sufficient to cover the necessary costs incurred in the course of their study resp. research stay.

The long-term goal of the scholarship programme is to enable students and doctoral candidates to complete their higher education studies resp. research project in a secure environment, in order to be able to contribute towards meaningful political, economic as well as social development in their countries of origin (respectively in Germany or third countries) upon completion of their studies in Germany. All beneficiaries of the scholarship programme will further be qualified in an accompanying interdisciplinary programme, in order to enhance the prospects of a free development of their personality and their contributions towards society.

### Programme objectives

The aim of the scholarship programme is to enable students and doctoral candidates at risk in their countries of origin to complete their studies or doctorate in a secure environment at a higher education institution in Germany.

### Target group

Students and doctoral candidates worldwide\* who are at risk of being formally or *de facto* denied educational rights in their country of origin, due to their ethnic, sexual, gender or religious identity and/or their political or civic engagement. By definition of the DAAD, political, civic and similar engagement encompasses either the participation in groups or individual actions based on liberal and democratic principles aspiring to contribute to a positive social change in communities.

\*Except for the following countries: EU/[EEA](#)/[EFTA](#) countries as well as Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and the United Kingdom.

### Nomination requirements

Potential candidates cannot themselves apply for participation in the scholarship programme, but are nominated (see Nomination and selection procedure).

Students and doctoral candidates from all academic disciplines can be nominated, apart from human medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine,

- who can prove or credibly demonstrate a threat to their personal well-being or safety (e.g. physical violence, arrest, denial of civil and educational rights, etc.) to the nominating institution
- who are in possession of educational certificates that enable entrance to a higher education institution and warrant the pursuit of a desired higher education qualification according to the [anabin](#) database
- who, at the time of the application deadline, are staying abroad or, in principle, have not stayed in Germany for longer than 15 months.

**Important to note:** Nominations for the academic fields of fine arts, performing arts, design, visual communication, music, film and architecture require proof of admission to a study course/degree programme at a German higher education institution by the application deadline.

### Funding period

As a rule, the duration of funding for a

- bachelor's degree is: up to 48 months (12-month preparatory course/Studienkolleg, up to 36 months studies)
- master's degree is: up to 24 months
- doctoral degree is: up to 48 months

**Important to note:** Funding for a second bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree is not intended i.e. provided for.

### Value

Funding of a scholarship encompasses

- a monthly scholarship payment of 861 EUR for bachelor and master students resp. 1,200 EUR for doctoral candidates
- a health, accident and personal liability insurance cover
- a travel allowance based on your country of origin resp. present residence
- participation in a preparatory German language course (of two, four or six months) according to the previously acquired and required language skills for the intended course of study or doctoral project
- additional financial benefits

### Nomination and selection procedure

Potential candidates cannot themselves apply for participation in the Hilde Domin Programme, but are nominated by the management (presidiums/rectorates) of an institution or organisation which is a legal entity domiciled in Germany and which carries out an activity in the field of science, research and teaching and/or the protection of human rights, the promotion of peace and democracy or the rule of law.

All nominations shall formally be made by respective nominating institutions and organisations, who are requested to fill in the nomination form [online](#).



Thereafter, on the basis of an initial plausibility check, suitable candidates will be contacted by the DAAD and invited to apply via the DAAD online application portal. Both the status of risk and academic performance are assessed as part of the selection process.

The final selection of candidates will be carried out by independent selection committees appointed by the DAAD.

**Important to note:** Multiple nominations do not bring any advantages. One nomination per candidate is sufficient. Institutions and organisations entitled to nominate may nominate as many candidates as they deem eligible.

