

## **FAQ relating to the award of the Deutschlandstipendium (Germany Scholarship) at Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences**

Last updated: March 21, 2022

### **1. What is the legal basis on which the scholarships are awarded?**

For detailed information, follow this link:

<https://www.deutschlandstipendium.de/de/english-1700.html>

- 1.1 Law Regarding the Creation of a National Scholarship Programme (Stipendienprogramm-Gesetz – StipG)
- 1.2 Directive on Maximum Thresholds for Scholarship Programmes (Stipendienprogramm-Höchstgrenzen-Verordnung – StipHV, last amended on 15 August 2013)
- 1.3 Directive on the Enforcement of the Scholarship Programme Act (Stipendienprogramm-Verordnung – StipV)

### **2. For whom is the Deutschlandstipendium intended?**

For exceptionally gifted students who are likely to perform exceptionally well during their studies and career or have already done so (section 1 StipG).

### **3. How much is the scholarship worth, and how is it funded? What does the scholarship consist of?**

- 3.1 The scholarship amounts to 300 Euro a month, half of which is provided by the federal government and half by private sponsors.
- 3.2 Deutschlandstipendium sponsors are obtained by the university and are required to support a scholarship winner by providing a monthly sum of 150 Euro.
- 3.3 Along with financial support, it is intended that the university and the sponsors provide non-material support for the scholarship winners when they declare their consent.

### **4. How long is a scholarship valid for?**

Scholarships are valid for at least one year (2 semesters); this is currently the standard term. In order to obtain funding for longer periods, students are required to achieve the grades that will obtain them a high ranking among all competing students when they re-apply for the scholarship the following year.

## 5. Who can apply?

First-time applicants: All highly gifted students enrolled in the 1st study programme semester or higher at Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences.

Repeat applicants: All students who have already received a scholarship or were refused one, as scholarship holders are selected afresh every year.

## 6. Who is excluded from the scholarship?

6.1 In accordance with section 4 StipG, students who are already in receipt of another form of talent or performance-oriented material support are excluded from these scholarships. This does not apply if the total funding in each semester for which the funding was approved does not exceed a monthly average of 30 Euro.

6.1.1 Students in receipt of scholarships such as those listed below are excluded from parallel funding through the Deutschlandstipendium (unless the amount they receive each semester averages less than € 30.00 a month):

- **Scholarships awarded by the 13 organisations for the promotion of young talent that operate under the umbrella of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research**

For detailed information, follow this link:

<http://www.stipendiumplus.de/>

- Avicenna-Studienwerk
  - Cusanuswerk e.V., Bischöfliche Studienförderung
  - Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk (ELES)
  - Evangelisches Studienwerk e.V. Villigst
  - Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
  - Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
  - Hans Seidel Foundation
  - Hans Böckler Foundation
  - Heinrich Böll Foundation
  - Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
  - Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
  - Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft (sdw)
  - Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes e.V.
- **Annual scholarships awarded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**

For detailed information, follow this link:

<http://www.daad.de/portrait/service/stipendien/08961.de.html>

- 6.1.2 When applying for a scholarship, applicants must disclose whether they are already receiving monies from any other scholarships and how much they are being paid. This duty of disclosure applies for as long as the scholarship winner is in receipt of the scholarship.
- 6.2 According to section 1(2) StipG, students who are enrolled on courses as part of their employment by the civil service and who are receiving a trainee civil servant's salary or other benefits from public monies or whose studies are being fully funded by the civil service are excluded from applying for a scholarship. This means that students enrolled on the Bachelor's degree programme in Social Security Management – Accident Insurance offered in Department 06 at this university may not apply.

## **7. What information/evidence/references are required when submitting an application?**

- 7.1 Participation in the online application procedure, provision of all mandatory data (data required for statistical purposes in accordance with section 13 StipG is requested or collected through SIS).
- 7.2 Unweighted average grade, i.e. there is no weighting according to ECTS (automatically calculated and adjusted through SIS); for students in the first semester of a Bachelor's degree course, the average grade of their university entrance qualification is used for this purpose; for Master's degree students in the first study programme semester, the average grade of the qualification admitting them to the Master's degree programme is used.
- 7.3 Other references, evidence – to be uploaded to the application portal only after being requested to do so:
  - 7.3.1 CV (in tabular format, max. 2 pages, compulsory)
  - 7.3.2 Personal statement compiled by the student (1-2 pages, compulsory)
  - 7.3.3 Information on special achievements, distinctions and prizes, outstanding performance during the applicant's career and work placements prior to the application (not including vocational training) insofar as they do not relate to their university entrance qualification.\*
  - 7.3.4 Extracurricular activities such as volunteering, social or community service, political activities (also in the field of higher education), or active participation in religious communities, associations or societies.\*
  - 7.3.5 Special personal or family circumstances such as illness or disability, raising children (particularly as a single parent), nursing close relatives in need of long-term care, working in the family business, pursuing

gainful employment while at university, family origins or migration background.\*

- 7.3.6 Special appraisal issued at the discretion of the assessor compiling the summary opinion according to the significance and combination of the evidential documents provided (in cases where the applicant has requested a summary opinion; such requests are not binding).\*

**\*The fulfilment of corresponding criteria can be subsumed into the applicant's rating as a positive factor at the assessor's discretion.**

## **8. Is an individual written appraisal necessary?**

**No** – this is replaced by the information disclosed by the student in the online application form together with the supporting documents.

