

PHD STUDENTSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Joe Hoffman, June 2018

1 GENERAL

In contrast to UK universities, which charge around £4,000 per year in tuition fees, Bielefeld University levies no such charges. This means that funding only needs to be found for living expenses and research costs.

See the PDF **German funding programmes for science and research** for an overview of the main funding sources. For further details, you may also contact Dr. Alexandra Wiebke of the Service Center for Young Researchers at Bielefeld University. She speaks excellent English and is extremely helpful. She can be contacted directly at alexandra.wiebke@uni-bielefeld.de or by phone on 0049-521-106/4169.

The following websites hold **searchable databases of PhD studentships** operated by national agencies and several smaller organisations:

http://www.euraxess.de/portal/home_de.html

<http://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/12359-finding-scholarships/>

Several **additional opportunities** including PhD scholarships offered depending on religious and political affiliation are listed at: <http://www.stipendiumplus.de>

See in particular: <http://www.stipendiumplus.de/deine-werke.html>

Also, for biomedical studentships, see <http://www.bifonds.de/fellowships-grants/phd-fellowships.html>

SOME ORGANISATIONS KNOWN TO US THAT FUND PHD STUDENTSHIPS

DAAD:

DAAD provides scholarships, but eligibility varies depending on the country of origin. Go to the link 'information for foreigners' on the website <http://www.daad.de/en/index.html> for wide-ranging information about student life in Germany and related topics. Scholarships specifically are detailed on the website <http://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/en/>. You can look for country-specific schemes on <http://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/15342-daad-country-specific-information-on-the-daad-scholarship-programmes-01-01/>. Details for the UK are shown on <http://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/15342-daad-country-specific-information-on-the-daad-scholarship-programmes-01-01/?land=42>. The London branch can be called on 0044 20 7831 9511 or e-mailed at info@daad.org.uk. The UK branch of DAAD has its own website, which is more streamlined than the German one, at www.daad.org.uk, and a link can be found for 'funding to go to Germany'. I called the London office for clarification. They told me that they have one-year grants, which can be extended to three years. The relevant scheme is the 'One-Year Grant for PhD Students, Postdocs, and Junior Academics', the details of which can be found at <http://www.daad.org.uk/en/12938/index.html>. Typically, the extension to three years would be applied for during the first half of the first year. I spoke to Svenja Rausch (tel. 44 (0)20 7831 9511) who is in charge of this scheme and is happy to talk about it in more detail.

STUDIENSTIFTUNG DES DEUTSCHEN VOLKES:

The Studienstiftung offer full 3-year PhD scholarships. Non-German nationals are eligible to apply and the application can be written in English. Every professor at universities in the European Union is eligible to nominate individual students whose outstanding academic achievements have caught their attention during

seminars, lectures or examinations. Students who belong to the top 5% of their cohort may be recommended for a scholarship. Nominations should be made by an informal letter of recommendation. As well as being excellent at their subject, the candidates should have distinguished themselves by their extracurricular interests and activities and sense of social responsibility. The admissions process implies either a selection seminar with an independent commission or two interviews with other university staff chosen by the Studienstiftung who examine their academic ability and quality of extracurricular activities. For more details, see: <http://www.studienstiftung.de/en/voraussetzungen.html>. The application process is as follows:

- 1) The student needs to be nominated by the supervisor or a professor
- 2) Both the supervisor and student need to fill in a series of forms. Many of these are in German but they can be filled in English. A first round of assessment is made on the basis of the student's CV and these forms
- 3) Successful candidates at this stage are invited to submit an extended project description which is peer-reviewed
- 4) After interview, a decision is made.

DEUTSCHE BUNDESSTIFTUNG UMWELT PROMOTIONSSTIPENDIEN (DBU):

The DBU provide scholarships for students who are interested in pursuing a PhD project in environmental science or conservation. See https://www.dbu.de/stipendien_promotion for details. Please note, however, that the application would need to be written and subsequently defended in an interview held in German.

BIELEFELD UNIVERSITY YOUNG RESEARCHERS FUND:

Bielefeld University has a Doctoral completion Scholarship which is for six months and provides a stipend of €1000 per month. For details, see [https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/\(en\)/nachwuchs/promovierende/stipendien-und-foerderprogramme/nachwuchsfonds.html](https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/(en)/nachwuchs/promovierende/stipendien-und-foerderprogramme/nachwuchsfonds.html). This is to provide financial support for PhD students already at Bielefeld University who are near to completing their PhD. There are two deadlines each year, typically in April and October.