



## Spring Call 2015/16

### **German Egyptian Research Short Term Scholarships GERSS**

As an output of the successful German Egyptian Year of Science & Technology 2007, a cooperation agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Higher Education of the Arab Republic of Egypt (MoHE) and the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, Bonn (DAAD) in order to finance short term scholarships for young Egyptian scientists to travel to Germany.

The target groups of the programme are researchers enrolled in MSc, PhD programmes and young Post Doctoral candidates. The scholarships may be awarded for a period from three to six months.

#### **Purpose**

Each year a group of researchers will be sent to Germany for Master's, Doctoral and Post doctoral studies in the fields agreed upon by both parties. The distribution of the monthly units will be defined by an independent selection committee appointed by the Egyptian and the German sides according to the proposals presented by the candidates. This distribution may change annually if both parties agree. The number of months granted for each candidate should not exceed six months and should not be less than three months. **Scholarship periods are not extendable.**

The scholarship shall enable advanced graduate students and young scientists to pursue part of their master's, doctoral or post doctoral research in a specific research project at German universities, archives, libraries or research institutes.

#### **Eligibility**

Applicants affiliated to a private or public Egyptian university or Egyptian research institute may apply for the GERSS scholarship. The application is also open to non-university staff members.

- As a general rule, candidates residing outside Egypt for a period longer than 6 months are not allowed to apply for GERSS.
- Candidates who have been granted the GERLS scholarship may apply for GERSS one year after returning from Germany.
- Applicants who have been rejected 3 times in the GERSS programme, are not entitled to reapply.

- Dual application with the Egyptian Ministry's programmes is possible; however dual funding is not permitted. Applicants are expected to inform the DAAD if they have submitted a parallel application or have been awarded a Ministry's scholarship.
- Candidates who received a DAAD funded scholarship during a certain academic stage are not allowed to apply for GERSS unless they change their academic status.
- Academic studies in Musicology are offered within the GERSS scholarship however instrumentalists can only apply for the German Egyptian Research Long-Term Scholarship (GERLS). For more details please refer to the GERLS Info sheet available on the following DAAD link:  
<http://cairo.daad.de/en/studyingresearchgermany/scholarshipforeigners/doctoralcandidates/>
- Candidates from the field of medicine can only apply for GERSS if they intend to visit Germany for research purposes with no direct contact with the patients. A minimum of two employment years should have been completed by the beginning of their travel date to Germany.
- In the medical field, the scholarship is not restricted to research projects but may also be granted for training purposes. This applies only to medical students with research and clinical projects who have no direct contact with the patient.  
Due to the limited time of the scholarship it is not possible to obtain the medical license of practicing medicine.
- Graduates: should not be older than 26 years.  
Medicine Graduates: should not be older than 29 years.  
PhD candidates: should not exceed 36 years. However priority will be given to young scientists.  
Post doc candidates should not be older than 40 years.

### ***New reapplication rule***

- Former GERSS scholarship holders may reapply, however these candidates can only be supported once at every stage of their research career (as Bachelor's, Master's, PhD holders)
- The same applies for candidates who have been granted other scholarships by the Egyptian Ministry.

### **Selection of the candidates:**

The candidates will be selected in two rounds. First, a pre-selection procedure will identify the group of applicants who will be invited for the second phase consisting of a personal interview with the GERSS independent selection committee appointed by the Egyptian and the German sides. Pre- and final selection of the candidates should be conducted according to, but not limited to the following criteria:

- Excellent Research proposal
- Scientific merits, including:
  - A -Quality of the proposal
  - B -The benefit to Egypt
  - C -Preparation and feasibility of the project
  - D -Quality of the acceptance letter

- Excellent study achievement.
- Good command of languages: English language command is required. Preference will be given to holders of high scores ( e.g. TOEFL 550) in English language test certificates, such as TOEFL or ILETS while German language command is a plus.

## Areas of Research

On a general basis, priority will be given to the following fields without excluding any other field: water, renewable energies, medical sciences, material sciences, biotechnology, social sciences and humanities.

Scholarships are not awarded for general-information gathering, visits or for the participation in scientific meetings.

## Stipend

- Post-Doctoral scholarship holders will be granted an amount of Euro 2.138 (two thousand one hundred thirty eight Euros) per month.
- Doctoral and MSc scholarship holders will be granted an amount of Euro 1069 (one thousand and sixty nine Euros) per month.

The amounts for the DAAD health insurance will be deducted from the monthly stipend of each scholarship holder.

One additional insurance installment will be added and will begin 15 days prior to the arrival to Germany and end 15 days after the scheduled departure date to Egypt.

Additionally a lump sum will be paid for travel and an accident and liability insurance will be provided.

Such amounts are subject to change and will always be adapted according to the general regulations for DAAD scholarships.

Since the GERSS scholarship does not include family allowance, scholarship holders are discouraged to be accompanied by family members due to the short research stays in Germany.

