



Helmut-Schmidt-Programme (Master's Scholarships for Public Policy and Good Governance) Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

1. GENERAL QUESTIONS

Can I apply for a scholarship in the Helmut-Schmidt-Programme (master's scholarship for Public Policy and Good Governance) at any university in Germany?

No. Currently, the scholarship is offered for the seven master's courses listed in our [announcement](#).

Currently, I do not live in my home country. Am I eligible to apply for the scholarship?

If you live in a developing or emerging country, you can apply (see "list of countries"). Applicants who have resided in a country that is not included in the DAC list of developing and emerging countries for more than 15 months at the time of the application deadline (31 July) are not eligible.

I already live in Germany, can I apply?

If you have lived in Germany for less than 15 months at the time of the application deadline (31 July), you are entitled to apply for a scholarship in the Helmut-Schmidt-Programme.

Is there an age limit?

No. However, your last university degree should not date back more than six years when applying for a scholarship in the Helmut-Schmidt-Programme (date of issue not before 1 January 2019).

2. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

I hold a 3-year bachelor's degree. Can I apply for the master's courses within the Helmut-Schmidt-Programme?

The Helmut Schmidt Programme involves one-year and two-year master's courses, each with different formal and academic entry requirements. Please clarify with the master's course(s) of your choice whether you can be formally admitted to the master's course and whether you are compatible with the academic knowledge you have acquired so far.

I will finish my studies after the application deadline. Am I eligible to apply?

No. Since you will not graduate until 31 July 2025, it will not be possible to admit you to the application round in the Helmut-Schmidt-Programme for 2026. Please apply next year.

I have completed my studies but have not yet received my degree certificate. Can I apply?

Yes. If your official degree certificate is not available yet, please provide a confirmation from your university.

I did not graduate with an above-average result. Am I eligible to apply?

No. A degree completed with above-average grades (upper third) is an essential application criterion for all DAAD programmes.



I do not have any relevant practical experience yet. Am I eligible to apply?

No. Practical experience relevant to the goals of the Helmut-Schmidt-Programme (work experience, internships, volunteering or work for charities or NGOs) is an essential requirement for the application. Each master's course has different requirements for practical skills. Please contact the universities of your choice or check their websites for detailed information.

I already hold a master's degree. Can I apply for another master's degree?

Candidates who have already completed a master's course must make a well-argued case as to why they should be funded for another postgraduate degree. Please explain why you would like to study for this particular second master's course and how it expands on the one you hold already.

3. LANGUAGE SKILLS

I neither speak, write nor understand German. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, you can apply for a scholarship because the master's courses participating in our programme are taught in English. An up to 4 months language course in Germany before the start of studies is a mandatory part of the DAAD scholarship.

What is the expected English language level?

Every master's course has different language proficiency requirements. Please check their websites for detailed information or contact the master's course(s) of your choice, if in doubt.

I have completed my undergraduate studies in English. Do I still have to submit a TOEFL / IELTS certificate?

If English was the language of instruction at your university, please check the websites of the master's course(s) of your choice and check if a TOEFL / IELTS certificate is needed.

4. APPLICATION

What is the application deadline?

The application deadline is 31 July each year (application opens 1 June).

To whom do I send my application?

Please send your application directly to a maximum of two of the seven master's courses listed in the announcement.

Can I send applications to all of the seven master's courses?

No. Please fill in the DAAD application form and choose one or two master's course(s). Please send this application form together with the relevant documents to the master's course(s) of your choice.

What should the letter of motivation include?

It must give a convincing explanation of your academic, practical, professional and personal reasons for applying to the master's course(s) in Germany. Please also address how you



motivation relates to the goals of the Helmut-Schmidt-Programme. The letter may be up to two pages long and must include the date of issue.

What do I have to consider if I apply for two master's courses?

Please write a single letter of motivation and provide it to both courses you are applying for. Please rank the two master's courses in order of preference, i.e. why your first choice of master's course is your first choice, why your second choice is your second choice. For each choice of course please provide clear reasons why you think it will advance you academically and professionally.

Please note that your application cannot be accepted if you ignore this regulation. Please also check the application procedure of the different master's courses on the universities' websites.

Which documents do I have to submit?

The necessary documents are:

- a ticked off checklist and list of criteria, signed by hand (print it out, sign it by hand, scan it and include it in your documents), indicating place and date of issue
- a completed DAAD "Application Form"
- a single letter of motivation, even when applying for two master's courses including a precise account of your academic, professional and personal reasons for wishing to participate in the programme, as well as a detailed explanation of your choice and ranking of master's course(s). The letter may be up to two pages long and must include the date of issue.
- a curriculum vitae in reverse chronological order including the date of issue (format: [europass](#), please note: the europass template does not include a date, please add it yourself) with exact information about your studies and practical experience; gaps of three months or more must be explained)
- copies of your university degree certificates (certified translation if necessary). Please make sure that these are clearly legible.
- a copy of your transcript of records incl. an explanation of the grading system (certified translation if necessary). Please make sure that these are clearly legible.
- confirmations of current and other relevant professional experience or internships, political activities and/or service to your community (on headed paper, including an original (not scanned) or code certified digital signature, the date of issue and a stamp). If necessary, please provide a certified translation.
- proof of English language skills
- a current written reference from your current employer or from a university lecturer only if you are a student at present (on headed paper, including an original (not scanned) or code certified digital signature, the date of issue and a stamp)

Applicants from the People's Republic of China are asked to submit an APS Certificate with their application documents.



5. MISCELLANEOUS

Will I have to pay tuition fees?

No. All scholarship holders in the Helmut-Schmidt-Programme (Master's Scholarships for Public Policy and Good Governance) are exempt from tuition fees. However, a registration fee must be paid for each semester.

Where does the language course take place?

The preceding German language course takes place in Germany, usually lasting up to 4 months. Participation is mandatory.

What is covered by the scholarship?

The DAAD pays a monthly instalment of € 992. Special conditions apply for an online semester of the master's course "Social Protection" with a sur place rate of € 500 (see details under "Current Announcement"). The DAAD also pays a study and research grant of € 460 each year and an appropriate travel allowance as well as a rent subsidy and / or allowance for spouses and / or children as applicable. Health insurance, accident and liability insurance in Germany are also covered by the scholarship.

I would like to bring my partner / children to Germany. Can they join me?

It is possible for the duration of your master's course. After your language course, you can apply for a partner / child allowance with the beginning of your studies at your host university (September or October 2026).

If you have further questions concerning the master's courses, please contact the representatives of the master's course(s) of your choice. The contact details are listed in the "Current Announcement".