Appraisals of supporting documents and approvals of any improvements to grades are performed anonymously by the assessor by means of a summary opinion issued as part of the online procedure.

## **9. When do the application documents have to be submitted?**

Once a year before the deadline announced in April; usually from the beginning of May to the beginning of June.

All students will be notified of the exact application period in April through SIS and other channels.

## **10. Who should the application documents be directed to, and how should they be submitted?**

10.1 Application documents may only be submitted during the course of the online application procedure.

10.2 Applications must be formally directed to the university administration.

## **11. What other details should be considered with regard to the funding?**

11.1 Scholarships are initially awarded for a period of two semesters.

11.2 Winners of the Deutschlandstipendium are paid 300 Euro a month as a non-repayable subsidy; this amount is also paid during lecture-free periods.

11.3 Scholarships are not granted on the basis of the student's income and do not usually cause BAföG payments to be curtailed.

11.4 The scholarship funding is paid for at least two semesters and may not exceed the standard period of study for the respective course. In

substantiated exceptional cases, the scholarship funding may be paid for a period of one semester beyond the standard period of study.

- 11.5 When switching from a Bachelor's degree course to a consecutive Master's degree course in the university department in which the scholarship was awarded, the scholarship will be approved further until the end of the two-semester funding period subject to evidence that the scholarship winner has actually embarked on the Master's degree course.
- 11.6 If scholarship winner requires more time to complete their studies as a result of spending time abroad, a request may be submitted to the university asking for the funding period to be extended to a maximum of two semesters following the end of the standard period of study.
- 11.7 In the event of pregnancy, the scholarship will be paid throughout the protection period stipulated in the Maternity Protection Act (Mutterschutzgesetz). The study break taken during this period will be not offset against the duration of the scholarship funding.
- 11.8 The scholarship does not form the basis of an employment relationship. It is not subject to social security contributions as it does not constitute remuneration as defined in section 14 Book IV of the Social Security Code (Sozialgesetzbuch – SGB IV). The scholarship is tax-free in accordance with the conditions specified in section 3 no. 44 Income Tax Act (Einkommensteuergesetz – EStG).
- 11.9 No legal entitlement to the scholarship and scholarship benefits exists.
- 11.10 In individual cases, when a student is able to prove that they are dealing with difficult circumstances beyond their control, e.g. due to a serious illness, they may be admitted to the application procedure even if they do not meet the criteria for academic achievement specified in their case. These difficult circumstances must be disclosed to the liaison staff in advance; if the reasons given are accepted, the student must provide conclusive evidence to support their case.
- 11.11 Scholarships may be cancelled without notice at any time if compelling reasons exist, for example if the scholarship winner transfers to another university.
- 11.12 The scholarship will end automatically at the end of the month in which the scholarship winner discontinues their studies, changes their subject or is de-registered.
- 11.13 In order to accept the scholarship, the scholarship winner is required to sign a scholarship agreement with the university in which they declare their consent to various conditions such as those specified in the university's Guidelines on implementing the Deutschlandstipendium scholarship programme.

11.14 On accepting the scholarship, the scholarship winner undertakes to notify the university without undue delay of any changes in their circumstances that may affect the award of the scholarship and to cooperate with the assessment of their performance and the scholarship programme.

11.15 If the scholarship holder changes university during the approval period, the scholarship will continue to be paid for one semester in accordance with the approval already received. The period is determined by the duration of the semester at the university which issued the scholarship. It is possible to apply again for a new scholarship at the new university.

## **12. Who selects the scholarship holders?**

11.16 Decisions on the award of scholarships are made by the university administration on the advice of a selection committee.

11.17 The selection committee consists of one liaison tutor from each of the university's departments. The members of the selection committee are appointed by the Office of the President.

11.18 The selection committee views the application documents and suggests a number of candidates to the university administration – taking due note of the purpose specified by the private sponsors.

11.19 According to section 11(3) StipG, one third of the scholarships awarded must remain independent of the purpose specified by the private sponsors. Every effort is made to achieve the optimum distribution of scholarships between the departments while taking the number of students into account.

## **13. How are applicants notified of the results of the application procedure?**

All acceptances and rejections are posted online at the same time; this usually takes place in September. Students are requested to refrain from asking about the status of their applications during the procedure, as all important information will be made available online.