



In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme Sub-Saharan Africa

Call for **PhD** Scholarship Applications 2024

at **University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin**

[PhD in Agronomic Sciences, Major Biometry]

Funded by the
Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Application Closing Date in the DAAD Portal
(for all candidates):

November 23, 2023



In Country/In Region scholarships at University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin 2024

1

The programme aims at fostering strong, internationally oriented higher education systems in *Sub-Saharan Africa* with the capacity to contribute to sustainable development. For this purpose, scholarships for development-related Doctoral studies are awarded to individuals who plan to pursue a career in teaching and/or research at a higher education institution in *Sub-Saharan Africa*.

By training future academic and professional leaders, the programme contributes to the following **long-term impacts**:

- Qualified professionals' involvement in the solution of development-related problems in *Sub-Saharan Africa*
- Graduates strengthening education and research in *Sub-Saharan Africa*
- Structural strengthening and regional networking of partner institutions and partner universities

To achieve these long-term impacts, the following outcomes have been formulated as programme objectives:

Programme objective 1: Graduates have qualified to take over responsible positions in their or for their region of origin

Programme objective 2: The participation of women and underprivileged groups is reinforced

Programme objective 3: Organizational, financial and personal capacities of partner institutions are strengthened

As part of the „In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme“, DAAD offers scholarships for PhD studies. The programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and aims at university staff in the first line, without neglecting the public sector demand of academically trained personnel.

The target group for scholarships are postgraduates from *Sub-Saharan Africa* with a Master's degree if applying for a doctoral programme who want to pursue PhD courses, either

- in their home country

(**In-Country scholarships** are aimed at students who study in their home country or in the country for which they have a residence permit.)

- or -

- in another *Sub-Saharan Africa* country

(**In-Region scholarships** are aimed at students who want to participate in a study programme in a country of their home region (here: *Sub-Saharan*

Africa /outside their home country/in the country for which they do not have a residence permit).

It has been agreed upon that DAAD cooperates with University of Abomey-Calavu by offering **up to 4 In-Country and 6 In-Region scholarships for PhD studies** at at University of Abomey-Calavi for the intake 2024.

The awarding of scholarships will be subject to the provision of funds.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A PHD DEGREE

2

Applicants for a PhD degree

- postgraduates with a first academic degree, who have successfully completed a two-year university Master's degree (or equivalent) with above average results (at least: Second Class/Upper Division or equivalent, if applicable) Candidates who cannot provide a Second Class/Upper Division or a higher result are non-applicable;
- clearly show motivation and strong commitment;
- have thorough knowledge of the language of instruction;
- have generally completed their last university degree not more than 6 years ago at the time of application;
- must be nationals or permanent residents of a Sub-Saharan Africa country;
- should generally be a) staff member of a public university, b) or a candidate considered for teaching or research staff recruitment, c) or from the public sector and/or d) Alumni of the DAFI-programme.

Female applicants, refugees with recognized refugee status and candidates from other less privileged regions or groups are especially encouraged to participate in the programme.

Please note: If you have already received a PhD scholarship from the DAAD, further PhD funding from the DAAD is not possible.

Please note: University of Abomey-Calavi might have additional requirements for admission to the university

ELIGIBLE FIELDS FOR A PHD

3

The In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme supports studies in subject areas with strong relevance to national development.

The scholarships at University of Abomey-Calavi are available in the following field

PhD in Agronomic Sciences, Major Biometry

PLACE OF TENURE FOR A PHD DEGREE

4

University of Abomey-Calavi, Cotonou, Benin

DURATION AND COMMENCEMENT FOR A PHD DEGREE

5

The duration

- of the PhD programme is generally **3 years** and is usually starting in **September**.

Scholarships for PhD studies are initially granted for one year and can be extended to a maximum of the regular period of study upon receipt of an application for extension. Scholars must demonstrate satisfactory progress before an extension is granted.

Please note: that the maximum duration of the scholarship is based on the time that is left until the scholarship holder has reached the regular period of studies in that programme; i.e., if you apply for a DAAD scholarship starting in your second year of studies of a three-year programme, the maximum duration of the scholarship will be two years.

