

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

Awarding criteria

Can I apply as a high-school graduate?

Yes, the application and awarding of the scholarship are dependent on you being enrolled at the University of Cologne (for the application itself, the letter of admission is initially sufficient).

Who can apply for the Deutschlandstipendium?

All students enrolled at the University of Cologne within the standard period of study can apply; doctoral candidates, guest students, exchange students and participants in study preparation programmes are excluded.

I am enrolled at another university. Can I apply?

No, a scholarship is dependent on you being enrolled at the University of Cologne.

Can I apply as a foreign student?

Yes, foreign students enrolled at the University of Cologne can apply for a scholarship.

I am cross-registered at the University of Cologne. Is it still possible to apply for a scholarship?

Since cross-registered students are only admitted to a degree programme at the University of Cologne, but are not enrolled, it is unfortunately not possible to apply. However, it is possible to apply for a scholarship at the university where you are enrolled as a student.

Can I also apply if the standard period of study has been exceeded?

In cases where there are valid reasons, the funding period can be extended by a maximum of one semester beyond the standard period of study.

I am already a scholarship holder of a scholarship programme for talented students. Can I apply?

That depends. In some cases, double funding is possible through a combination with scholarships from organizations for the promotion of talented students (*Begabtenförderungswerke*). However, please note the provisions of the respective scholarship programme. On the other hand, it may be that a list regularly updated by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research

<https://www.deutschlandstipendium.de/deutschlandstipendium/de/stipendium/downloads-und-infografiken/informationstexte/informationstexte.html>

does not permit other funding in individual cases. Please contact us in case of doubt.

I was abroad with the ERASMUS or a DAAD programme. Does this count as double funding?

No, funding in an ERASMUS or DAAD programme does not count as double funding, as long as it is only a partial scholarship. You can therefore apply.

I am about to complete my Bachelor's degree at the University of Cologne in the current semester and will start my Master's degree at the UoC in the next semester. Can I apply?

Yes, you can apply for the Master's programme. Please enter in the application form the end of your studies and the number of semesters in which you will be studying in the upcoming semester. Please note that for Master's applications the application process starts again, i.e. with the first Master's semester.

I am entitled to BAföG. Can I be supported financially by a scholarship at the same time?

Yes, as a rule, the scholarship is not counted towards BAföG. However, if you have your own income, please contact your BAföG office.

What criteria are relevant in the selection process?

The award criteria include outstanding performance in school or university, as well as other criteria such as volunteer work, special personal or family circumstances, internships, awards and prizes. The selection is made by an elected award committee of the respective Faculty.

Application process

How can I apply?

Applications are only possible **once a year** for the winter semester. The next scholarship application process for the winter semester 2023/24 will take place from 1 August to 28 August 2023. **You will find out at the beginning of December if you have been accepted into the scholarship programme for the winter semester 2023/24.** In order to ensure that all applications and the entire procedure are processed quickly, we kindly ask you to refrain from making any inquiries until then. Thank you for your understanding.

When will I receive the scholarship payment?

The funding period begins on 1 October 2023. Since the decision on the awarding of scholarships cannot be made until December, the first payment is expected to be made in December, retroactively for the last quarter of 2023.

For how long are the scholarships awarded?

The Deutschlandstipendium is awarded for two semesters. The monthly scholarship rate is 300 euros.

How many scholarships are awarded per call for applications?

The number of scholarship places available depends on the amount of funding received. In the last round, 285 Deutschlandstipendien were awarded.

If you meet the general requirements for receiving a scholarship – what are the chances of actually being awarded a scholarship?

This depends on the number of applications, the personal requirements of the individual applicant and the number of scholarships available. Experience has shown that most applicants are very realistic about their own academic performance and their chances of receiving a scholarship, so that only those who are suitable apply. A large number of these applicants can then be awarded a scholarship.

Do I have to introduce myself in person?

No, the selection process is exclusively carried out via the online application portal.

I will be absent during the application period due to a stay abroad. Can I submit my application before then?

