

German Egyptian Research Long-Term Scholarship to the Federal Republic of Germany “GERLS”

As an outcome of success achieved during the German-Egyptian Year of Science & Technology 2007, a cooperation agreement has been made between the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Arab Republic of Egypt “MHESR” and the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), from funds made available by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to create a program offering up to 81 postgraduate scholarships for Egyptian doctoral candidates.

The target group of this program comprises Egyptian researchers holding M.A. / M.Sc. degrees which should generally not be older than 3 years.

1. Background and objective

Within the framework of the long-standing cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Federal Republic of Germany; and in partial fulfillment of the MHESR and DAAD aims and objectives; as well as in consideration of the funding resources and regulations of both parties, the aforementioned parties have agreed to create the “German Egyptian Research Long Term Scholarships” (GERLS).

2. Aim and duration of doctoral studies in Germany

Each year a group of researchers will be sent to Germany for doctoral scholarships in the scientific fields and priorities agreed upon by DAAD and MEHSR.

The GERLS program will be administered by the DAAD in close cooperation with the MHESR and German universities. Generally speaking, the scholarships within this program are awarded for 12 months, subject to extension up to 42 months.

Candidates can select adequately structured PhD courses or PhD supervisors in Germany themselves in order to join the GERLS program. However, dual funding from universities offering such courses and the GERLS program are not permitted. DAAD Cairo Office and MHESR will support the candidates whenever necessary.

The following definitions will be used throughout this sheet:

“Full Ph.D.” Scholarship:

Target: in all fields of study except the ones mentioned under Specialization.

Degree: Ph.D. will be awarded by a German university.

Duration: up to 42 months.

“Channel” Scholarship:

Target: in all fields of study except the ones mentioned under Specialization.

Degree: Ph.D. will be awarded by an Egyptian university,

Duration: up to 24 months.

“Specialization” scholarship:

Target: for the study of medicine, fine and applied arts, architecture and music

Degree: without resulting in a degree

Duration: up to 24 months.

Special case:

Applicants from the fields of **arts, music and architecture form a special case**. Their applications will undergo an additional selection in Germany. Such additional selection activities in Germany will be implemented according to the procedures of the German Specialized Arts and Music Committee and in competition with candidates from other countries. A personal interview will be conducted by the time of the final selection procedures in Egypt. The funding of these scholarships, however, is part of the GERLS program.

For more information, please refer to the additional information sheets.

3. Time line of the program:

- **Call for Application:** from 15.09.2011 to 31.10.2011
- **Pre-Selection Procedures:** from November 2011 to January 2012
- **Final Selection Procedures:** March 2012
- **Final Selection Results:** April 2012
- **Start of Language Course in Egypt:** May 2012
- **First Travel Date for the start of the language course in Germany:**
 - **For Full PHD:** October 2012
 - **For Channel and Specialization:** November/December 2012
- **Start of the Academic Semester in Germany:** April 2013

Kindly note that all above mentioned dates are subject to change without prior notice.

4. Program priorities

The Program is open for all subjects; nevertheless, the call 2012/2013 will put special emphasis on social sciences and humanities.

5. Language Requirements

5.1 English Language Requirements:

- All applicants shall submit proof of English language skills/abilities.
- This shall be either IELTS (band 6) certificate or TOEFL (minimum score 550 paper based, 80 internet based).

5.2. German Language Requirements:

- The German language is not considered as an entry requirement by the time of the online application; however, it is a plus.
- All final selected candidates will receive an intensive language course for a period of two months.
- A placement test will be conducted to all applicants who have knowledge of German language and have indicated this in their application form.

6. Application package

- Candidates are encouraged to apply online using the webpage designed for the GERLS program.
- The passport number is required to accomplish the process of the online registration; therefore it must be indicated that the wrong passport number will lead to disqualifying your request.
- In order to apply for a GERLS scholarship, the online application should contain the following documents:

6.1 Requirements from research institution / university staff members:

- 1- CV including a complete list of publications, if available with a max. of 3 pages. (To be pasted or typed in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form.)
- 2- Copy of passport. (To be uploaded in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form)
- 3- A recent photo. (To be uploaded in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form)
- 4- 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 on the electronic application form). The acceptance letter should not be older than six months.
- 5- Official endorsement letter from the applicant's home institution. (Template of which is available on the GERLS site.) A signed and stamped template or any other letter offered by the applicant's institution is acceptable.
Please upload copy of signed and stamped letter in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form.
- 6- Official statement of employment (بيان حالة) 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 in the electronic application form.
- 7- Proof of PhD registration in one of the Egyptian universities for the candidates who apply for Channel or Specialization system.
- 8- Proof of the ethical commission's approval on working on animals/ human beings if the type of research includes such experiments (If applicable).

- 9- Proof of English language abilities: either IELTS (band 6) certificate or TOEFL (minimum score 550 paper based, 80 internet based).
- 10- Summary of Master thesis on one page.
- 11- Two recommendation letters.

6.2 Requirements from non-university staff members:

- 1- CV including a complete list of publications, if available with a max. of 3 pages. (To be pasted or typed in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form.)
- 2- Copy of passport. (To be uploaded in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form)
- 3- A recent photo. (To be uploaded in the field appointed for it on the electronic application form)
- 4- 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 on the electronic application form.) The acceptance letter should not be older than six months.
- 5- A motivation letter from the applicant,
- 6- 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.
- 7- An endorsement/support letter, signed by the employer, to assure his/ her support and agreement if possible.
- 8- Official statement of employment (بيان حالة) 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).
- 9- Proof of PhD registration in one of the Egyptian universities for the candidates who apply for Channel or Specialization system (if available).
- 10- Proof of the ethical commission's approval on working on animals/ human beings if the type of research includes such experiments (If applicable).

