
DAAD / NRF In-Country Scholarships

(Former DAAD In-Country Scholarship Programme)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2012

Objective

As part of the “**In-Country Scholarship Programme**”, in which more than two dozen African universities and university networks participate and which annually supports some 800 African postgraduates, **DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) in partnership with the National Research Foundation (NRF) is able to offer scholarships for postgraduate studies at South African universities.** The programme is co-funded by the **German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** and the **National Research Foundation (NRF)**. The scholarship is aimed at university staff development in the first instance, without neglecting other sector demands for academically trained personnel.

The NRF lauds this contribution of the German government as being of invaluable support to its own efforts of significantly increasing the number of post-graduate candidates receiving quality education & training; of contributing significantly to our national efforts of human capital development, especially at our tertiary institutions but also for the public and private sectors; **and of tangibly engaging in the South African PhD Project and, thereby, fulfilling one of the key strategic objectives of the NRF VISION 2015.**

Target Group

The programme addresses candidates who aim at acquiring a Master’s or doctoral degree. Preference will be given to young South African or permanent resident university staff members or candidates considered for teaching / research staff recruitment either for their own university or any other institution of higher education in South Africa.

Staff members should be enrolled for full-time studies and be exempted from teaching for full-time studies. In exceptional cases, a limited extent of teaching obligations may be accepted but has to be motivated in writing to the NRF. The host institution has to document precisely and convincingly the quantity and content of the lecturing duties and their compliance with the prevailing goal of the academic qualification of the

candidate. An intrinsic link between the teaching obligations and the content of the degree programme is indispensable.

DAAD and NRF offer up to 100 scholarships (first awards) for Master's and Doctoral studies in 2012.

Scholarship Details

- The scholarships are designed for full-time two-year Master's courses or three-year doctoral degree studies. **Note: the initial award is for one year only. For extensions of the award an annual progress report will have to be completed by the supervisor of the proposed research and submitted to the NRF** via the university financial aid/ post graduate/ research office.

- Scholarship values are as follows:

Master's courses: ZAR 40,000.00 p.a.

PhD degree studies: ZAR 65,000.00 p.a.

- Students upgrading from a Masters degree to a PhD are expected to complete an annual progress report, stating clearly that they have upgraded their studies. Upgrades will be included in the DAAD/NRF Joint In-Country Scholarship Programme.
- Scholarship holders are not allowed to change to any other DAAD or NRF funding streams during the tenure of the award. However scholarship holders are encouraged to apply to other funding streams/ programmes on completion of their funding (e.g. completion of masters degree and wanting to apply for doctoral funding).
- Additional research funds and travel grants to conferences are not awarded to awardees on this scholarship, except will be for the short term (2-6 months) research visits to Germany mentioned below.

Short-term research scholarships (2 - 6 months) tenable at a German university

In selected cases, the scholarship-holder may apply for a short-term research fellowship (duration 2-6 months) in Germany where parts of the thesis-related research would significantly gain from this research visit because of required equipment, co-supervision or similar reasons. The applicant will have to present a current invitation by a German professor who is willing to supervise the research during the envisaged stay in Germany, besides a convincing letter of motivation and a clearly defined time schedule for the research stay.

Application forms for these short-term research fellowships and further information can be obtained from:

<http://ic.daad.de/johannesburg/scholarships.htm>

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be South African citizens or hold permanent residence status in South Africa (in the latter case, both certified proof of university employment and residency must be provided). Applicants from third countries are eligible only for PhD programmes and under the condition that they are employed at the university where the PhD is to be pursued.
- Applicants must have obtained an accumulative grade average of 65% and above to be considered.
- Female candidates and those belonging to historically disadvantaged groups are particularly encouraged to apply.
- An age limit of 36 years at the time of application applies.
- Applicants may come from all those fields of study that have a strong relevance to the national development of the country. Fields include: the natural sciences, mathematics, ICT, engineering, agricultural sciences, applied social sciences. Humanities and fine arts are excluded from this programme. However, Humanities applications may be considered if the research has a social focus.
- Applicants who already hold a qualification for the level of funding they are applying for are not eligible.
- Scholarships-holders are allowed to hold supplementary bursaries, grants or emoluments which may be capped in line with university policies.
- The scholarship may **not** be held simultaneously with a bursary/scholarship from any other NRF source, NRF administered source or other government sources without prior NRF/ DAAD permission.
- If the applicant does receive supplementary funding during the duration of the scholarship, this has to be declared to the NRF/ DAAD.
- Scholarship-holders may not hold full-time salaried employment during the duration of the scholarship. They will be allowed to undertake a maximum of 12 hours of teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstration duties per week on average.
- University staff member applying into the programme will have to provide a supporting letter from their human resource department clearly indicating their working hours and status of employment during the tenure of the award.

