

Research Programme “German Colonial Rule. Scholarship Programme for Cooperative Research”

(Bi-nationally supervised doctorates in Germany)

German colonial history is a rich field of research – both in Germany and, even more so, in the regions which it formerly colonised. A new programme aims to foster international and interdisciplinary cooperation and dialogue between different perspectives within this field. In accordance with the coalition agreement of March 2018 and the measures proposed on 25 November 2020 by the German Cabinet Committee for the fight against racism and right-wing extremism, the Federal Foreign Office, with the support of the DAAD, is initiating the research programme “German Colonial Rule. Scholarship Programme for Cooperative Research.” Participating researchers are invited to focus in particular on the role and actions of the Foreign Office as well as other German government institutions in the colonial territories.

Objective

The DAAD programme “German Colonial Rule”, funded by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, invites young researchers to apply for DAAD scholarships for PhD thesis projects. The aim of the scholarship programme is to promote research on German government institutions and policies and their political, economic and cultural impact on and in the former German colonies.

The scholarship will enable recipients to obtain a doctorate in Germany. They will have one supervisor from a university in Germany and one from a co-operating university in Africa or the Asia-Pacific region, and they will be able to carry out research in archives and at universities in Germany, Africa and Asia-Pacific.

Scholars from Africa and the Asia-Pacific region are particularly encouraged to apply.

By funding projects in this field, the programme aims to create a shared space for research on the history of German colonialism and racism, thus laying the foundation for long-term research partnerships.

Research projects should focus on the German colonial period as well as its aftermath and address the Colonial Department of Germany’s Foreign Office, the *Reichskolonialamt* (Imperial Colonial Office) and/or other organisations and individuals involved in Germany’s colonial rule. Emphasis may be laid on political, economic and/or cultural dimensions of colonial rule. Researchers may also concentrate on the cooperation between the German administration, intermediaries and political elites in the colonies as well as on specific administrative acts. Comparative studies focusing on colonial rule in colonies of different European empires are equally welcome.

Possible areas of focus include (by way of example):

- (collective) biographies of individuals who were in the service of Germany's Foreign Office, the Imperial Colonial Office, colonial governments, district offices, etc.
- studies of cultural brokers and intermediaries
- studies of administrative practices, e.g. in the fields of law, health, labour policy, trade or the military (including the looting of objects and human remains)
- comparative research on different colonial regimes
- studies of the history of colonial theories, colonialism and racism
- studies of regions that were affected by German colonial rule

Successful candidates' PhD studies will be overseen by two supervisors, one from Germany and one from a cooperating university in Africa or the Asia-Pacific region (see [appendix](#)).

Applicants may indicate their preferred supervisors in their application. However, successful candidates may be re-assigned to other supervisors during evaluation of the applications. Candidates who have already found a supervisor outside of the scholarship programme can still apply and should name their supervisor in their application.

In the course of the programme, the scholarship holders will be expected to:

- submit an annual report,
- complete and successfully defend a PhD thesis after four years and
- attend an annual meeting with the other programme participants.

These workshops will also involve the PhD supervisors and will additionally be open to interested researchers who are not participating in the scholarship programme, creating a space for networking as well as academic discussion. Furthermore, the scholarship holders will be invited to present the results of their research at the Federal Foreign Office.

Who can apply?

Applications are open to excellently qualified researchers aspiring to complete a doctorate on the history of German colonial rule and the role of German authorities and organisations. Scholars from Africa and the Asia-Pacific region are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants must have an above-average university degree that entitles them to enrol in a doctoral programme. Applicants should also have some basic knowledge of German, and should have graduated no longer than 6 years ago.

What can be funded?

The scholarship will permit PhD studies at an eligible German university (see appendix), with integrated periods of research at a co-operating university in Africa or the Asia-Pacific region. These studies will be supervised by an academic adviser at the host institution in Germany and an academic adviser at the co-operating university. In line with the cooperative approach of the programme, the supervisors will jointly support scholarship holders in the course of their research project, creating a shared space for joint research. Under this flexible, multi-phase funding system, successful candidates will begin their studies in Germany and subsequently spend research periods at the cooperating university. They will complete their doctoral degree at their German host university in close cooperation with their academic supervisor from the co-operating university. The abovementioned structure may vary depending on the individual research project. Candidates who wish to follow an alternative research path should explain their research plan and schedule thoroughly in their proposal.

The list of participating supervisors can be found in the [appendix](#). Researchers who have already found a supervisor outside of this programme may still apply and should name their supervisor in their application.

Duration of funding

- 4-month online German language course from the candidate's home country (if applicable)
- 4 years split between Germany (2-year starting phase) and the research partners – universities, archives, etc. – in the Global South (48-month research period for PhD studies with an annual review on progress and professional ability for further funding)
- Research phases outside Germany are supported. Planned stays should not exceed a quarter of the anticipated total funding period.

The above schedule may vary depending on the individual research project. Applicants should set out their research plan and a provisional schedule in their research proposal.

