Applicant Information for the DAAD/OSI Program

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Bonn, and Open Society Institute (OSI) are collaborating on a joint program of grants for graduates from the Balkans.

1. Aim

The DAAD/OSI Scholarships aim to bolster the capacity of the participating countries to provide quality instruction and research in the social sciences and humanities, and to create a network of scholars from these countries in these fields with colleagues in Germany to enhance the international exchange of ideas and academic best practice.

A variety of academic opportunities are available to scholars in participating countries to pursue advanced degrees and training at top level universities in Germany. Grantees will be clustered at host institutions to build cohorts of graduates and professors with a common frame of reference, generating international and intra-regional connections into the future.

The grants are awarded jointly by DAAD and OSF Open Society Foundations for study and living expenses incurred at German Universities.

The Program is open to scholars from the following countries in 2012-13:

1. Albania
2. Croatia
3. Bosnia
4. Kosovo
5. Serbia
6. Montenegro
7. Macedonia

2. Target Group

The grants are aimed at students with either a Bachelors degree or a Masters degree or who have completed 5 years of a diploma.

3. Eligible Pathways

Grants are issued for one of the following options:
1. Masters’ level studies (2 years)- more information is available in the Course List.

2. Doctoral studies (3 years)- Ph. D. students will be based at a German university for at least 3 years. Doctorate studies in Germany do not have taught courses as such, but offer close mentoring by an academic supervisor on a selected topic. Extension of the scholarship beyond three years will be contingent upon positive annual reviews and the recommendation of the faculty mentor.

4. Eligible Courses

Applicants for the Masters pathway can apply for one of the courses in the Course List (available in English and German).

Students interested in the PhD option can apply for studies within the following areas:

- Political Science
- Sociology
- International Relations
- Law
- Economics
- Public Administration Studies
- Educational Administrative Studies
- Public Health
- Philosophy
- German Studies (in special cases only)

Under certain circumstances, other courses within the realms of the social sciences and humanities can be considered. The list represents fields of social sciences and humanities underrepresented in the participating countries and available in either English or German instruction at German universities.

5. Application Requirements

All applicants must apply within one of areas mentioned in point 3 above.

a) Masters Courses (2 Years)

Students can submit applications when they are still finishing their Bachelor studies, but have to have their BA diploma before they start their academic studies at a university in Germany.

b) Doctoral Studies (3 Years)

Applicants must have a further university diploma, normally a Masters degree. In specific cases, applications are permitted after 5 years of undergraduate study when a specialisation has been outlined by the applicant.

All applicants must provide evidence of contact to a prospective German supervisor.
6. Language Competence

A good knowledge of German is desirable. Funding for additional language training may be available.

The Test of German (DSH) is administered by DAAD Representatives in each country to assess a candidate’s level of German prior to the interviews.

Candidates who require extra German language training are requested to attend a pre-academic language course in their home country (up to 2 months), with the possibility of spending up to 2 months in Germany if deemed necessary by the interview panel.

Applicants wishing to follow a course instructed in English are required to have a very good command of the English language, proven by a TOEFL test.

Please note that no equivalent language training will be offered in English.

7. Grantee Selection

Selection Committee

Each year between January and March, a selection committee consisting of staff from the DAAD central office in Bonn, the OSF Office in London, and a commission of 2-3 German Professors travel to each country in order to interview pre-selected candidates. Interviews are organised and hosted by the local DAAD IC Office Representatives.

In the case of applications for PhD scholarships, the final decision may be conferred to a selection committee in Bonn.

Selection Procedure

Written applications will be collected up to the generic deadline of the 31 October each year by the local DAAD-IC office representatives or the German Embassy directly (see the Contact List).

In January or February of the following year, selection committees and interviews will commence for all applicants.

Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on academic merit, knowledge of the language required, extracurricular activities, and leadership potential, and will follow a multi-tiered and transparent process. All completed applications will be reviewed and evaluated by selection teams representing the universities, DAAD and OSF.

Semi-finalists will be invited for an in-country interview between January and February.

The interview will be carried out either in German or in English based on selected course of studies.

All applicants must be aware that after a 2-4 month language course, an adequate level of German must be demonstrated in order to fulfil all necessary academic requirements.
8. Costs Covered

DAAD/OSI Scholarships are in essence full scholarship awards, which include a monthly stipend sufficient for a single person, one return trip (PhD scholars get an additional return trip to their home country in the 2nd year of study), pre-sessional language training where necessary, and scholarship enhancement activities, including an Orientation Event, taking place in Bonn in autumn each year, as well as a Mid Year Conference held at a German University.

*Costs or supplements for partners or children are not covered by the Program.*

Masters and doctoral students having pre-school age children in their home country can apply for up to 3 weeks financed trip home.

At Universities where more than 3 DAAD/OSI grantees are placed, a tutor is assigned to provide scholarship holders with guidance and advice.

9. Advice and Information

Representatives of the local DAAD-IC offices / German Embassy provide adequate information to potential grantees about the programs offered within this Award, general advice on study in Germany and making contact with German universities.

10. Application Forms

Applicants should apply on the usual DAAD application forms submitting all necessary documents requested on page 5 of the DAAD Application Form (Antrag auf ein Forschungs-/Studienstipendium) (green) along with 2 Reference Forms (Gutachten zu Stipendienanträgen von ausländischen Studierenden, Graduierten, Doktoranden und Promovierten), available from German Embassies and Consulates, local DAAD Lecturers in country, and also through the following link [www.daad.de/de/form](http://www.daad.de/de/form).

11. Application Details

Applicants falling under points 5a or 5b above should provide the following information, as demanded by DAAD regulations: the green Application Forms, CV, research plan or study motivations, proof of contact to a German University (necessary for 5a only), confirmation of supervision (for 5b only), timetable (for 5b only), 2 references from professors at the home university for PhD-applicants, 1 reference for MA-applicants, certified copies of A-level, Bachelor and/or Masters’ certificates, or if in the 4th year of study, a certified copy of the course certificates gained so far, as well as a DAAD Language certificate.

Masters applicants shall indicate 3 course choices by order of priority in section 7 in the application form.

Copies of the certificates and their translations must be certified.
General scholarship information is also available from the following representatives:

**DAAD**

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Referat 326

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