

FAQ

General information

Who is eligible to apply for a Deutschlandstipendium for study at HAW Hamburg?

HAW Hamburg students are eligible if they are enrolled as regular students and have not exceeded the standard duration specified for their degree course (*Regelstudienzeit*). There is no age limit.

Can applicants for a place at HAW Hamburg apply for a Deutschlandstipendium?

Yes. You can apply if you are currently in the application process for a place at HAW Hamburg. However, if successful, you will only be able to take up your Deutschlandstipendium if you are enrolled at HAW Hamburg by the start of the funding period.

Can international students apply?

Yes. The Deutschlandstipendium is open to students of all nationalities and locations of principal residence.

Can doctoral students apply?

Unfortunately, the Deutschlandstipendium is not open to doctoral students, who are invited to explore other potential routes to funding at HAW Hamburg.

Can applications be submitted in English?

Yes, if the applicant is enrolled on an English-language degree course.

How advanced in their degree course can applicants be?

In theory, a student can apply in any semester up to two semesters before completion of the standard duration (*Regelstudienzeit*) stipulated for their degree course. The Deutschlandstipendium will end once a student has reached this standard duration. A funding period generally lasts for 12 months. After this, students who have yet to reach their course's standard duration (*Regelstudienzeit*) can apply for a further funding period, and so on until the standard duration is reached.

Maternity/parental leave

Students may apply during a period of maternity or parental leave provided they demonstrate successful completion of degree course modules or examinations prior to this period of leave.

Interruption of studies

Deutschlandstipendium holders who interrupt their studies for a semester for reasons other than maternity or parental leave will not receive funding during this period. Funding will recommence once you return to your studies, at the same point in the funding period at which you interrupted your course (e.g. if your interruption began when you had received seven months of funding, you will have five months left once you resume your studies).

Funding via BAföG (German state student funding system)

The Deutschlandstipendium is not income-dependent or means-tested. You can apply if you are receiving BAföG funding. When you apply, please submit information on the period/s in which you have received/are receiving it.

Does the Deutschlandstipendium affect my claim to maintenance from my parents?

Yes. The Deutschlandstipendium reduces the amount of maintenance due to you from your parents. Adult students should aim to fund themselves as far as possible before claiming maintenance from their parents, and the Deutschlandstipendium counts as the student's own income.

Does the Deutschlandstipendium affect my parents' entitlement to German child benefit (*Kindergeld*)?

A change in the law in 2011 means that as of 1 January 2012, an adult child's income, whatever its source, no longer has any effect on the parents' entitlement to child benefit (*Kindergeld*). This means that the Deutschlandstipendium also does not affect their entitlement. Adult children's income is no longer checked when their parents apply for *Kindergeld*, as long as the child is undertaking his or her first degree or vocational training course.

Does payment of the Deutschlandstipendium continue while I am doing an internship (in Germany or abroad)?

This depends on whether or not the internship is a requirement of your degree course. Required internships, undertaken in Germany, are integral parts of your degree course and you can therefore continue to receive the Deutschlandstipendium while you are undertaking one. The funding will be paid for the duration of the internship as stipulated in the Course Regulations for your degree course. If your Course Regulations require or permit you to do an internship abroad, such internships may count as 'periods spent abroad which are of relevance to the student's subject or specialism' (*fachrichtungsbezogene Auslandsaufenthalte*). You will need to let us know about your planned internship and your related leave from University in good time before it starts.

Other (financial) support awarded on the basis of academic performance or talent

You are not eligible for a Deutschlandstipendium if you are already receiving financial support in excess of 30 Euro a month which has been awarded on the basis of outstanding academic performance or talent (such as a scholarship from one of the German student support foundations).

Erasmus or DAAD scholarships

Receiving an Erasmus scholarship or funding via a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) scheme does not affect your eligibility for the Deutschlandstipendium.

Can I receive funding over a number of years?

Yes, this is possible. However, the Deutschlandstipendium is always awarded for only one year (2 semesters) at a time. Students who are already receiving a Deutschlandstipendium will need to reapply at an appropriate time before the expiry of their current funding period.

When does the funding come to an end?

As stated above, the Deutschlandstipendium is awarded for a funding period of twelve months. But it can also expire at the end of the month in which the student reaches the standard duration

(*Regelstudienzeit*) specified for their degree course, even if the twelve-month funding period is not yet complete.