Schedule

Applications for the programme must be submitted by 31 August 2021. The selection committee is expected to make a decision by 31 October 2021. The successful candidates should begin their four-month online German language course in their home country on 1 December 2021; the courses will be provided by the DAAD. The initial research phase in Germany should begin no later than April 2022. Funding will end in June 2026 at the latest.

Value

- A monthly scholarship payment of 1,200 EUR for doctoral candidates (861 EUR before the acceptance as doctoral candidate at the higher education institution)
- [Travel allowance](#)
- Travel allowances for archive and research work; the planned trips should be specified in the research plan and schedule submitted as part of the application
- Travel and accommodation expenses for the student's supervisors from Germany and the cooperating university, to enable them to monitor progress, participate in workshops, etc., in accordance with the German Federal Travel Expenses Act (BRKG)
- Payments towards health, accident and personal/ private liability insurance cover
- Annual research allowance

Under certain circumstances, scholarship holders may receive the following additional benefits:

- Monthly rent subsidy
- Monthly allowance for accompanying family members
- In the case of a disability or chronic illness: subsidy for additional costs which result from the disability or chronic illness and are not covered by other funding providers: [Further information](#)

To support scholarship holders in learning German, the DAAD offers the following service:

- Intensive 4-month online German language course from the candidate's home country prior to the start of their research stay in Germany (if applicable)
- Allowance for a personally chosen German language course during the funding period
- Reimbursement of the fees for the TestDaF or DSH examination which candidates will take either in their home country after receipt of the scholarship award letter or in Germany before the end of the funding period

Selection

Applications will be reviewed by an independent selection committee consisting of international experts in colonial and global history.

Selection Criteria

Central selection criteria are:

- a convincing and well-planned research or training project
- academic achievements

Furthermore, additional documents submitted that prove the applicant's professional aptitude or provide information about extracurricular commitment will also be included in the evaluation.

In addition, in order to ensure equal opportunities, the selection committee may take into account special life circumstances, about which you can provide information in the application form.

Application Requirements

What requirements must be met?

Applicants must have graduated with a Master's degree (or equivalent) – as a rule, no longer than 6 years before the date of their application (possible exceptions are listed in our [Important Scholarship Information / section A, point 2](#)).

Applicants who have been resident in Germany for longer than 15 months prior to the application deadline cannot be considered.

Language Skills

It is essential for applicants to have good German language skills, and, in particular, to be able to use the language for historical research. We do not require an official German language qualification, but we ask candidates to explain in their applications how long they have been learning German, to what extent they have had the opportunity to practise it and how they intend to engage with German sources and archive records in their research.

It is also essential for applicants to have good English language skills, and, in particular, to be able to use the language for historical research. However, we do not require an official English language qualification.

Application Procedure

Application documents

The application documents must be submitted in full to the DAAD portal <https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal>.

Certificates, certifications, proof of credits and any translations may be scanned in non-certified form and uploaded to the DAAD portal. The DAAD Head Office in Bonn reserves the right to request that successful candidates provide certified paper copies of the submitted documents.

Documents to be uploaded to the DAAD portal:

- Online application form
- Full curriculum vitae in tabular form (3 pages max.)
- List of publications (3 pages max.), if applicable
- Summary of Master's dissertation (2 pages max.), if available
- Detailed research proposal (10 pages max.), including a detailed schedule of the planned research work in accordance with the time frame indicated under "Duration of funding". Please also read our [Important Scholarship Information / section B, point 2](#).
- University degree certificates indicating final grade(s) (Bachelor's and Master's); the certificates must be submitted before the funded research begins if they are not yet available at the time of application
- All university certificates covering all annual examinations with individual grades (transcripts of records), including an explanation of the grading system
- For francophone countries: A Licence or Maitrise degree of "assez bien" level and a DEA/DESS degree or a Master corresponding to the LMD system are required.
- Language certificate (if any) or self-assessment of your current language level according to the CEFR. If you acquire a language certificate after the application deadline, please submit it. You can find information for the self-assessment of your language skills [here, see section A point 8](#).

All documents submitted must be in English; alternatively in German. Translations must be provided for all documents submitted in other languages.

To be submitted by cloud link:

- One recent letter of reference from experts of the applicant's own choosing. The letter should refer to the candidate's qualification in general as well as to their qualification for the proposed project. Referees are requested to contact the DAAD by e-mail (see below) in order to receive a cloud link.

Application deadline

31 August 2021

Please note:

- Applications will only be valid if all required documents are submitted to the DAAD portal on time.
- The DAAD portal closes at midnight Central European Time (CET) at the end of the last day of the application period.
- Incomplete applications cannot be considered. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their applications are complete.
- The application documents will remain with the DAAD. Data relating to applicants will be stored by the DAAD in accordance with the German Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG) and with the EU General Data Protection Regulation insofar as these data are needed to process the application.

Contact and Advice

Information and advisory centres

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)
German Academic Exchange Service
Section ST43 / GCR
Kennedyallee 50
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funded by



Federal Foreign Office