



Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service



Ministry of
Higher Education
and
State for Scientific
Research

Autumn Call 2011/12

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 and Scientific Research (MHESR) 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 a bi-national independent selection committee 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 are not entitled to reapply for GERSS

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- Applicants who have recently come back from a research stay abroad will have to explain explicitly the reason for a further GERSS application.
- 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 website <http://www.mhesr-initiatives.org/gerls/>
- 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 is a must.
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.

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 bi-national independent selection committee. 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.

Selected candidates must participate in a German language course which will be prepared in cooperation with the Goethe Institute in Egypt.

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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 1951 (one thousand nine hundred fifty one Euros) per month.
- Doctoral and MSc scholarship holders will be granted an amount of Euro 1064 (one thousand and sixty four Euros) per month.

Additionally a lump sum will be paid for travel.

Insurance amounts covering health, accident and liability 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.

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

Submitting documents to DAAD Cairo Office: January

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

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Spring Call

Call for application: 15. March

Deadline: 30. April

Pre-selections: May/June

Pre-selection results: June

Final selections: July

Final selections results: September

Info session: September

Language and cultural preparation course: December

First possible travel date: 1. January

Last possible travel date: 31. March

Pre-selection electronic application forms can be found on the GERSS website <http://www.mhesr-initiatives.org/gerss> as soon as the calls start.

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

The pre-selection as well as the final selection results will be announced on the GERSS website <http://www.mhesr-initiatives.org/gerss>. Applicants are urged to check the GERSS website frequently.

The latest travel date for the Autumn Call as well as for the Spring Call will be stated in the award letter.

Final decisions are made by the bi-national selection committee.

Requirements from the university/research institute staff members

A complete application consists of the above mentioned electronic application form for which you need to prepare the following (Please refer to the "Guide for Applicant" available on the GERSS website before filling out the electronic application form):

1. A recent photo. (to be uploaded in the field appointed for it in the electronic application form)
2. A complete list of publications, if available. (to be pasted or typed in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form)
3. 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. (to be uploaded in the field appointed for it in the electronic application form.) The acceptance letter should not be older than six months.
4. 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 (Template of which is available on the GERSS website, to be printed, filled out and uploaded in the field appointed for it in the electronic application form.)
5. 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 are a must). (to be uploaded in the field appointed for it in the electronic application form)

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6. Two original 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. (downloadable from the GERSS Website, to be uploaded in the field appointed for it in the electronic application form).

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.

Requirements from non-university staff members

1. A recent photo. (To be uploaded in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form)
2. A complete list of publications, if available. (to be pasted or typed in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form)
3. 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. (to be uploaded in the field appointed for it in the electronic application form.) The acceptance letter should not be older than six months.
4. A motivation letter from the applicant.
5. A 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.
6. An endorsement/support letter, signed by the employer, to assure his/ her support and agreement, if possible.
7. 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 are a must). Please upload copy of signed and stamped letter in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form (if available)
8. Two original 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. (downloadable from the GERSS Website, to be uploaded in the field appointed for it in the electronic application form).

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.

Please check the electronic application for more details

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

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submitted and will undergo another evaluation process in which the bi-national 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 spouse has been granted a DAAD or MHESR scholarship should inform the DAAD accordingly.
- GERSS Alumni 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.
- Applicants reapplying for GERSS should indicate any changes in their proposal and what has been developed and/or changed since the last call.
- There are no quotas for individual institutions or disciplines.
- Priority will be given to younger scientists.
- Final selection phase will be based on the interviews.
- 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 applicants” available on the GERSS 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.
 - d) using a different ID number when reapplying
 - e) Dual application with other programmes.
 - f) Dual nationality of applicant
 - g) Hand made changes and corrections in the acceptance letter.
 - h) Plagiarism (e.g. copied data from the internet without stating the references).
 - i) Fraud documents.
 - j) Residing outside Egypt for more than six months at the time of application.

This info sheet is also available on the following websites:

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<http://www.mhesr-initiatives.org/gerss>
<http://cairo.daad.de>

For further inquiries please contact

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In case of web errors please refer to the help desk available on the GERSS website

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