Scholarships for international students

Dear students,

...are you highly motivated and willing to bear responsibility?
...are your achievements in your studies above-average?
...are you socially-engaged?
...do you need financial support and want to inform yourself about financing possibilities?

The International Student Services Centre (ISSC) has created an overview about various scholarships and student loans.

Besides questions regarding student financing, the ISSC can counsel you concerning study, search for side job, apartment search, educational system and right of residence. The ISSC is available for all questions all about your studies and the living in Bielefeld. Additionally, it organizes every term a versatile, study-related program for you.

Your academic success is our mission!

In addition, every term the scholarship-information takes place where you have the possibility to reach out to scholarships, inform yourself and connect with each other.

For further information and an individual consultation international students (degree-seeking) can get in touch with the ISSC, which takes place weekly. Please check in by mail in advance.

Below you will find an overview of scholarships and funding opportunities for international students. We have divided the respective funding opportunities into the following categories:

1. Academic Performance
2. Academic performance & political interest
3. Religion
4. Scholarships for low-income students/ students in financial difficulties
5. Scholarships for Students from certain Countries (e.g. particular groups of people: late emigrants, persons entitled to political asylum, refugees)
6. Scholarships for certain Groups
7. Student loans

1. Academic Performance

For all scholarship applications it can be taken for granted that exceptional grades and social interest or commitment must be proven.

DAAD

Scholarships of the DAAD for studies in the Federal Republic of Germany can only be applied from the foreign student’s homeland, if necessary, in the very first months of the study stay in Germany. Normally, the student must have already achieved and provide proof of an undergraduate degree. You can receive further information at the embassy or consulate general. The DAAD has branches in many different countries, which can help to plan your studies. Further information: https://www.daad.de/en/
German National Academic Foundation

For students with outstanding social and political commitment. Admission into the German National Academic Foundation is limited to students with German citizenship, students with a European Union nationality studying at a German university, or students of other nationalities with the German Abitur and studying at a German university. Funding: 300€ per month, ideational support (summer academies, personal attention etc.); 752€ per month, cost of living grant; as well as: grants for health insurance and nursing care insurance. Application deadline: January (students in their first or second term may apply for the scholarship). Further information: www.studienstiftung.de

Foundation Studienfonds OWL

Merit-based scholarship (Germany Scholarship). Support: 300€/month, ideational support (contacts with local companies, workshops, seminars etc.) Application deadline: 01.02 until 01.03. Further information: www.studienfonds-owl.de

Universitätsgesellschaft

For students that cannot apply for any other scholarship and grant:

- Partial scholarships for students of Bielefeld University students who cannot carry out their projects abroad without additional support. For further information please contact Ms. Karin Kruse, International Office: karin.kruse@uni-bielefeld.de
- Scholarships for qualified international English-speaking masters’ applicants. For further information please contact the International Office, Mail: issc-io@uni-bielefeld.de

Study Scholarships of the Cologne secondary school and the Stiftungsfonds

For students with scientific aptitude and with social commitment. Until further notice an application is advisable only from the third term on. Application deadlines: 01.02 until 01.03 and 01.08 until 01.09. Further information: www.stiftungsfonds.org

2. Academic performance & political interest

Exceptional grades and social and political interest or commitment is essential for every application and must be proven!

Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (close to SPD)

Application deadlines: diploma / magister / state examination: no certain deadlines, but after the first term and at the latest of the third term before the end of standard period of study. Master programme: by the 30th of November at the latest and the 31st of May; before or at the start of first term of master programme. Further information: www.fes.de

Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation (close to FDP)

Application deadlines: 30.04. or 31.10. Further information: www.freiheit.org

Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (close to CDU)

Application period: 15.01 or 15.07. Further information: www.kas.de
Heinrich Böll Foundation (close to the Grüne party)
Application deadline: 01.03. (international students) 01.03. or 01.09. (all, as well as refugees) Further information: www.boell.de

Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation (close to the Lefties)
Application deadlines: 01.04. or 01.10. Further information: www.rosalux.de

Hans-Böckler-Foundation (Scholarship of the German Federation of the Trade Unions)
Application deadlines: 01.02. or 01.07. Application via membership, scholarship holders’ group or liaison lecturer. Further information: www.boeckler.de

Hanns-Seidel-Foundation e.V. (close to CSU)
For foreign students who have a German Abitur. Application deadlines: 15.01. or 15.07. Further information: www.hss.de

Additionally, on above mentioned scholarships, there are other scholarships which are advertised by companies. A database you can find under the following link: www.stipendienlotse.de

Please note that the application deadlines are permanently changing and the International Office assume no responsibility for the accuracy of information.

