



SMUS

16.11.2021

Call for Applications

Action 3 Step 3 – Evaluate: SMUS Post-Doctoral and Researcher Scholarships

Application deadline: January 1st, 2022

This SMUS call is funded by the DAAD from funds of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ).

Post-doctoral and international research collaborations

Given the diversity and inherent complexity of themes contained in the targets of the SDG #11, which are underlain by as well as directly concerned with “the urban”, conceiving academic work and conducting research turns out to be pivotal to enable the critical evaluation of the numerous challenges encountered throughout the various world regions when it comes to furthering urban sustainability.

On such account, turning the respective methodological skills into practice, developing and mapping frameworks for cross-cultural and socioeconomic perspectives about urban spaces should provide the basis for:

- (a) evolving comparative studies across developing countries;
- (b) deriving common principles of urban space usage and management; and
- (c) understanding the intricacies of contextual knowledge.

To that end, career development for qualified personnel is essential for constructing a sound footing and common ground and establishing long-term cooperation between partners on equal terms.

Against this backdrop, in SMUS Action 3 Step 3, scholarships are offered as options for different stages of career development. They are aimed at enabling a minimum of 4 post-doctoral researchers (Track A) as well as a minimum of 2 advanced researchers/junior professors/lecturers (Track B) from partner universities to complete a research stay at a SMUS partner university of their choice. The list of SMUS partner universities can be found here: <https://gcsmus.org/global-network>.



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To encourage knowledge transfer and the transition towards scientific-academic autonomy, both south-to-south and south-to-north collaborations are strongly encouraged. The scholarship will only be awarded to applicants that plan to submit a conjoint research grant.

This call is open to all researchers in the SMUS partners network and pursues the promotion of innovative ideas for research on urban sustainability, spatial research methods, and their (potential) practical/professional applications. The ultimate outcome of the research stay is the writing and submitting of a proposal to become the recipient of a grant-in-aid located within the European Union or any other SMUS partner country. For potential grants in Germany, check the DAAD research base: <https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/21148-scholarship-database/>.

Important facts:

- the earliest possible start date of the scholarships is: April 1st, 2022.
- the duration of the scholarship for postdocs (Track A) is a minimum of 6, and a maximum of 9, months.
- the duration of scholarships for advanced researchers/junior professors/lecturers (Track B) is a minimum of 3, and a maximum of 6, months.
- the latest completion date for all scholarships is: December 31st, 2022.
- expected outcomes/deliverables: a completed and submitted grant proposal to a recognised grant giving body.
- the host institution of scholarship holders: any SMUS partner university (including TU Berlin).

Eligibility

This call is only open to all SMUS partner institutions and their research scholars. There are two tracks.

Track A

Track A is focused on young academics at an early stage of their academic career (that is, at the post-doctoral phase). To qualify for this track, your doctoral dissertation should not be, upon submission of your application, any older than 2 years. (Allowances will be given for childcaring responsibilities, please see the google application form.)

Track B

Track B is focused on advanced researchers/junior professors/lecturers that want to engage in south-to-south or south-to-north research collaborations.



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Financing & Timeline

The scholarship includes:

- A flight to your host university.
- **Track A:**
A monthly scholarship of €1.200 for post-doctoral researchers to cover accommodation, local travel and living expenses.
- **Track B:**
A monthly scholarship of €2.000 for south-to-south exchange or €2.150 for south-to-north exchange for advanced researchers/junior professors/lecturers to cover accommodation, local travel and living expenses.
- A monthly financial support for covering health insurance of up to 145 €.
- A sum of up to €150 for visa fees, Covid-19 necessary vaccinations and tests and international money transfer. Please note that, according to DAAD regulations, receipts/invoices of these expenses must be provided for them to be reimbursed.

The scholarship is meant to cover living expenses and thereby allow working full time on writing the grant proposal.

Deadline for Application

January 1st, 2022 at 12pm, Berlin time. Any application received after this deadline cannot be considered.

Timeline

Review process	January 2022
Meeting of the academic selection committee	Beginning February 2022
Notification of scholarship holders	End of February
Earliest start of scholarship	April 2022
Latest end of the scholarship	December 2022



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Application Procedure

Applications should be sent as one pdf to: raffaella.reinboth@tu-berlin.de.

All applications should be in the English language and should include the following:

1. The filled SMUS Google Application Form: Please complete the following google form by 12pm, Berlin time, January 1st, 2022:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5Klel59cwR6_Qn0HMbWFJpJj56Xy9B3uvY3ov4MJJaKwgT4Q/viewform?usp=sf_link.
If you want to change any information submitted in the google form, you may do so anytime until the given deadline. You do not need a google email address to complete this form.
2. Your CV with academic and profession achievements.
3. Your publication list.
4. A draft of the research proposal indicating topic(s) related to the targets of the SDG #11 and the naming of 2 potential grant givers (max. 1000 words, excl. referencing).
5. For Track A: copies and transcripts of your doctoral degree.
6. For Track B: copies and transcripts of your doctoral degree AND proof of your advanced researcher, lecturer or professor status.
7. A scan of the information page in your passport.
8. A signed Letter of Invitation from the hosting SMUS institution. The letter of invitation should include the following details:
 - a. The name of the person that is willing to be your mentor, or collaboration partner during your research stay;
 - b. A brief description of the host's interest in the applicant's project topic,
 - c. A declaration from the host that they will provide you with the necessary infrastructure to prepare the research grant. This includes a desk /working area, library access and other and access to other potential resources Please note: A so-called "desk fee" is not covered by the scholarship.
9. The completed and signed SMUS scholarship application checklist.

Non-discriminatory Selection Processes and Promoting Underprivileged Groups, Scholars from Different Disciplines and World Regions

Consideration is given to the thematic and professional spectrum of different disciplines and to the representation of the world regions within the SMUS partners network. SMUS follows the non-discriminatory selection processes of DAAD (see DAAD Selection of scholarship holders within the "In-Country/ In-Region Scholarship Programme" March 2020, p. 5):



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DAAD's goal is to continuously increase the participation of less represented (social) groups in our programmes, as we are convinced that diversity and inclusion characterise universities that are particularly high performing. The scholarship programme therefore aims to increase the participation of less strongly represented target groups and the diversity of scholarship holders. For this very reason it is particularly important that the selection processes are carried out without discrimination. Particular care must be taken not to disadvantage applicants with disabilities, chronic illnesses, or other social aspects of disadvantage. The applicants have the possibility - if they wish - to provide information in the application form about disadvantages they have suffered during their studies or in their research due to their disability, chronic illness or other disadvantage (e.g. longer duration of studies due to disability or childcare, necessity to work etc). (...)

In the context of gender equality, we would like to point out that DAAD gives preference to female applicants if they are equally qualified.

To adhere to and promote the non-discriminatory DAAD selection of the scholarship holders procedure, SMUS will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion in awarding the scholarships. We will include candidates of different career stages from diverse world regions, social and economic backgrounds, and a range of social sciences, engineering, architecture and planning disciplines.