The standard period of study and the start date are based on the Affiliate Agreement between the host university and the DAAD.

Please note: if you arrive later, the duration of your scholarship will be respectively shortened.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR A PHD DEGREE

6

As a first step, all applicants must submit a complete application for the programme via the DAAD Portal.

Please be aware of the DAAD's application deadline as well as University of Abomey-Calavi's deadline.

The application process for DAAD scholarships contains the following steps:

1. Register on the portal: https://portal.daad.de/sap/bc/bsp/sap/z_set_cookie/setcookie.htm?fund_ar=stv&id=57706754
2. Log in to the portal and click on the "Application" tab
3. Carefully complete the online form and upload the required documents (listed below under 7)
4. Submit your application via the portal by **November 23, 2023**.

Remember to check that your application is complete and meets DAAD requirements before submitting! Otherwise, your application cannot be considered.

DAAD will conduct a formal review of the applications received via the DAAD portal only, according to the DAAD criteria.

In addition to this first step, applicants must apply for admission at the University of Abomey-Calavi using the contact details and procedure prescribed by the institution. **The institution sets its own deadline for the admission process.** Please inform yourself in plenty of time about the application process at the host institution.

Please note: in some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, a document from the Qualifications Authority must be submitted for admission to the universities (e.g., Benin: "Direction Général de l'Enseignement Supérieur", <http://www.dgesbenin.bj/>). The application for these documents can take a while and it is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the documents from the respective authorities in time.

In a final selection organized by the DAAD, applications that have met both the admission requirements at the host university (and the university's rank in the pre-selection) and the DAAD's formal criteria are evaluated by an independent selection committee (international university teachers and experts from German and foreign universities as well as alumni). The independent selection committee evaluates the applications based on the submitted documents, taking into consideration the pre-selection ranking of the institution. Areas evaluated include academic performance and quality, extracurricular activities, motivation, and relevance of the research topic (if applicable).

The DAAD reserves the right of final selection.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS FOR A PHD DEGREE

7

Mandatory documents to be submitted (in either English or German) for the DAAD scholarship application:

- DAAD application form (available on the DAAD portal) duly filled in and submitted according to the outlined deadline;
- Curriculum vitae, including a list of publications (if applicable) if not otherwise possible without a signature;
- Two (2) recommendation letters by university teachers stamped and signed). One of the recommendation letters for PhD could be issued by an employer;
- Letter of admission for the host university (this can be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins if it is not available at the time of application);
- Certified copies of university degree certificates including transcripts (if available, including a grading scale for the final

university degree and if available, information on the recognition of the university degree certifies in the host country);

- Letter of motivation (1-3 pages with your personal, social motivation as well as your reference to the studies and a PhD project);
- Copy of the passport or, if not applicable, a copy of National Identification Card (mandatory for an application for a scholarship);
- Detailed and precise PhD proposal (8-10 pages);
- Detailed work and timetable with detailed information outlined with months and dates as well as information on when the last exam will take place (if applicable: mentioning the planned short-term research stay in Germany, see “Additional benefits”);
- Please note that a detailed and comprehensive proposal is necessary for the assessment. Concept notes will not be accepted.
- Abstract of the proposal on one page (please include name and title of the proposal);
- Declaration of acceptance, must be provided at the beginning of the scholarship, from the academic supervisor or a commitment letter from the host institution that a supervisor will be assigned;
- If applicable, information on the UNHCR registration as refugee;

Optional:

- Additional documents that might be relevant for your application (e.g. proof of internships, proof of employment).

Your application is only valid if you submit all the required documents to the DAAD portal on time. Incomplete applications cannot be considered. You are responsible for ensuring that your applications are complete. **If you do not have documents such as letter of admission at the time of application, please mention and explain this at an appropriate place in the application.**

Please note that the scholarship only becomes effective as soon as the Admission Letter (this can be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins if it is not available before) from the university is issued and once a proof (e.g., airline ticket, letter from supervisor or coordinator, admission test) has been submitted that you are on site at the host university to begin your studies. This must be submitted to the DAAD portal as soon as possible and is part of a complete application (this can be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins if it is not available before).