A student will also cease to receive funding, regardless of whether or not the funding period is complete, at the end of the month in which he or she:

1. completes his or her degree examinations;
2. leaves his or her degree course;
3. changes degree course or subject;
4. is deregistered as a student of HAW Hamburg.

The application process

When can I apply?

The application period will be announced on the Deutschlandstipendium website.

Applications should consist of a printout of the candidate's online application, a signed application agreement, and further documents as specified on the Deutschlandstipendium website. Incomplete applications or those submitted after the closing date will not be considered.

How can I demonstrate my academic performance?

1. Those in the application process for a place at HAW Hamburg should submit proof of their final grade in the last qualification they gained (university entrance qualification, e.g. German *Abitur*, or Bachelor's degree certificate including final grade).
2. Students currently enrolled on Bachelor's degree courses should submit a printout detailing the modules/examinations they have completed to date (from the HELIOS system), including a calculation of their current grade average.
1. Students on Master's degree courses should submit a printout detailing the modules/examinations they have completed to date (from the HELIOS system), including a calculation of their current grade average, and a copy of their Bachelor's degree certificate which shows their final grade.

Please note: Students enrolled on the degree courses Fashion, Costume and Textile Product Design, Communication Design and Illustration should submit, depending on how advanced they are in their studies, either the result of their aptitude test (early Bachelor's students), the results of their module examinations (advanced Bachelor's students) or the grade awarded for their Bachelor thesis (Master's students).

What can I do if I don't yet have my grades from last semester?

You should ask your professor – in writing (e.g. by email) and explaining the reasons for your request - to assess your extended essay or mark your examination before those of other students. Please make sure you do this in plenty of time!

What if I have a long-term health condition and/or a disability?

Please include with your application evidence of your condition or disability, such as medical letters or certificates, and explain - in a way others will find easy to understand - how, and to what extent, your condition or disability disadvantages you or causes you additional difficulties in your studies.

The selection procedure

How are candidates selected for funding?

There are separate assessment streams for Bachelor's and Master's degree course students. Each application is assessed by a selection committee in accordance with a specific set of criteria as follows: The applicant's performance in their studies so far (or in their university entrance qualification); their activities in voluntary organisations, political or societal institutions; and special circumstances which have caused the student specific additional difficulties in their lives and academic trajectories thus far. These latter two factors require detailed description and supporting evidence, which may take the form of a medical letter or a reference from the Studierendenwerk's psychosocial advice centre, one of HAW Hamburg's student church communities or a similar, recognised body.

Points are assigned to the applicant as follows:

1. Academic performance (0-8 points)
2. Voluntary or socially useful activities (0-4 points)
3. Disadvantaging factors (0-6 points).

The selection committee for HAW Hamburg has specified the following stipulations for awarding of points:

1. Academic performance (max. 8 points)

Up to five points are awarded for grade or grades achieved as set out above and up to three points for professional or other non-subject-related qualifications you have attained.

Please note that the grade values given below reference the German system. You may need to take advice on conversion if you took your university entrance qualification outside Germany.

Grade	Points
up to 1.29	5
1.3 -1.59	4
1.6 -1.89	3
1.9 -2.19	2
2.2 – 2.59	1
2.60 and above	0

If you are taking or have taken a joint (multi-subject) degree course, a grade average weighted by equivalent credit point value will be calculated for the purposes of the selection process.

2. Voluntary or socially useful activities (max. 4 points)

You can be awarded one point for each voluntary or other socially useful activity you undertake.

3. Disadvantaging factors (max. 6 points)

This category is designed to take factors relating to applicants' personal situation into account. These may include:

- being a parent
- caring for another relative
- disabilities, health conditions or other circumstances which make it more difficult or impossible for you to study in as short a time as students without these circumstances or demonstrably impact your grades
- having been an immigrant yourself or coming from a family with a history of immigration
- working significant numbers of hours alongside your studies
- having parents who did not attend university themselves

There is a potential maximum total of 18 points across all three categories.

Applicants will receive written notification of whether or not their application was successful.

How is academic performance in different degree courses and subjects compared?

The application procedure is designed to identify the highest-achieving and most promising students within a specific faculty or degree course. This means that comparisons of performance are only made among students within one faculty. This takes account of the fact that the highest grades achieved in one degree course may be at a very different level from those attained in another.

Can I reapply if I am unsuccessful?

You may submit a new application at any time, as long as you still have at least two semesters to go before you reach your course's specified standard duration (*Regelstudienzeit*).