- 11- Proof of English language abilities: either IELTS (band 6) certificate or TOEFL (minimum score 550 paper based, 80 internet based).
- 12- Summary of Master thesis on one page.
- 13- Two recommendation letters.

All applicants will be able to retrieve their pre-selection result via the website on the date indicated in the time line. The pre-selection results will be announced on the following Website:

<http://www.mhesr-initiatives.org/gerls/>

Please check the electronic application for more details.

Please note that incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be considered.

7. Selection of candidates

The candidates will be selected in two rounds. First, a pre-selection procedure will identify the group of applicants to be invited for the second phase consisting of a personal interview with the GERLS bi-national independent selection committee. Pre- and final selection of the candidates will be conducted according to, but not limited to following criteria:

- Excellent study achievement.
- Good command of languages: English language command is required, while German language command is a plus.
- 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

8. Stipend:

The GERLS scholarship includes:

- A monthly basic stipend of 1000,- Euros for a Ph.D. candidate, plus individual surcharges and standard annual allowances.
- A monthly family allowance if applicable.
- An allowance for health insurance will be granted.
- German language course and cultural preparation course.

Such amounts are subject to change and will always be adapted according to the general regulations for DAAD scholarships.

9. German language courses

9.1 In Egypt:

- Each scholarship holder is entitled to receive German language and intercultural training in Egypt up to two months before the candidates' travel to Germany.
- Distribution among language centers will be defined by DAAD Cairo office.
- After the elapse of language course a unified final exam will be conducted at Goethe Institute Cairo.
- For the candidates who didn't pass the final exam the DAAD may offer the possibility to attend the second crash course at the Goethe Institute and therefore the second test.
- In that case, the decision will be taken by the DAAD. The test fees should be covered by the candidate whereas the crash course fees will be covered by DAAD.
- A per diem will be provided to the scholarship holders according to the distance between the scholars' home University/Institute and language course center.
- Scholarship holders are expected to arrange for their own health and liability insurance for these courses.

9.2 In Germany:

- Each scholarship holder will receive an intensive German language course in Germany up to 6 months.
- All Scholarship Holders are expected to achieve the B2 German language level.
- Scholarship holders from the field of Medicine must achieve the B2 German language level in order to obtain the temporary license for practice medicine in Germany.
- Failing in the language course will have consequences that will be borne by the scholarship holder.
- During the language course duration following aspects will be covered:
 - The costs of accommodation.
 - The costs of health, accident and liability insurances.
 - Travel allowance from the language center to the host institution or university at the end of the language course in Germany.
 - The return costs from the language course location to the Host University or Institution for a preparatory visit may be paid.

10. Please note that:

- Applicants from the field of Music, Architecture & Fine arts have to submit their portfolio at the DAAD Cairo office right after the application deadline 31st of October 2011. For more details, kindly refer to the respective information sheet.
- Scholarships granted to applicants from private universities/ ministries or freelancers will be limited in numbers.
- 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, which will take place in January/February 2012 at the DAAD premises in Cairo; however the exact date will be defined later by the DAAD Cairo office.
- The DAAD is not in the position to inform the applicants about the reasons of the committee's decision.

- If the research proposal requires a field study to be conducted in Egypt, kindly refer to the field study information sheet and indicate it in the online application.
- 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) Dual application with other programs (Kindly refer to the dual application matrix).
 - e) Dual nationality of applicant
 - f) Hand made changes and corrections in the acceptance letter.
 - g) Plagiarism (e.g. copied data from the internet without stating the references).
 - h) Fraud documents.
 - i) Residing outside Egypt for more than six months at the time of application.
- The application for the GERLS scholarship program is limited to 3 trial times.
- GERSS Alumni targeting a PhD title are encouraged to apply for the GERLS program after returning back to Egypt provided that they fulfill the requirements of the GERLS program.
- GERLS candidates who have been accepted finally but could not make use of the scholarship due to justifiable reasons or budget limitations will be exempted from the pre-selection procedure and will be automatically invited to the interview of the call following the year of their application provided that they are applying with the same proposal and a new acceptance letter with a recent date. Normal application procedure is, however, mandatory for these candidates.
- Applicants should indicate any changes in their proposal and what has been developed and/or changed since the last call
- GERLS scholarship holders and applicants whose spouse has been granted a DAAD or MHESR scholarship should inform the DAAD accordingly.
- Candidates should pass the language course in Egypt and Germany as well. The needed level to be reached in Germany is B2, unless otherwise prescribed by the host university.
- Medicine candidates should be employed by their home university 2 years after residency period.

- Changes in the submitted proposal will require the approval of the independent selection committee and a new endorsement letter of the home university.
- The award of scholarships is subject to the availability of funds.

An incomplete application is the responsibility of the applicant.

11. Further Information and Inquires:

11.1 Information:

This info sheet is also available on the following websites:

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

11.2 General Inquires:

- General inquires concerning documents submitted or program description should be directed to the assigned program coordinator:
 - Ms. Heba Ahmed
E-Mail: GERLS@daadcairo.org
Tel.: 27352726 – 27384127 Ext. 118
Fax: 27384136

11.3 Technical Inquires:

- For technical inquires concerning the online application or problems with uploading documents online, kindly click on the “Help Desk” button on the application online menu.
- The Help Desk will allow users to submit a ticket for technical errors to avoid the delay of answering candidates’ inquires and also to trace the error on time.

Contents of this information sheet are subject to change without prior notice.

We would like to draw your attention that DAAD is offering proposal writing workshops for doctoral candidates at DAAD premises. For interested applicants, kindly check our website:

<http://cairo.daad.de> or send us an e-mail: kairo.akademie@daadcairo.org.