



Doctoral scholarships *Law & Society*

Call for Applications for two doctoral scholarships (2026-2030) funded by the DAAD

Application deadline: January 31, 2026

The Integrative Research Institute Law & Society (LSI), in cooperation with the DFG Graduate School: DynamInt (DynamInt), is currently accepting applications for two doctoral scholarships at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, Graduate School Scholarship Programme). The scholarship of up to four years includes a monthly instalment, language courses and other benefits. Excellent international students with an interest in interdisciplinary legal research are strongly encouraged to apply.

1. The doctoral programme *Law & Society*

The LSI, in cooperation with DynamInt, offers the doctoral programme *Law & Society* to promote innovative interdisciplinary legal research. The programme is dedicated to investigating the role and function of law for tackling the current and fundamental challenges for a democratic global society (inter alia climate change, the rise of populism and the decline of the rule of law) from a genuinely interdisciplinary perspective. The LSI is a stimulating interdisciplinary and international research environment in the heart of Berlin at Humboldt-University. DynamInt is a graduate program funded by the German Research Foundation focussing on the equilibrium between harmonisation and plurality in European law.

The courses of the doctoral programme will be taught in English. However, applicants are expected to acquire a working knowledge of German. Fully funded language courses will be available as part of the doctoral scholarship. The doctoral thesis may be written in English or German. For further information on the requirements to start a PhD at Humboldt please see <https://www.hu-berlin.de/en/studies/admission/enrolment-office/phd-studies>.

2. Application requirements

The doctoral programme *Law & Society* welcomes applications from highly qualified graduate students committed to excellence in interdisciplinary legal research. Applicants should hold a graduate degree (Master) in law, social sciences or related fields of research and are expected to pursue a genuinely interdisciplinary project within the framework of the doctoral programme *Law & Society*. Key selection

criteria are 1) the quality of the research proposal, 2) closeness to the thematic agenda of the doctoral programme *Law & Society* and 3) genuine contribution to interdisciplinary legal research.

At the moment when the shortlisted applicants are nominated to DAAD, the last final exam (Master Degree or equivalent) must have taken place no longer than six years ago and applicants must not have resided in Germany for more than 15 months prior to the nomination. International students with a non-German citizenship are therefore strongly encouraged to apply.

3. The doctoral scholarship

The doctoral scholarships will start preferably on September 1, 2026. Scholarship holders will receive a grant from the Graduate School Scholarship Programme (GSSP) of the DAAD for up to four years. The scholarship award includes:

- scholarship payments of currently € 1,400 a month;¹
- a [travel allowance](#)
- payments towards health, accident and personal liability insurance cover;
- a research allowance of currently € 460 per year (for scholarship holders from countries listed in the DAC List of ODA recipients⁵), or € 260 per year (for scholarship holders from other countries);
- under certain circumstances, grant holders may receive the following additional benefits:
 - monthly rent subsidy (calculated individually, usually about € 50 to 125 per month);
 - monthly allowance for accompanying family members (about € 200 child allowance per child and about € 275 marriage allowance);
 - in the case of a disability or chronic illness: subsidy for additional costs which result from the disability or chronic illness and are not covered by other funding providers²
- a preparatory German language course (if available, applicable and feasible, taking into account the starting date of the scholarship);
- a material resources and supervision allowance of currently € 1,000 per year, which is paid upon application to the host institution.

For further information see the [DAAD](#) homepage.

4. The application procedure

The DAAD scholarship holders will be selected in a two-step procedure. In step 1, appropriate candidates are nominated for a DAAD scholarship by the doctoral programme *Law & Society* as the hosting programme. In step 2, the nominees (2 for each scholarship) submit an online application with supporting documentation via the DAAD portal and the DAAD selection board will make the final decision.

Application documents for step 1

Please submit the following documents in German or English as one pdf file:

¹ € 992 before the acceptance as doctoral candidate at the higher education institution.

² See "[Important information for scholarship applicants](#)" in section F, point 8.

1. Letter of motivation (not exceeding 1,000 words)
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Research proposal of the planned dissertation project, including a short abstract and a work schedule (not exceeding 5 pages)
4. Two letters of recommendation, each by a university professor from your home university, issued during the last two years. Please use the [DAAD form](#).
5. Certificates or translated documents:
 - a. School certificate (College, GSEC etc.) qualifying for admission to higher education in your home country
 - b. Certificate of an academic degree(s)
 - c. Transcripts of records: Certificates of annual examinations taken at the home university
6. Language certificates:
 - a. English (TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge or English-taught degree)
 - b. Optional: German (DSD, Goethe Institut, TELC or German taught degree); Knowledge of the German language must be acquired during the research stay at Humboldt-University at the latest; it is however **not** a requirement for the application.
7. Any documents certifying completed practical work (internships etc.)
8. A list of publications (if applicable)

Please submit the application via email as one pdf file (in the order indicated above, not exceeding a file size of 10 MB with the subject line: Application DAAD grant *Law & Society*) by **January 31, 2026** to: law-and-society@hu-berlin.de

5. Contact and additional information

Eva Herzog
Eva.marguerite.herzog@hu-berlin.de
Integrative Research Institute Law & Society
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Unter den Linden 6
10099 Berlin