## Call for Application and application procedure

There are two calls for applications annually

### Autumn Call

Call for application: 1. September

Deadline: 15. October

Pre-selections: November/December

Pre-selection results: December

Final selections: January

Final selections results: February/March

Info session: March

Language and cultural preparation course: April

First possible travel date: 1. May

Last possible travel date: 15. July

## Spring Call

Call for application: 15. February

Deadline: 31 March

Pre-selections: April/May

Pre-selection results: May

Final selections: June

Final selections results: September

Info session: September

Language and cultural preparation course: December

First possible travel date: 15. January

Last possible travel date: 31. March

Kindly note, selected candidates must participate in the German language and cultural preparation courses which will be prepared in cooperation with the Goethe Institute in Egypt, therefore a leave of absence has to be taken from work during this period.

## Application Procedure

Candidates have to refer to the following link [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de) in order to choose the GERSS programme as the scholarship they would like to apply for.

This will lead them to the DAAD Portal on which they have to register themselves.

After registration, applicants have to fill out the online application form, upload it together with all required documents and submit it electronically via the portal.

3 copies of the application form as well as of all required documents have to be submitted to the DAAD Cairo office 11 El Saleh Ayoub St. Zamalek, Cairo, by the deadline. Please refer to the days of submission announced on the DAAD website.

**Please note**, an application is only valid when it has been submitted electronically together with all required documents via the DAAD Portal and not via email and sent as a hard copy in 3 sets to the DAAD Cairo office by the deadline. Please refer to the days of submission announced on the DAAD website.

Kindly refer to the document "How to apply online?" available on the DAAD website <http://cairo.daad.de/en/>, before starting your application

## Requirements from the university/research institute staff members

A complete application consists of the following documents (13 items) that must be uploaded on the DAAD Portal: (Please refer to the document "How to apply online?" available on the DAAD website <http://cairo.daad.de/en/>, before starting your application):

1. The online application form available on the DAAD Portal which can be only accessed through the following link [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de).  
(When you enter your desired travel date in the online application, please make sure that your first travel day either starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month or on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the months)

2. A research proposal including the reference list. Please refer to the document “Research Proposal” available on the DAAD website, which contains questions to be answered concerning your proposal and insert the reference list on the last page.
3. A detailed CV.
4. Complete list of publications, if available
5. Acceptance letter or an email from a German Professor showing that the research project under preparation is feasible and can be conducted in Germany under his supervision. The acceptance letter should state the **title**, **time frame** and **objectives** of the project. The acceptance letter should not be older than six months.
6. Copies of the B.A. or B.Sc. certificate and the M.A. or M.Sc. and PhD certificate if applicable.
7. A copy of any language certificate that proves your good command of the English or German language.
8. Endorsement letter from the applicant’s home institution. The endorsement letter has to be stamped and signed by the Head of the Institution, Dean of the Faculty or President of the University (Please use the template which is available on the DAAD website <http://cairo.daad.de/en/>, print it and fill it out.)
9. Official statement of employment (بيان الحالة) issued from the applicants` institution/ university. The statement should indicate that the applicant is affiliated to this institution/ university at the time of application under the current position and should reflect a complete history of employment (A minimum of two employment years should have been completed by the beginning of his/her travel date to Germany ).
10. The form “General Required Information”, template of which is available on the DAAD website.

The endorsement letter as well as the statement of employment must be issued from the same home institution and should not be older than 6 months.

11. Proof of pre-master’s, master’s or PhD registration. (not applicable for PhD holders)
12. A copy of your passport.

### **Please note**

An application is only valid when it has been submitted electronically via the portal and not via email and sent in 3 sets as hard copies to the DAAD Cairo office before the deadline.

The following documents have to be attached in sealed envelopes to each hard copy and not sent via the portal.

13. Two letters of recommendation from two different professors at the applicant's home university; these should refer to the candidate's academic achievements and the quality of the proposed research or study plan. Please use the template “Request for letter of recommendation” available on the Portal.

The recommendation letters have to be enclosed in sealed envelopes to each hard copy and not sent via the portal. Please refer to the document “How to apply online?” available on the DAAD website.

### Requirements from non-university staff members

A complete application consists of the following documents (15 items) that must be uploaded on the DAAD Portal: (Please refer to the document “How to apply online?” available on the DAAD website <http://cairo.daad.de/en/> before starting your application):