Application Documents

- Proof of South African ID Document.
- Proof of Permanent Residency together with letter indicating university employment (if applicable, only at PhD levels).
- Recommendation by Supervisor.
- Official and certified university degree certificates including transcripts minimum accumulative academic requirement of 65% in previous degree.

- Admission letter indicating full time registration (if applicable).
- Reference Letters (if applicable).

Application Procedure

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the National Research Foundation (NRF).
- **Applicants can apply for the DAAD/NRF Joint In-Country Scholarship programme by accessing the link: <http://phoenweb.nrf.ac.za/FPF2>**
- **Register/ Login using your email address and password.**
- Select create new application from the list of existing calls.
- Select the call for which you are applying to: **DAAD-NRF In- Country Scholarships Programme 2012.**
- Select Apply now.
- Complete all screens and sub- screens online for application summary, project information, supervisor and referees and research outputs.
- Once complete click on the check completeness and submit form tab to check if all sections are complete.
- Click on the submit application tab.
- Your application will be directed to the NRF for further assessment and selection through a DAAD-NRF selection panel consisting of academic experts.
- A list of successful applicants names that will be funded for 2012 will be found on the NRF website under the student link towards the end of December 2011.
- **Deadline: Applications should be submitted by / on 15 August 2011.**

Selection Panel

Applications will be adjudicated by an independent selection panel which may include representatives of the DAAD and the NRF, as well as South African and German academics and a representative of the German Embassy – Cultural or Research Division.

Selection Criteria

Applications are assessed based on potential and academic performance.

The following **selection criteria** are taken into consideration:

- academic merit,
- promise of research ability and potential indicated in recommendation letters and research outputs (especially for PhD applicants),
- significance and relevance of proposed research (or for Masters by course work: convincing motivation indicating future research orientation),
- leadership qualities,
- previous prizes and awards,
- the likelihood that the candidate will successfully complete a Master's or a doctoral degree,
- capacity of institutional research support and expertise to support application and
- recommendation of supervisor and referees

***All applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria and do not provide the necessary documentation will not be considered for support. No late submissions of applications will be considered.**

Post Award

- Successful candidates will be notified by the NRF regarding the Joint In-Country NRF / DAAD Scholarship award.
- All successful candidates should complete all the necessary documents / conditions of grant related to the acceptance of the award sent by the NRF.
- An Annual Progress report must be submitted to the NRF by the scholarship-holder and the supervisor in order for the scholarship to be renewed on a yearly basis.
- The DAAD / NRF may during the course of the scholarship hold annual research events – Winter or Summer Research Schools - which the scholarship holder is expected to attend. The same applies should the scholarship holder be invited by representatives of the German diplomatic service, the DAAD or the NRF for award ceremonies or other events.

Extension of Scholarship

- An annual (or shorter) extension of the scholarship is possible upon individual request and receipt of a university report proving good study progress in each individual case.
- **Applications for renewal should be completed on the NRF Online System during the Call for Annual Progress Reports by the NRF and submitted through the Research Office / Postgraduate Office / Financial Aid Office / Bursary Office;** the university designated authorities will validate the application and forward it to the NRF to consider.
- Scholarship holders will be notified about the outcome of their renewal through their university Research Office / Postgraduate Office / Financial Aid Office / Bursary Office.

Queries

For any further assistance and information around the DAAD/NRF In-Country Scholarship please contact your institutions financial aid / bursary / postgraduate office.

Additional information on the DAAD In-Country Scholarship Programme South Africa

Emphasis on university staff development

Since our scholarship programme emphasises university staff development (esp. female staff members and academics of previously disadvantaged backgrounds), applications for an in-country scholarship to DAAD/NRF should be supported by the university or the referring institute by indicating if the applicant has already been employed by the university or is likely to be employed after the successful completion of his or her Master degree course or PhD studies. This latter remark is particularly important in cases where support is asked for PhD studies. Applications of candidates admitted to the university but considered for teaching/research recruitment at other institutions of higher education in South Africa are also encouraged.

Follow-up contacts and evaluation of study results

DAAD and NRF would like to strengthen and maintain contacts with former In-country scholarship-holders. Therefore, every scholarship-holder who is about to complete his / her Master's or PhD degree will receive a questionnaire together with the final letter of award, requesting information on the result of the degree acquired, the future address and intended employment. The scholarship holder is obliged to respond to the questionnaire truthfully and to forward a certified copy of the degree certificate to the NRF. The scholarship holder gives consent for the questionnaire and certificate to be forwarded to the DAAD for their records. The university should take care that this information is transmitted to the NRF as soon as the scholarship ends.

The scholarship holder is expected to uphold contact with the DAAD, thus benefitting from the DAAD's continuous alumni support schemes. Please contact the DAAD Information Centre, Johannesburg for further information (daad@wits.ac.za).