3. Religion
In general, social commitment is considered to be proven.

Protestant Student Community (ESG)
For further information please contact Mr. Ulrich Melzer, pastor of the ESG Bielefeld: www.esg-bielefeld.ekvw.de

Association of Protestant Students e.V. Villigst
For Protestant students with EU citizenship. Application deadlines: 15.10.-01.03. (for winter term) or 15.04.-01.09. (for summer term). For further information: www.evstudienwerk.de

Catholic Student Community (KHG)
For further information please contact Julia Winterboer (advisor for educational, cultural and social affairs): www.khg-bielefeld.de

Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk (ELES)
For Jewish students with EU citizenship or students with a settlement permit. Financial funding: Up to 752€ per month as well as lump-sum fee in the amount of 300 € monthly. Application deadlines: 01.04.-01.06 (for winter term) or 15.12. (for summer term). Further information: www.eles-studienwerk.de

Avicenna Studienwerk
For Muslim students with EU citizenship or students with German university entrance certificate. Support amount: up to 752€ per month plus 300€ lump-sum fee. Application deadlines: 01.04. (for winter term) or 01.10. (for summer term). Further information: www.avicenna-studienwerk.de
4. Scholarships for low-income students/ students in financial difficulties

Foundation Studienfonds OWL

Social scholarship for students with personal and financial need or in cases of emergency. Their academic achievements do not have priority. Funding: 1800€ per year; funding rate 150€ monthly. Application deadline: 01.02.-01.03.2021 (summer term) and starting August (winter term). Further information: www.studienfonds-owl.de

International Office (Aid for Final Degree)

The object of these grants is to enable international students’ preparation for final exams to be free of financial worries.

The following criteria are required:

- Financial need (e.g. if the student had to work in order to finance his/her studies)
- Good accomplishments according to previous studies
- A successful degree should be achieved within the next 6 months
- Endorsement through a professor’s assessment

Application deadlines: 15.07. (for the winter term) or 15.01. (for the summer term). For further information please contact the International Office, email: issc-io@uni-bielefeld.de

AStA (grants in financial emergencies)

Students who are in financial distress have the option to receive a refund of the student ticket. For further information: www.asta-bielefeld.de

5. Scholarships for Students from certain Countries

(e.g. particular groups of people: late emigrants, persons entitled to political asylum, refugees)

NRWege scholarship

For students with refugee background. These scholarships shall support qualified students in every phase of their studies and promote their academic success at the University of Bielefeld. It will be given scholarships from study entrance, while studying and from final degree. Application deadlines: 15.06.-15.07. (winter term) and 15.12.- 15.01. (summer term). For further information: www.uni-bielefeld.de/themen/refugees/

Otto-Benecke-Foundation

For late resettlers, persons entitled to political asylum, refugees and Jewish migrants. The funding comprises grants for living costs, tutoring or special needs (translation). Funding: Ends as a general rule after 30 months of grants. Application deadline: Application must be submitted before reaching the age of 30. For further information: www.obs-ev.de

Scholarship of the Diakonischen Werk
For people who left their country of origin (so-called developing countries) for political, religious or ethnic reasons or would like to proceed or begin with their studies in Germany. For further information: www.azf3.de

Association of the Protestant Students e.V. Villigst

For students with escape experience who study at German universities. Funding: Up to 752€ per month and 300€ lump-sum fee. Application deadlines: 15.10 until 01.03 (winter term) and 15.04 until 01.09 (summer term 21). For further information: www.evstudienwerk.de

Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation (close to FDP party)

For students with refugee background. Funding referring to BAföG and 300€ monthly lump-sum fee. Application deadline: 30.04. or 31.10. For further information: www.freiheit.org

Heinrich Böll Foundation (close to the Grüne party)

For students who begin or even proceed a study in first degree or in master program (or diploma or state examination study; unattached from the number of term) in Germany. Application deadlines: 01.03. and 01.09. For further information: www.boell.de

6. Scholarships for certain Groups

Funding through BaFöG (Federal Education and Training Assistance Act)

(The German Federal Training Assistance Act) BAföG is a state educational grants in Germany which is only in exceptional cases possible for international students. For further information: www.bafög.de and www.internationale-studierende.de

Anni und Keyvan Daheisch-Foundation

Supports students with disabilities and chronic conditions through grants of material costs. One-off grant of material cost (costs for special means which facilitate daily life). Application deadline: From January until June. Application by post to the abatement and the association management of the Commerzbank

7. Student Loans

Graduation loan of the DaKa

A loan association of the North-Rhine-Westphalian Studierendenwerk (Daka) which supports students who are situated in their final degree phase through non-interest-bearing loans. For further information: www.daka-darlehen.de

Social loan from the AsTa

The social loan is an interest-free credit in the amount of max. 800€. There will no handling costs or else be charged. For further information please contact the ASTA: www.asta-bielefeld.de
E.W. Kuhlmann-Foundation

The association allocates interest-free scholarships for students in the end phase of their studies with a maximum amount of 2000€. This amount needs to be paid back within five years. For further information: www.kuhlmann-stiftung-hamburg.de

KFW

Student loan: Funding of study and promotion. Funding: Up to 650€ per month. Education loan: For students in the end phase of their studies. Funding: Up to 300€ per month. For further information: www.kfw.de