Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme Sub-Sahara Africa

Call for PhD Scholarship Applications 2026
at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya

Doctor of Philosophy in Soil and Water Engineering

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

Application Closing Date in the DAAD Portal
(for all candidates):
27th November 2025

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.

INDIVIDUAL FUNDING

In-Country/In-Region scholarships at Komo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya, 2026

1 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The programme aims to foster strong, internationally oriented higher education systems in Sub-Saharan Africa 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 Sub-Saharan Africa.

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 Sub-Saharan Africa
- Graduates strengthening education and research in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 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-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme", DAAD offers scholarships for PhD 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 Sub-Saharan Africa with a Master's degree, who want to pursue PhD courses, either

- in their home country

(**In-Country scholarships** designed for students who study in their home country or in the country for which they have a residence permit.)

- or -

- in another Sub-Saharan Africa country

  (**In-Region scholarships** designed for students who want to participate in a study programme in a country of their home region (here: Sub-Saharan Africa /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 Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology by offering **up to two (2) In-Country and three (3) In-Region scholarships for PhD studies** at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology for the intake 2026.
The awarding of scholarships will be subject to the provision of funds.

2 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A PHD DEGREE

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 *Sub-Saharan Africa country*;
- 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: Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology might have additional requirements for admission to the university.

3 ELIGIBLE FIELDS FOR A PHD DEGREE

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

Scholarships at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology are available for the following programme:

- *Doctor of Philosophy in Soil and Water Engineering*

4 PLACE OF TENURE FOR A PHD DEGREE

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya.

5 DURATION AND COMMENCEMENT FOR A PHD DEGREE

The duration

- of the PhD programme is generally three (3) years and is usually starting in September 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.

6 SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

The scholarship covers:

Benefits	Payment Schedule	Amount
Tuition Fees*	annually	*The regularly charged amount will be specified in the letter of award.*
Study and research allowance	annually	920 EUR
Thesis publishing costs	once towards the end of scholarship	800 EUR
Monthly Scholarship (Accommodation, Food etc.)	monthly	In-Country: 500 EUR In-Region: 600 EUR
Travel allowance (In-Region only)	usually twice (beginning/ end of scholarship)	*The flat rate travel allowance will be specified in the letter of award.*
Health Insurance (In-Region only)	annually	Further information regarding the health insurance will be specified in the Letter of Award.

***Please note that in some cases <u>not all fees and costs</u> 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.

7 PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The DAAD will endeavour to transfer/pay out the first monthly payment to you 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.

8 ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

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

a) encouraged to apply for a **short-term research stay in Germany** for 3 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-Country/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-Country/In-Region programme. Further information will be provided upon request via the DAAD Portal after you have received your In-Country/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-Country/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.

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

9 APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR A PHD DEGREE

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 Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology **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=57837875
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 **27th November 2025**

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 Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology 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.

Please note: in some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, a document from the **Qualifications Authority** must be submitted for admission to the universities (e.g., from SAQA in South Africa). The application for these documents can take a while and it is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the documents from the respective authorities in time.

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 and September. The final decision will be announced approximately six months after the application process has been accomplished (for the region of Sub-Saharan Africa).

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.

10 APPLICATION DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED TO THE DAAD PORTAL

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	→ *You can generate the recommendation form in the DAAD Portal as a writable PDF under* ***'Request reference form'****. Please send it to your university*

	which provide information about your qualifications. One of the letters of recommendation for PhD may be issued by an employer.	*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*** **<u>This form of a Letter of Recommendation</u> is mandatory and will be <u>the only one</u> <u>which will be accepted by the DAAD</u>.**
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 (at least: Second Class/Upper Division or equivalent). 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 **<u>most recent</u> university degree certificate stating final grades**		
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	→ “Mandatory Attachments“ Passport / Identity card

	documents before departure.	
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
Additionally, a Word format of the proposal must be submitted via E-Mail to icir.nairobi@daad.de for plagiarism check.	Please note that a detailed and comprehensive proposal is necessary for the assessment. Concept notes will not be accepted.	Via E-Mail

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 from the academic supervisor **or** a commitment letter from the host institution, stating that a supervisor will be assigned.	→ "Attachments "- Commitment letter from future university superior

Optional Attachments to the Application (if applicable/available)		
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:

→ 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).

11 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION VIA DAAD

Applications must be submitted via the DAAD portal:
https://portal.meindaad.de/sites/personalfunding/#PBFApplication-Start?fundingProgramInstance=57837875

PORTAL/THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

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

Deadline: 27th November 2025

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.

12 INFORMATION SESSION FOR INTERESTED APPLICANTS

The DAAD plans to offer a virtual information session. If you are interested in the information session, please register via the following link:
https://daad-veranstaltung.webex.com/webappng/sites/daad-veranstaltung/webinar/webinarSeries/register/8daee68975e24aee86e9fee10fa79a39

13 CONTACT AND COUNSELING

Enquiries related to the DAAD Scholarship

DAAD Contact Person: Jules Oliver Onyango

E-Mail: j.onyango@daad.de

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

Enquiries related to the general admission and the study programme at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Contact Person: Dr. Joseph Sang

E-Mail: j.sang@jkuat.ac.ke

Website: https://www.jkuat.ac.ke/school/sobee/?page_id=17376

14 SUPPORTED BY

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