

# Frequently Asked Questions

## General Questions

### Which amount covers the scholarship and who is paying for it?

The Deutschlandstipendium covers 300 euros per month. 150 euros of this amount is paid by private funders such as companies, foundations, Alumni and other private persons, whereas the other 150 euros are paid by the federal government. The scholarship holders receive the money directly from their university. The Deutschlandstipendium is awarded independently of income and can be obtained in addition to BAföG. The funding period should be at least two semesters.

### Does the money have to be repaid?

No. The scholarship holders do not have to repay the received funds.

### Who can apply?

Students of all nationalities and all disciplines who are enrolled at a state or state-recognized university can apply for the Deutschlandstipendium, if it is offered by their university. Basically, every degree programme at a state or state-approved university is eligible for funding. For example, you may also be able to apply for the scholarship if you pursue a second or supplementary degree, a master's degree, a part-time or integrated degree programme. It is also possible for part-time students and prospective students who are waiting for admission to apply for the Deutschlandstipendium.

Excluded from the application of the Deutschlandstipendium are postdoctoral students, students at federal universities and students at administrative universities with remunerations.

### Can refugees also receive the Deutschlandstipendium?

Students with a refugee background can receive the Deutschlandstipendium if they are matriculated at a state or state-approved university in Germany that offers the Deutschlandstipendium.

### What are the criteria for the selection of students?

The Scholarship Programme Act (Stipendieprogramm-Gesetz StipG) and the Scholarship Programme Regulations (Studienprogramm- Verordnung StipV) define the funding criteria which the universities can develop. The Deutschlandstipendium is intended to support talented students. Academic achievements are an important indicator for assessing the performance and talent of each applicant. Criteria to receive the Deutschlandstipendium also grant awards and prizes, previous work experience and internships, extracurricular activities and the ability to cope with biographical obstacles. The application and selection process takes the applicant's entire personality into account.

### **To which extent does a refugee background play a role in the selection of the scholarship holders?**

The specific social, family or personal obstacles that are considered in the selection process also include experience of refugees or political persecution.

### **Where can I apply?**

For further information, please contact the university at which you are enrolled or at which you wish to enroll to find out whether the university offers the Deutschlandstipendium and how the application procedure works.

### **How long will I be funded?**

Scholarship holders should be able to concentrate on their education as long as possible. Funding usually lasts at least two semesters and covers a maximum of the standard period of study. After each year, the university checks whether the scholarship holder still meets the funding criteria.

### **Is a university obligated to offer the Deutschlandstipendium?**

No. Each university decides whether it offers the Deutschlandstipendium or not. If it decides to do so, the scholarship holders are selected by the university committees depending on the defined criteria.

## **Application and awarding of the scholarship**

### **How can I apply?**

Students can apply for the Deutschlandstipendium according to their university's regulations. Freshmen can apply if they fulfil the admission requirements set by the university and are ready to begin their studies at the respective university.

### **Who decides on awarding the scholarship?**

The awarding is determined by the selection committee of the respective university. They can appoint private funding representatives with consultative functions on the selection committees.

### **How can prospective students apply for the scholarship in study degree programmes with restricted admission?**

Universities may provide a selection procedure, which begins after the admission to the study degree programme and the student's acceptance of it.

### **Does participating in a university committee constitute a reason for extending the maximum funding period?**

The participation in a university committee or in a student self-administration committee can be a reason for extending the maximum funding period. This only applies to elected members. The duration of the extension is determined by the time required for the respective activity in the committee.

## **Several sponsorships at the same time**

### **Is it possible to have several scholarships at the same time?**

This depends on the amount and type of scholarship funding. In general, the following applies: Those who already receive a performance-related material funding, which on average is 30 euros or more per month, cannot receive a Deutschlandstipendium.

### **What signifies material support?**

Material funding is the support in cash or goods. Benefits that are of monetary value, but in which the educational character is in the foreground and which scholarship holders would otherwise not be able to afford, are regarded as non-material support, for example a newspaper subscription. On the other hand, a financial subsidy to finance an Internet connection would be material support.

### **Is it possible to receive a DAAD scholarship and a Deutschlandstipendium at the same time?**

Whoever receives a full DAAD scholarship cannot receive the Deutschlandstipendium at the same time, as both scholarships are based on academic talent and performance. However, you can take a voluntary leave of absence from the Deutschlandstipendium while receiving a full DAAD scholarship. If you just receive a partial scholarship from the DAAD, you can receive the Deutschlandstipendium at the same time.