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR A PHD DEGREE

8

Applications must be submitted via the DAAD portal

https://portal.daad.de/sap/bc/bsp/sap/z_set_cookie/setcookie.htm?fundar=stv&id=57706754

Deadline: November 23, 2023

Applications submitted through other channels or to other authorities will not be considered.

The DAAD portal closes at 24.00 hrs. Central European Time (CET or CEST) on the last application day.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING FOR A PHD DEGREE

9

The scholarship covers:

Benefits	Pace of Payment	Amount
Tuition Fees*	at the beginning of every academic year	<i>The regularly charged amount will be specified in the letter of award.</i>
Study and research allowance	annually	920 EUR
Printing allowance	once towards the end of scholarship	800 EUR
Monthly Scholarship (Accommodation, Food etc.)	monthly	<i>550 EUR In-Region 400 EUR In-Country (Subject to change)</i>
Travel allowance (In-Region only)	usually twice (beginning/ end of scholarship)	<i>The flat rate travel allowance will be specified in the letter of award.</i>
Insurance (In-Region only)	<i>Further information regarding the health insurance will be specified in the letter of award.</i>	

*Please note that in some cases not all fees and costs that are mentioned on the official fee structure of the host institution can be covered by DAAD in full, e.g. if the agreement with the funding organization prevents DAAD from funding certain items in the fee structure or if items that are included in the fees are supposed to be covered through the individual scholarship benefits. DAAD will transfer the fees directly to the host institution.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

10

The DAAD will endeavor to transfer/pay out the first monthly payment to you as quickly as possible after your arrival/ after the beginning of your scholarship. Processing the first transfer of funds may take some time, especially if you are able to set up your bank account only after your arrival in your destination country. To be able to cover the costs which arise until you receive your first scholarship payment, we recommend that you bring a financial reserve with you.

Payments generally cannot be made in advance/prior of the scholarship start date and the commencement of studies at the host institution. Furthermore, no additional benefits that are not listed in this call for applications, such as benefits for family members, can be made/granted.

Please note that the travel allowance for In-Region scholarship holders will only be transferred along with the first scholarship rate, i.e. after the arrival in the host country.

The scholarship will be paid directly to the scholarship holder's bank account. Further details will be announced after admission to the scholarship programme in the Letter of Award.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

11

DAAD In-Country/In-Region scholarship holders in the framework of **PhD programmes** are also

a) encouraged to apply for a **short-term research stay in Germany** for 3 up to 6 months.

Please note:

- **The short-term research stay in Germany should preferably be announced in the application for the regular scholarship** and can only be awarded if the necessary financial means are available.
- If you would like to apply, please note that the funding period for a short-term research stay in Germany is part of the In-Country/In-Region programme and the regular study period of the programme may not be exceeded by the short-term research stay in Germany, this must be included in the regular study period of the In-Country/In-Region programme. Further information will be provided upon request via the

DAAD Portal after you have received your In-Country/In-Region scholarship.

The short-term research scholarship includes:

- a monthly scholarship payment for living costs
- health/accident/personal liability insurance
- a flat-rate travel allowance

DAAD In-Country/In-Region scholarship holders are also

- b) invited to apply for different Summer Schools in Germany (four weeks)
- c) invited to participate in further training possibilities such as E-Resources or/and Soft Skill trainings.

All further details regarding additional benefits and the additional application processes will be provided after admission to the scholarship programme. Please note that all short-listed applicants might be asked to participate in a multi-wave monitoring survey to gather data on different academic and career development aspects. Participation is voluntary.

INFO SESSION FOR INTERESTED APPLICANTS

12

DAAD plans to offer **virtual information sessions** for interested applicants during October and November 2023. If you are interested in these sessions, please register using the following link <https://daad-kenya.org/event>.

CONTACT AND COUNSELING

13

Enquiries related to the DAAD Scholarship

DAAD Contact Person: Melanie Filipp

E-Mail: filipp@daad.de

Website: <https://www.daad.de/incountry-inregion>



Enquiries related to the general admission and the study programme at University of Abomey-Calavi

Contact Person: Prof. Romain Lucas Glele Kakai

E-Mail: glele.romain@gmail.com

Website: <http://labef-uac.org/en>

FUNDED BY

14



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development