1. The online application form available on the DAAD Portal which can be only accessed through the following link [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de).  
(When you enter your desired travel date in the online application, please make sure that your first travel day either starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month or on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the months)
  2. A research proposal. Please refer to the document “Research Proposal” available on the DAAD website, which contains questions to be answered concerning your proposal.
  3. A detailed CV.
  4. Complete list of publications, if available.
  5. Acceptance letter or an email from a German Professor showing that the research project under preparation is feasible and can be conducted in Germany under his supervision. The acceptance letter should state the **title**, **time frame** and **objectives** of the project. The acceptance letter should not be older than six months.
  6. Copies of the B.A. or B.Sc. certificate and the M.A. or M.Sc. and PhD certificate if applicable.
  7. A copy of any language certificate that proves your good command of the English or German language.
  8. Endorsement letter from the applicant’s home institution. The endorsement letter has to be stamped and signed by the Head of the Institution, Dean of the Faculty or President of the University, if possible. (Please use the template which is available on the DAAD website <http://cairo.daad.de/en/>, print it and fill it out.)
  9. Official statement of employment (بيان الحالة) issued from the applicants` institution/ university. The statement should indicate that the applicant is affiliated to this institution/ university at the time of application under the current position and should reflect a complete history of employment, if possible (A minimum of two employment years should have been completed by the beginning of his/her travel date to Germany ).
  10. The form “General Required Information”, template of which is available on the DAAD website
- The endorsement letter as well as the statement of employment must be issued from the same home institution and should not be older than 6 months.
11. A copy of your passport.
  12. Proof of pre-master’s, master’s or PhD registration. (not applicable for PhD holders)



13. Motivation letter from the applicant.

14. Declaration from the applicant to assure that he/ she will settle the matter of his/ her needed vacation with his/ her company/ university. It is the responsibility of the applicant to acquire the needed leave form from his/her institution.

### **Please note**

An application is only valid when it has been submitted electronically via the portal and not via email and sent in 3 sets as hard copies to the DAAD Cairo office before the deadline.

The following documents have to be attached in sealed envelopes to each hard copy and not sent via the portal.

15. Two letters of recommendation from two different professors at the applicant's home university; these should refer to the candidate's academic achievements and the quality of the proposed research or study plan. Please use the template "Request for letter of recommendation" available on the Portal.

The recommendation letters have to be enclosed in sealed envelopes to each hard copy and not sent via the portal. Please refer to the document "How to apply online?" available on the DAAD website.

Applications received after the deadlines and incomplete applications will not be considered.

The pre-selection as well as the final selection results can be retrieved from the DAAD Portal. The DAAD website <http://cairo.daad.de/en>, will also make an announcement concerning the results. Applicants are advised to check the DAAD website frequently.

Final decisions are made by the independent selection committee appointed by the Egyptian and the German sides.

### Please note:

- If substantial changes to the original submitted and finally accepted proposal are necessary (after consultation and approval from the German host professor), a new proposal should be submitted and will undergo another evaluation process in which the independent selection committee preserves the right to terminate the scholarship if needed. In this case the Egyptian Cultural Bureau in Germany has to be notified and the home institution should endorse such changes.
- Candidates awarded the GERSS scholarship have to submit a report about their research stay within a period of 2 months after returning to Egypt.
- Scholarship holders returning to Egypt before completing the grant period may be asked to refund the monthly stipend he/ she collected.
- GERSS scholarship holders and applicants whose spouses have been granted a DAAD or MoHE scholarship should inform the DAAD accordingly.

- Former GERSS scholarship holders targeting a PhD title are encouraged to apply for the GERLS programme after completing the GERSS scholarship and returning back to Egypt, provided that they fulfill the requirements of the GERLS programme.
- Scholarships granted to applicants from private universities/ freelancers / ministries will be limited in numbers. Those applicants may have to sign a letter of intent.
- There are no quotas for individual institutions or disciplines.
- Priority will be given to younger scientists.
- The DAAD is not in the position to inform the applicants about the reasons of the committee's decision.
- The award of scholarships is subject to the availability of funds.
- We urge the applicants to refer to the “Guide for Applicant” available on the DAAD website
- Among the reasons for disqualifying an application are the following :

- a) Wrong history information and misleading information about previous applications.
- b) Incomplete application.
- c) Submitting two different proposals or two different accounts in one cycle.
- e) Dual application with other programmes. Please check the dual application matrix found in the document “Guide for Applicant”, available on the DAAD website
- f) Dual nationality of the applicant.
- g) Hand made changes and corrections in the acceptance letter.
- h) Plagiarism (e.g. copied data from the internet without stating the references and footnote). Please check the following link for details <http://www.dfg.de/sites/flipbook/gwp/#/44/>. Should you not be fully acquainted of the idea of plagiarism, we recommend applying for the DAAD Cairo Academy module „Ethics in Science“. Please refer to the following link <http://cairo.daad.de/en/news/upcomingEvents/> to learn about the application dates. Candidates, who have been disqualified due to plagiarism, are not permitted to reapply in the following call.
- i) Fraudulent documents.
- j) Residing outside Egypt for more than six months at the time of application.

This info sheet is available on the following DAAD links:

<http://cairo.daad.de/en/>

<http://cairo.daad.de/en/scholarships/graduates/>

<http://cairo.daad.de/en/scholarships/phd/http://cairo.daad.de/en/scholarships/postdocs/>

For inquires please contact

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**Kindly note, your inquiries will be only answered during the working days (Sundays- Thursdays) and working hours (9:00 – 16:00). We don't operate on Fridays and Saturdays, therefore we recommend refraining from making last minute submissions.**