



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

In-Region Scholarship Programme Central America and the Dominican Re- public

Call for **PhD Scholarship Applications 2026
at **Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.**
Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica (ITCR) and Universidad de Costa
Rica (UCR)
Academic Doctorate in Engineering**

Supported by the
Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Application Closing Date in the DAAD Portal
(for all candidates):
20.03.2026

The award of scholarships is subject to the provision of funds by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

To complete your application successfully, it is essential that you read ALL of the following sections.



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PROGRAMME
OBJECTIVES

n-Region Scholarship Programme Central America and the Dominican Republic 2026

1

The programme aims to foster strong, internationally oriented higher education systems in *Latin America* with the capacity to contribute to sustainable development. For this purpose, scholarships for development-related Doctoral studies are awarded to individuals who plan to pursue a career in teaching and/or research at a higher education institution in Latin America.

By training future academic and professional leaders, the programme contributes to the following **long-term impacts**:

- Qualified professionals' involvement in the solution of development-related problems in Latin America
- Graduates strengthening education and research in *Latin America*
- Structural strengthening and regional networking of partner institutions and partner universities

To achieve these long-term impacts, the following outcomes have been formulated as programme objectives:

Programme objective 1: Graduates have qualified to take over responsible positions in their or for their region of origin

Programme objective 2: The participation of women and underprivileged groups is reinforced

Programme objective 3: Organizational, financial and personal capacities of partner institutions are strengthened

As part of the „In-Region Scholarship Programme“, DAAD offers scholarships for PhD and Master studies. The programme is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and designed primarily for university staff in the first line, whilst also catering to the public sector demand of academically trained personnel.

The target group for scholarships is graduates from Central American countries and the Dominican Republic with a Master's degree, who want to pursue PhD courses,

- in another Central American country

(In-Region scholarships) designed for students who want to participate in a study programme in a country of their home region (here: Central America /outside their home country/in the country for which they do not have a residence permit).

It has been agreed upon that DAAD cooperates with ITCR-UCR by offering **up to 2 scholarships for PhD studies** at Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica (ITCR) and Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR) for the intake 2026.

The awarding of scholarships will be subject to the provision of funds.



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A PHD DEGREE

2

Applicants for a PhD degree

- postgraduates with a first academic degree, who have successfully completed a two-year university Master's degree (or equivalent) with above average results (at least: Second Class/Upper Division or equivalent, if applicable) **Candidates who cannot provide a Second Class/Upper Division or a higher result are not eligible;**
- clearly show motivation and strong commitment;
- have thorough knowledge of the language of instruction;
- have completed their last university degree not more than 6 years ago at the time of application;
- must be nationals or permanent residents of a Central American country (except Costa Rica) and the Dominican Republic;
- should be a) staff member of a public university, b) or a candidate considered for teaching or research staff recruitment, c) or from the public sector and/or d) Alumni of the DAFI-programme. Fresh graduates, professionals and other candidates who do not fit in the above-mentioned areas are also invited to apply for the programme.

Female applicants, refugees with recognised refugee status and candidates from other less privileged regions or groups are especially encouraged to participate in the programme.

Scholarships for PhD studies are initially granted for one year and can be extended to a maximum of the regular period of study upon receipt of an application for extension. Scholars must demonstrate satisfactory progress before an extension is granted.

Please note: If you have already received a scholarship for PhD studies from the DAAD, further PhD funding from the DAAD is not possible.

Please note: ITCR-UCR might have additional requirements for admission to the university.

ELIGIBLE FIELDS FOR A PHD DEGREE

3

The In-Region Scholarship Programme supports studies in subject areas with strong relevance to national development.

Scholarships at ITCR-UCR are available for the following programme:

- *Academic Doctorate in Engineering*



PLACE OF TENURE FOR A PHD DEGREE

4

Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica and Universidad de Costa Rica, Cartago, San José, Costa Rica

DURATION AND COMMENCEMENT FOR A PHD DEGREE

5

The duration

- of the PhD programme is generally 3 years (36 months) and is usually starting in August 2026.

Please note that the maximum duration of the scholarship consists of the year you apply for, plus the time left to the end of the regular period of studies in that programme. For example, if you apply for a DAAD scholarship starting in your second year of studies of a three-year programme, the maximum duration of the scholarship will be two years.

The standard period of study and the start date are based on the Affiliate Agreement between the host university and the DAAD.

Please note: if you arrive later, the duration of your scholarship will be shortened accordingly.

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

6

The scholarship covers:

Benefits	Payment Schedule	Amount
Tuition Fees*	every academic term	<i>The regularly charged amount will be specified in the letter of award.</i>
Study and research allowance	annually	920 EUR
Thesis publishing costs	once towards the end of scholarship	800 EUR
Monthly Scholarship (Accommodation, Food etc.)	monthly	850 EUR
Travel allowance (In-Region only)	usually twice (beginning/ end of scholarship)	<i>The flat rate travel allowance will be specified in the letter of award.</i>
Health Insurance (In-Region only)	monthly	Directly paid by DAAD to CCSS.