### Eligibility criteria

Candidates are eligible

- who are of legal age (as a rule at least 18 years old) at the point of nomination
- who have a university entrance qualification with the aim of studying a bachelor's degree until the application deadline
- who have a recognised bachelor's degree (or comparable) with the aim of studying a master's degree until the start of the scholarship
- who have a recognised master's degree (or comparable) with the aim of pursuing a doctorate until the start of the scholarship
- whose acquisition of the university entrance qualification for an intended bachelor's degree programme resp. whose last university degree for an intended master's degree programme or an intended doctorate was as a rule no longer than two years ago at the point of application
- whose last matriculation at the foreign higher education institution i.e. whose university entrance qualification for an intended bachelor's degree programme, whose last university degree for an intended master's degree programme or an intended doctorate was as a rule no longer than two years ago at the point of application
- who are at risk of being formally or *de facto* denied educational rights in their country of origin, due to their ethnic, sexual, gender or religious identity and/or their political or civic engagement.

### Application documents

Eligible candidates have to submit the following documents via the DAAD portal:

- online application form
- valid identification document (ID card, passport and the like)
- full curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages long)
- letter of motivation (1 to 3 pages long) outlining the personal risk situation as well as the professional and personal motives for completion of a study course resp. doctoral project at a German higher education institution
- if available, additional proof of evidence which describes and approves the threat to their personal safety and well-being or which proves that a forced withdrawal from the study or doctoral



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- proof of documentation affirming the current study/degree status
- language certificates or proof of their English or German language proficiency (equivalent to level B2 of the [CEFR](#)), not older than two years at the point of application
- if available, proof of admission\* to a study course/degree programme at a German higher education institution or a letter of confirmation by the doctoral supervisor in Germany (the proof of admission can be submitted until the start of the scholarship, if it is not yet available at the time of application)
- other documents, as indicated in the scholarship database, depending on their current academic status (bachelor, master or doctoral student)

\*Candidates in the academic fields of fine arts, performing arts, design, visual communication, music, film and architecture are required to submit proof of admission to a study course/degree programme at a German higher education institution by the application deadline.

**Important to note:** All candidates have to upload German or English translations of documents submitted in the national language. The DAAD reserves the right to request certified copies of the documents, if necessary.

## Nomination/ application deadlines

Nominations of suitable candidates by the nominating institutions and organisations can be submitted online at any time. Access to the DAAD online portal is open to formally eligible candidates during the application period.

The following time periods and deadlines apply for nominations and applications for the upcoming academic semesters:

### **Planned start of studies summer semester 2023**

- Nominations until: 15.03.2022
- Application period: 16.03. until 29.04.2022

### **Planned start of studies winter semester 2023/24**

- Nominations until: 15.09.2022
- Application period: 16.09. until 28.10.2022

Applicants who already have sufficient German language skills and do not have to take part in a German language course before the start of the semester can be funded one semester earlier if necessary.

If no application is received within the application period, respective candidates would have to be nominated again before the next nomination deadline.

Applications submitted through other channels or via other authorities cannot be considered. Incomplete applications will also not be considered or



accepted. Applicants are responsible for the completeness of their applications.

**Important to note:** Applying for a visa and preparing for travel departure is the responsibility of the scholarship holder. As the scholarship provider, the DAAD will provide a basis for this via the funding documents. The arrangement of appointments at the foreign embassies, acceleration of procedures, booking of flights and provision of logistical services as well as security services are fundamentally outside the DAAD's mandate and sphere of influence. A systematic special treatment of scholarship holders of the Hilde Domin Programme can therefore not be guaranteed.

## Contact and consultation

### Contact person for programme related matters

Antje Steffen  
DAAD  
Section ST33  
Kennedyallee 50  
D-53175 Bonn  
Germany  
Email: [info.hildedomin@daad.de](mailto:info.hildedomin@daad.de)

### Contact person for administrative related matters

Ilenia Arena  
DAAD  
Section ST33  
Kennedyallee 50  
D-53175 Bonn  
Germany  
Email: [info.hildedomin@daad.de](mailto:info.hildedomin@daad.de)

### Technical support for the application via the DAAD portal

Tel.: +49 (0) 228 882-8888  
Email: [portal@daad.de](mailto:portal@daad.de)

### Website of the Hilde Domin Programme

Please click [here](#).

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