### **What is the procedure with the university's own funding programmes?**

University's own funding programmes cannot be received together with the Deutschlandstipendium if the funding is based on talent and performance. In contrast, programmes to impart soft skills or interdisciplinary knowledge as well as mentoring programmes can be received together with the Deutschlandstipendium.

## **Holidays, time abroad and breaks**

### **What happens to the Deutschlandstipendium if I am on a leave of absence from university?**

The scholarship is not paid during a leave of absence from university for personal or family reasons, e.g. pregnancy or parenting, or to care for a close relative. If the study is continued, the period of the Deutschlandstipendium is extended by the duration of the leave of absence.

### **Can the Deutschlandstipendium continue to be received if I am on a leave of absence from university for an internship or a stay abroad?**

A distinction must be made here between compulsory internships and other internships. If an obligatory internship at home or abroad is integrated into the study regulations, the financial support will continue to be paid. The situation is similar with a stay abroad in a specific field of study. If the student completes another internship that is not foreseen in the respective study regulations, the financial support will not be paid during this period.

### **Can I continue to receive financial support from the Deutschlandstipendium if I complete a voluntary internship without taking a leave of absence from university?**

It is up to the university to decide whether further support can be provided during a voluntary internship for which you have not taken a leave of absence. Criteria might be whether the internship interrupts your studies or not.

### **Can I continue to receive financial support from the Deutschlandstipendium while I am temporarily studying abroad - for example within the ERASMUS+ programme?**

The scholarship will continue to be paid even if you are going to study a semester abroad. This applies regardless of any leave of absence at the university awarding the scholarship. If you study abroad within the ERASMUS+ programme, the Deutschlandstipendium will continue to be paid even if you simultaneously receive a mobility scholarship from the Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienst (DAAD).

### **What are the regulations for a transfer to a new university?**

In the event of a transfer to another university in the same discipline, the scholarship is paid for one additional semester. This gives the student the opportunity to apply for a Deutschlandstipendium at the new university.

### **What happens when I have finished my studies, or I change my field of study?**

The scholarship ends upon successful graduation with the announcement of the final result but no later than the end of the second month after the last examination. Otherwise, the scholarship ends at the end of the month in which the scholarship holder has aborted the studies, changed the discipline or is exmatriculated.

### **What happens when I have completed my Bachelor's degree? Do I have to reapply for the Master's programme?**

The scholarship generally ends with the successful completion of the Bachelor's programme. Universities can set up special selection procedures that facilitate the funding of the Master's programme.

### **Can I temporarily refrain from receiving the Deutschlandstipendium?**

Yes, for example for the duration of a DAAD funded semester abroad or during another scholarship that cannot be obtained at the same time as the Deutschlandstipendium.

## **Social security benefits and alimentation**

### **Is the scholarship recognized by BAföG?**

No. The BAföG and the Deutschlandstipendium are two complementary programmes. In principle, students can take advantage of both funding opportunities at the same time without any deductions. If, however, a monthly average of 300 euros is exceeded, it will be credited.

### **Is the Deutschlandstipendium credited to other social security benefits (except BAföG)?**

No. The Deutschlandstipendium is generally not credited to other social security benefits, such as unemployment benefits II. The only exception, though, is housing benefit.

### **Can I receive housing benefit at the same time as the Deutschlandstipendium?**

Yes, but recipients of housing benefit need to consider that half of the Deutschlandstipendium is taken into account when calculating their annual income. For further information on scholarships and housing allowances, please contact your local housing benefit office.

### **Does the Deutschlandstipendium influence my claim to maintenance from my parents?**

Yes, the Deutschlandstipendium is considered mitigating the need for child support. Students of age are obliged to use their own funds first before claiming a financial support from their parents. The Deutschlandstipendium is counted as the scholarship holder's own income.

### **Does the Deutschlandstipendium have any effect on the child allowance?**

Receiving the Deutschlandstipendium does not affect the child allowance.

## **Taxes and insurance**

### **How will my scholarship be taxed?**

The Scholarship Programme Act (StipG) states that a Deutschlandstipendium is generally no taxable income. Exceptions may arise in certain constellations of private, state-recognized universities. Those universities can provide further information.

### **Does the Deutschlandstipendium have an impact on the amount of the statutory health insurance contribution?**

The Deutschlandstipendium has no effect on the contribution to the statutory health insurance scheme as long as the scholarship holder is in the statutory health insurance scheme (usually until the end of the 14th semester or the 30th year of age). The situation is different if the scholarship holder is (afterwards) insured as a voluntary member. For voluntary members, the German law requires a minimum contribution. If the insured person's income (including scholarships) exceeds an assessment basis specified by the legislator, the corresponding income is liable to pay contributions.