

Research in Germany - Land of Ideas



PhD and Postdoc Research in Agriculture and Ecology

Science and research in Germany are characterised by an excellent infrastructure, a wide variety of disciplines, well-equipped research facilities and competent research staff. Germany offers various forms of research locations: universities, non-university institutes, companies and institutions run by federal or state (Länder) authorities.

PhD research in Germany

There are two ways to complete a PhD in Germany:

Either you **contact a professor working in your field of interest** and agree to work on a certain research topic under his/her supervison ("traditional Geman model"). In this case, he/she will – after the research topic has been coordinated – send you an invitation letter, which together with the award letter of your funding institution has to be produced when applying for a visa. Advantage: You need not consider application deadlines of graduate schools and wait for their selection results. In theorie, apart from the timelines of funding organisations, you may start your research any time which is feasible for you and your supervisor. Formal admission as a PhD candidate will mostly come after you have joint the university.

The other choice is to **apply to a graduate school / research school**. In this case, you have to apply fomally for admission keeping in mind the one or two application deadlines per year. Advantage: At some graduate schools you are supervised and guided by more than one professor. Your research will mostly be accompanied by a course programme for PhD students and you will work in close contact with your fellow PhD students – which, however, may also be the case when doing PhD research according to the "traditional" model. Some graduate school run their own funding schemes!





Agricultural institutes at German universities (selection)

Offering research opportunities in various fields

(Websites can be switched to English language.)

Kassel University	Faculty of Organic and Agricultural Sciences	www.uni-kassel.de/fb11agrar/en/home.html
	International Center for Development and Decent Work	www.uni-kassel.de/einrichtungen/icdd/home.html
Bonn University	Faculty of Agriculture	www.lwf.uni-bonn.de
	Center for Development Research	www.zef.de
Humboldt University Berlin	Albrecht Daniel Thaer – Institute of Agricutural and Horticultural Sciences	www.agrar.hu-berlin.de
Giessen University	Faculty 09 – Agricultural Sciences – Nutritional Sciences – Environmental Management	www.uni-giessen.de/cms/fbz/fb09
Goettingen University	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences	www.uni-goettingen.de/en/5855.html
	International Max Planck Resarch School "Moleculare Biology"	www.gpmolbio.uni-goettingen.de
Hohenheim University	Faculty of Agricultural Sciences	www.uni-hohenheim.de/einrichtung/fakultaet- agrarwissenschaften
Technical University Munich	School of Life Sciences Weihenstephan	www.wzw.tum.de
Kiel University	Department of Agricultural Economics	www.agric-econ.uni-kiel.de
Hanover University	Faculty of Natural Sciences (most institutes related to agrc!)	www.naturwissenschaften.uni-hannover.de
Halle-Wittenberg University	Institute of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences	www.landw.uni-halle.de (in German only!)
Rostock University	Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences	www.uni-rostock.de/nc/en/faculties/faculty-of- agricultural-and-environmental-sciences/





PhD and postdoc research at non university research institutes (selection)

Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research	www.ufz.de
Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research	www.ipk-gatersleben.de/en/
Friedrich Loeffler Institut Federal Research Institute for Animal Health	www.fli.bund.de
Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Engineering	www.atb-potsdam.de
Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research	www.pik-potsdam.de
International Max Planck Research School "Understanding Complex Plant Traits using Computational and Evolutionary Approaches"	www.mpipz.mpg.de/49993/IMPRS_Cologne
Max Planck Institute of Moleculare Plant Physiology	www.mpimp-golm.mpg.de/2168/en
Leibniz Institute for Farm Animal Biology	www.fbn-dummerstorf.de
Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops	www.igzev.de
Julius Kühn Institute for Cultivated Plants	www.jki.bund.de/en/
Max Rubner Institute for Nutrition and Food	www.mri.bund.de/en/de/home.html

Find more institutes and research organisations

www.research-in-germany.de www.research-explorer.de www.mpg.de/de/imprs

Funding opportunities for PhD students

DAAD Research Grant (see: www.funding-guide.de)

HEC scholarships

Scholarships offered by Pakistani universities

Scholarships offered by German research organisations

Funding opportunities for postdocs and experienced researchers

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (see: www.avh.de)





DAAD-Leibniz-Fellowships (see: www.daad.de/leibniz)

Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions (see http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/)

Some suggestions for a successful application to a professor or a graduate school in Germany

PhD candidates are expected to act as young research fellows and not as students. Thus, make sure you are well read in your field and you are well informed about the research background of the institute and the people you contact.

Keep in mind that professors are looking for a fellow who fits into their research team and who can contribute to ongoing or future projects. Thus speak about your research background and your research interests and how exactly they match the research foci of the institute/professor you are contacting.

Email correspondence should resemble formal letters and come with a formal address ("Dear Professor Hausmann"). Always address your correspondence partner by his/her name. Keep in mind that in Germany people never use first names when addressing an unknown person. In professional and academic life many people keep addressing each other by their surnames even after many years of cooperation. So use first names only if the senior person asks you to do so. (Fellow PhD students, however, will always address each other by their first names!)

Correspondence should always be focused on the research field and on one specific correspondence partner. It is strictly advised against using general phrases ("respected professor" / "your esteemed university") in order send the same letter to a number of persons.

On research proposal writing

A research proposal is an academic text and has to be in line with the formal requirements on academic writing. It is thus essential that the proposal is in line with the rules of academic integrity, which in the first line means: Plagiarism will never be pardoned.

There is a lot of guidance on the internet about plagiarism and how to avoid it. See for example:

www.plagiarism.org

www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism/students/referencing/conventions.html https://integrity.mit.edu

Further guidance

If you have further questions after reading all the provided information, please do not hesitate to contact the DAAD Information Center in Islamabad.

Contact: info@daad.org.pk



