## How can I apply for a DAAD PhD scholarship?

### Step 1

Collect information about the scholarship from our website www.daad-sri-lanka.org/scholarship-database and check the eligibility criteria.

### Step 2

Once you have the letter of acceptance from your supervisor or the admission letter from your university, complete the scholarship application procedure. The application deadline is 20 October of the current year for PhD beginning in October next year.

### Step 3

Shortlisted applicants from Sri Lanka will undergo online interviews.

### Step 4

Once selected, awardees will receive funding to pursue a language course of their choice.

## Where can I learn more about students' experience in Germany?

To know more about student life or read what international students have to say about Germany, check out the DAAD Young Ambassadors page, video gallery and www.study-in-germany.de.

## Can I work in Germany?

As an international student, you are permitted to work for 140 full days or 280 half days in a year. This will help you in getting a bit of extra pocket-money!

Germany has always been well known for its very strong industry academia linkage. During your studies you can get the opportunity to do internships with German companies, which can open new vistas for your career.

After completing your degree in Germany, you can stay on in the country for up to 18 months to look for a job that is in keeping with your qualification. Once you find a job, you will be issued a work permit that allows you to take up gainful employment.

## Where can I find more information?

**Study & Research in Germany**

- www.daad-sri-lanka.org/phd
- www.daad.de/international-programmes
- www.research-in-germany.org
- www.gerit.org
- www.phdgermany.de
- www.dfg.de/gk
- www.dwih-newdelhi.org

**Scholarships for Germany**

- www.daad-sri-lanka.org/scholarship-database
- www.funding-guide.de

**Visa Process**

- www.colombo.diplo.de

Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

DAAD Sri Lanka — Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, German Academic Exchange Service

## Please contact us:


**DAAD Information Centre Colombo, Sri Lanka**
At the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka)
15th Floor, 127
W A D Ramanayake Mawatha
Colombo 2
Sri Lanka
info@daad-sri-lanka.org
+94 11 231 4364
+94 71 162 5334


## Important contacts:


**Goethe-Institut Sri Lanka**
39, R G Senanayake Mawatha
(Gregory's Road), Colombo 7
Sri Lanka
+94 11 269 4562
Info-Colombo@goethe.de
www.goethe.de/srilanka

**German Embassy Colombo**
40, Alfred House Avenue
Colombo 3
Sri Lanka
+94 11 258 0431
info@colo.diplo.de
www.colombo.diplo.de



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# PhD

Degree in Germany

daad-sri-lanka.org

Every year, thousands of international students and scholars choose to study in Germany. There are very good reasons for this – International Programmes taught in English medium, excellent quality of education, low or no tuition fee, promising career opportunities and above all a vibrant social and cultural milieu.

With over 400 universities offering a wide variety of courses in various disciplines to over 2.9 million students including close to 470,000 from abroad, Germany is all set to give a headstart to your career.

## Where can I do my doctorate?

You can conduct your doctoral research at universities or research institutions. When you conduct your research at a research institution, the PhD degree is awarded by a partner university. Universities of Applied Sciences (FH/HAW) do not award doctoral degrees.

## How can I do my doctorate?

There are two ways: individual doctoral studies and structured PhD programmes.

Individual doctoral studies involve working with a supervisor who is willing to guide your research. This system offers a lot of freedom, with no compulsory attendance, deadlines or curriculum, but it requires a great deal of personal initiative and discipline. It takes about 3-5 years to complete the doctorate.

Structured PhD programmes usually have a fixed curriculum within which you work toward your doctorate and write your dissertation. These are conducted largely in English, supervision is provided by several university professors. These programmes lead to a PhD in about four years. For example:

- Doctoral Programmes and Graduate Schools www.daad.de/international-programmes
- DFG Research Training Groups www.dfg.de/gk

## Am I eligible to apply for a PhD Degree?

German universities are autonomous and have their own criteria for admitting students. Please check the university website and the specific programme you are interested in to find out the exact admission requirements.

Generally, as a Master degree holder from Sri Lanka, you are eligible to apply for a PhD. In some cases, further assessment of eligibility may be required. Some universities may ask for the proof of your English language proficiency in form of TOEFL- 90, IELTS - 7 band.

## How do I apply?

It is advisable to start your preparations about a year in advance.

### Step 1

Shortlist potential professors if you want to pursue an individual doctorate. A good place to start is www.gerit.org and www.phdgermany.de. Alternatively, identify suitable structured PhD programmes.

Academics from your country who have collaborations with German academics, or your seniors who might be carrying out research in Germany, can be a great source of information.

### Step 2

If you decide to pursue individual doctoral studies, contact and convince a supervisor. Approach the potential supervisor the right way and in good time. Send a brief, well-structured communication with an overview of your research proposal and academically relevant information about yourself. If the supervisor approves your proposal, you will receive a letter of acceptance.

In the case of structured PhD programmes, contact the course coordinator at the selected institution. This will be your most important source of information regarding eligibility, programme structure, application procedure, etc. Do check the application deadline for the chosen programme and send your application packet well in advance. If selected, you will receive a confirmation of admission.

### Step 3

Apply for a student visa as soon as you have the admission letter, as the procedure can take 8 to 12 weeks. To find out how you should apply for a visa, visit the website of the German Embassy in Sri Lanka: www.colombo.diplo.de. Proof of funding for the first year of studies is required.

Arrange for accommodation. The International Office may be of help in finding accommodation.

### Step 4

Arrive in Germany at least a week before your course begins. Contact the International Office of your university for further guidance. Get your residence permit within the first three months of your stay in Germany from the Foreigners' Registration Office.

## Do I need to know German?

Germany offers numerous PhD programmes with English as the sole or primary medium of instruction for your thesis. However, as a student in Germany, your life will not be limited to the university campus. You will surely want to interact with people, travel and make the most of your time there. This is where knowledge of German will present a great advantage!

Universities offer beginner and advanced level courses where you can learn German. You can start learning the language at the Goethe-Institut in your home country.

## What kind of budget do I need?

Doctoral students are generally exempted from paying tuition fee. Thus, in Germany, virtually every doctoral student gets a scholarship! However, you will need to pay a semester contribution ranging from Euro 100-350, depending upon the university and the services or benefits provided.

Apart from the semester contribution, you will require about Euro 1000 per month for housing, food, clothing, study material, and other expenses such as health insurance and leisure activities. This amount can vary from city to city, and depends on your lifestyle!

## Can I get a scholarship?

Visit www.daad-sri-lanka.org/scholarship-database for an overview of DAAD scholarship programmes. A database of scholarships offered by various German organisations can be found at www.funding-guide.de. As a doctoral student, you can also work as a research assistant. More information can be found at www.research-in-germany.org