Family allowance (if your husband, wife or children) accompanying you to your host country; a separate application needs to be submitted for the family allowance upon admission to the programme	monthly	255 EUR
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***Please note that in some cases not all fees and costs that are mentioned on the official fee structure of the host institution can be covered by DAAD in full, e.g. if the agreement with the funding organisation prevents DAAD from funding certain items in the fee structure or if items that are included in the fees are supposed to be covered through the individual scholarship benefits. DAAD will transfer the fees directly to the host institution.**

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

7

The DAAD will endeavour to transfer/pay out the first monthly payment to the scholarship holder's account as quickly as possible after your arrival/ after the beginning of your scholarship. Processing the first transfer of funds may take some time, especially if you are able to set up your bank account only after your arrival in your destination country. To be able to cover the costs which arise until you receive your first scholarship payment, we recommend that you bring enough money with you for at least two months.

Payments cannot be made in advance/prior of the scholarship start date and the commencement of studies at the host institution. Furthermore, no additional benefits than those listed in this call for applications, such as benefits for family members, can be made.

Please note that the travel allowance for In-Region scholarship holders will only be transferred along with the first scholarship rate, i.e. after the arrival in the host country.

The scholarship will be paid directly to the scholarship holder's bank account. Further details will be communicated after admission to the scholarship programme in the Letter of Award.

The DAAD reserves the right to terminate the scholarship, if good cause is found, by cancelling the scholarship agreement. In this case, the scholarship payments shall be discontinued immediately. Good cause exists, in particular, if you have violated the rules of good scientific practice.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

8

DAAD In-Region scholarship holders in the framework of **PhD programmes** are also



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- a) encouraged to apply for a **short-term research stay in Germany** for 2 up to 6 months.

Please note:

- **The short-term research stay in Germany should preferably be announced in the application for the regular scholarship** and can only be awarded if the necessary financial means are available.
- If you would like to apply, please note that the funding period for a short-term research stay in Germany is part of the In-Region programme and the regular study period of the programme may not be exceeded by the short-term research stay in Germany, this must be included in the regular study period of the In-Region programme. Further information will be provided upon request via the DAAD Portal after you have received your In-Region scholarship.

The short-term research scholarship includes:

- a monthly scholarship payment for living costs
- health/accident/personal liability insurance
- a flat-rate travel allowance

DAAD In-Region scholarship holders are also

- b) invited to apply for different Summer Schools in Germany (four weeks)
- c) invited to participate in further training possibilities such as E-Trainings or/and Soft Skill Trainings.

Further details regarding additional benefits and the corresponding application processes will be provided after admission to the scholarship programme.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PRO- CEDURE FOR A PHD DEGREE

9

As a first step, all applicants must submit a complete application for the programme via the DAAD Portal. This is a standard uploading area for all programme applications and some documents may not be mandatory for your application. Please refer to your programme call to check which documents are required.

Please be aware of the DAAD's application deadline as well as ITCR-UCR deadline.

The application process for DAAD scholarships contains the following steps:

1. Register on the portal: <https://portal.meindaad.de/sites/personalfunding/#PBFApplication-Start?fundingProgramInstance=57855310>



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2. Log in to the portal
3. Carefully read the instructions on how to apply in the portal
4. Submit your application via the portal by the deadline indicated on the cover page of this document **20.03.2026**

Remember to check that your application is complete and meets DAAD requirements before submitting! Otherwise, your application cannot be considered.

DAAD will conduct a formal review of the applications received via the DAAD portal only, according to the DAAD criteria.

► **In addition to the application process, applicants must apply for admission** at the ITCR_UCR using the contact details and procedure prescribed by the institution. **The institution sets its own deadline for the admission process.** Please inform yourself in plenty of time about the application process at the host institution.

In a final selection organised by the DAAD, applications that have met **both** the admission requirements at the host university (and the university's rank in the pre-selection) and the DAAD's formal criteria are evaluated by an independent selection committee (international university teachers and experts from German and foreign universities as well as alumni). The independent selection committee evaluates the applications based on the submitted documents, taking into consideration the pre-selection ranking of the institution. Areas evaluated include academic performance and quality, extracurricular activities, motivation, and relevance of the research topic (if applicable).

The selection process usually takes place between April. The final decision will be announced for the region of Latin America approximately one month after the selection process has been accomplished.

Please note, that the information about the selection process and the deadlines for an announcement of the final decisions are a subject to change.

The DAAD reserves the right of final selection.