No, in terms of equal treatment, applications received outside the deadline unfortunately cannot be considered. Access to the online application portal is only possible during the application period. However, you can already prepare and digitize your application documents and instruct someone to submit the online application including the application agreement. You can print out the application agreement and sign it yourself or, alternatively, sign it electronically.

I am currently holder of the Deutschlandstipendium. Do I also have to log in to the online application portal as a re-applicant?

As a re-applicant, you can log in again with your password during the application period, update your application and upload it.

You can find the link to the application portal here: <https://www.portal.uni-koeln.de/bewerbung.html> (will be activated in time when the application period starts).

Will the current scholarship holders be given preference when applying again?

In principle, all applications are ranked according to their performance criteria. Generally, there are standardized criteria for the ranking of applicants, but the criteria details are specific for each Faculty. The performance of current scholarship holders and new applicants is compared.

Will I receive feedback on my application?

Yes, all applicants will be informed about the decision after the selection process has been completed. This usually happens at the beginning of December.

Can rejected students re-apply?

Yes, re-application is possible within the standard period of study.

Application

I would like to apply for a Deutschlandstipendium. Which documents do I have to submit?

First, print out the application agreement which can be found in the application portal and read it carefully:

<https://www.portal.uni-koeln.de/bewerbung.html>.

Only then please complete the online application and upload your documents there including the signed application agreement as listed in the "checklist". Please attach your documents in the order mentioned there. This will make it much easier to process the incoming applications.

In which language do I have to submit my documents?

The documents can be submitted in German or English. Proofs in other languages must be submitted in translation, copies of certificates must be officially certified.

I would like to apply for a Sozialstipendium or the Scholarship for Students with Disabilities/Special Needs or Chronic Illness. Which documents do I have to submit?

For these types of scholarship, an application via a separate application portal is necessary. If you want to apply for a Deutschlandstipendium, you must apply via both portals.

First, print out the application agreement which can be found in the application portal and read it carefully:

<https://www.portal.uni-koeln.de/bewerbung.html>.

Only then please complete the online application and upload your documents there including the signed application agreement as listed in the "checklist".

I will be a Master's student at the University of Cologne from the winter semester 2023/24.

I completed my Bachelor's degree at another university. Am I considered an advanced student or a first-year student?

What matters is in which semester you are: If it is the first or second semester, you are also a first-year student in the Master's degree programme, otherwise you are an advanced student.

Do I have to have a certain grade point average to apply for a scholarship?

No, at the University of Cologne there is no specific grade point average for the scholarship programme.

Whether a certain average is sufficient for a scholarship ultimately depends on the number of all applicants and their grade point averages as well as the number of scholarships available.

Is it a problem that my current transcript of records does not yet contain all of my course credits?

No, please state the missing grades in the application form and submit an updated **transcript of records** issued by the examination office via the application portal as soon as possible, but only within the application period. Your application can only be considered in the selection process if it contains all required documents and is received within the application period. Documents submitted later by e-mail cannot be considered for reasons of equal opportunity. Please note that it is mandatory to admit your application within the application period even if you have not yet been admitted to your degree programme at that time.

As a medical student, I do not yet receive individual grades in the preclinical period, only the indications "passed" or "failed". Do I have to request detailed individual grades and submit them with my application? As we are aware that the transcripts of records of medical students do not show individual grades, the indications "passed" or "failed" are sufficient. You do not need to provide evidence of individual results.

What quality must the submitted documents have?

All documents must be uploaded in a single PDF file of max. 20 MB. Instructions on how to create small files and combine multiple files into one can be found here: <https://www.portal.uni-koeln.de/bewerbung.html>. Please note that the University of Cologne reserves the right to request certified copies of your certificates in case of awarding a scholarship.

Does it make sense to apply early within the application period?

At the end of the application period, there may be server overloads. In your own interest, we recommend that you apply early, as handing in documents later is only accepted within the application period.

Do you have a question regarding your application?

Please send an e-mail to stipendienprogramm@verw.uni-koeln.de

Sabine Mischke

stipendienprogramm@verw.uni-koeln.de