Please note that all short-listed applicants may be asked to participate in a multi-wave monitoring survey to gather data on different academic and career development aspects. Participation is voluntary.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED TO THE DAAD PORTAL

10

Documents for the DAAD scholarship application to be submitted and uploaded to the DAAD portal (in either English or German):

Mandatory Documents



Important: Make sure to have all necessary files at hand before you start the online application!		
Name of the document	Formal requirements	Section in the DAAD portal the document should be uploaded to
Online Application Form	The online application form must be duly filled in and submitted according to the outlined deadline.	→ Application and Funding Overview under personal data

Mandatory Attachments to the Application		
Curriculum Vitae	A Curriculum Vitae in tabular form	→ "Mandatory Attachments"-Curriculum Vitae
Two Letters of Recommendation	Two (2) letters of recommendation signed (and, if possible, stamped) by university teachers which provide information about your qualifications. One of the letters of recommendation for PhD may be issued by an employer.	→ You can generate the recommendation form in the DAAD Portal as a writable PDF under ' Request reference form '. Please send it to your university teacher and ask them to complete the form in full. When you have received it back, please upload it to the portal under → "Mandatory Attachments"- Letter of Recommendation and 2nd Letter of recommendation This form of a Letter of Recommendation is mandatory and will be the only one which will be accepted by the DAAD.
Copies of the last University degree certificate (or equivalent degree)	For at least a successfully completed two-year university Master's degree with above average results If available, including a grading scale for the final university degree plus information on the recognition of the university degree certificates in the host country).	→ "Mandatory Attachments"-University degree certificates
Copy of the most recent university degree certificate stating final grades		

Comentado [FE1]: Hinweis: Mit der Formulierung müssen wir auch ein Statement of Result gelten lassen, was wir dieses mal explizit nicht getan haben sofern diese älter als ein Jahr waren



Transcript of records	of your most recent university degree	→ "Mandatory Attachments"- Transcript of records/academic achievements
Letter of Motivation	1-3 pages (at least 300 and not more than 1000 words) with your personal, social motivation as well as your reference to the studies and a PhD project.	→ "Mandatory Attachments"- Study project / Motivation letter
Copy of a valid passport or, if not applicable, a copy of a valid National Identification Card	This document must be valid at the time of application. In-Region applicants who are selected for a scholarship funding are responsible to ensure the validity of their own travel documents before departure.	→ "Mandatory Attachments" Passport / Identity card
Abstract of the proposal	One page; must include name and title of the proposal	→ "Mandatory Attachments "- Abstract of the proposal
Detailed and precise PhD proposal	8-10 pages, excluding the references/bibliography	→ "Mandatory Attachments "- PhD Proposal
Detailed work and timetable	Detailed information outlining the entire scholarship period, referencing specific months and dates as well as the information on when the last exam will take place (if applicable: mentioning the planned research stay in Germany, see "Additional benefits")	→ "Mandatory Attachments "- Time schedule / Schedule / Workplan

Mandatory Attachments to the Application (MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THE LATEST BY THE START OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING)

Proof of Admission	This document can be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins if it is not available at the time of application.	→ "Attachments"- Proof of admission
Confirmation of academic supervision	This document must be provided at the beginning of the scholarship funding. It must be a letter	→ "Attachments "- Commitment letter from future university superior



	from the academic supervisor or a commitment letter from the host institution, stating that a supervisor will be assigned.	
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Optional Attachments to the Application

A list of publications	If available.	→“Attachments“ - List of publications
Further university degree certificates and transcripts if relevant and available.		→“Attachments/Others“
As refugee a valid refugee identity card and/or the UNHCR registration document	At the time of your application, you must upload as an attachment a valid document.	→“Attachments/Others“
Additional documents that might be relevant for your application	E.g. proof of internships, proof of employment	→ “Attachments/Others“
Financial calculation of the research project	Financial calculation of the research project and an overview of how these costs are to be covered during the study period.	→“Attachments“- Calculation of costs

Your application is only valid if you submit all the mandatory documents to the DAAD portal on time. Incomplete applications cannot be considered. You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete. **If you do not have documents at the time of application or you cannot use the DAAD form provided, please mention and explain this at an appropriate place in the application.**

Please note that the scholarship only becomes effective when once

→ a Proof of Admission (this can be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins if it is not available before) from the university is issued

AND

→ a proof of arrival (e.g., airline ticket, letter from supervisor or coordinator, admission test) has been submitted that you are on site at the host university to begin your studies. This must be submitted to the DAAD portal as soon as possible and is part of a complete application (this can be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins if it is not available before).



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GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION VIA DAAD PORTAL/THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

11

Applications must be submitted via the DAAD portal <https://portal.meindaad.de/sites/personalfunding/#PBFApplication-Start?fundingProgramInstance=57855310>

Scan paper documents and save in PDF format. Please note that you can only upload PDF files to the portal.

Deadline: 20.03.2026

Applications submitted through other channels or to other authorities will not be considered.

The DAAD portal closes at 24.00 hrs. Central European Time (CET or CEST) on the last application day.

If you have any technical questions or problems, and your local information and advice centres could not help you with, please do not hesitate to contact the DAAD technical Portal via e-mail at portal@daad.de.

Please consider possible processing times of your request when you are planning your application.

CONTACT AND COUNSELING

12

Enquiries related to the DAAD Scholarship

DAAD Contact Person: Grettel González Altamirano

E-Mail: gonzalez@daad.de

Website: <https://www.daad.de/incountry-inregion>

Enquiries related to the general admission and the study programme

ITCR-UCR

Contact Person: Esteban Durán Herrera

E-Mail: esteban.duranherrera@ucr.ac.cr

Website: <https://www.tec.ac.cr/doctorado-academico-ingenieria>

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13

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