

2017/2018 Call for Applications for: 2 Doctoral Fellowships

funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Application Deadline: January 31, 2018



The doctoral programme “Unity and Difference in the European Legal Area” (EPEDER) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is currently accepting applications for fellowships starting in September 2018.

1. The programme (EPEDER)

The doctoral programme investigates the conditions, boundaries and implications of interdependencies between national legal systems resulting from the progressing europeanisation of law. It therefore addresses exceptional candidates committed to research within the framework of European, comparative and international perspectives of law. Preferably the research will be aimed at achieving a balance between convergence on the European level and pluralism on the national level or investigating the European Union model in a global context. Members will be required to provide regular updates on their research progress, in return they will benefit from the feedback of their colleagues as well as renowned university professors. The programme further offers academic guidance, familiarises with cutting-edge methods and research in European and Transnational law. Moreover, in cooperation with the private sector sponsors of the European Law School (ELS), soft skills are conveyed. New project ideas and initiatives of members are encouraged, e.g. the organisation of a (national or international) conference. Last but not least, the programme draws on the success of the network of the ELS at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, actively supporting research stays abroad, encouraging joint research projects and arranging contacts to renowned researchers at the partner-universities as well as associated universities such as the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence or the Sciences Po in Paris. The main language of the programme is German.

2. The scholarships

The doctoral fellowships will start on September 1, 2018 (however, they may start earlier in case no language course is required). Scholarship holders will receive a grant from the “Graduate School Scholarship Programme” (GSSP) of the DAAD. The scholarship award comprises:

- A monthly grant of EUR 1,000
- A travel allowance based on your country of origin
- A combined health, accident and liability insurance
- A study and research allowance of EUR 460 per year
- A rent and/or family allowance, if applicable

The scholarship is for up to a three-year period, contingent upon the successful completion of each year. Under exceptional circumstances an extension for one more year may be possible.

3. The application procedure

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

Applicants must hold a Diploma or a Master's degree in Law. In exceptional cases, graduates with degrees from related fields may be considered.

Key selection criterion is the quality of the research proposal, how well it falls in with the overall thematic agenda of the doctoral programme, its innovative potential and its likeliness to contribute to existing research.

As candidates **must have lived in Germany for less than 15 months**, international students with a non-German citizenship are strongly encouraged to apply.

Application documents:

Please submit the following documents in **German or English**:

1. **Letter of motivation** specifying your academic and professional interests, your current goals, study and career plans. Furthermore, explain why you deem our doctoral programme appropriate for your particular background (not exceeding 1,000 words)
2. **Curriculum Vitae** - with full contact details and information on your educational background and professional experience, publications and language skills
3. **Research proposal** of the planned dissertation project, including a short abstract and a work schedule listing planned periods and destinations of research or field trips (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 which is attached (<https://www.daad.de/medien/deutschland/stipendien/formulare/recommendation.pdf>). The letters of recommendation are not required by the application deadline and can be handed in later.
5. Certificates or translated documents:
 - School leaving certificate** (College, GSEC etc.) qualifying for admission to higher education in your home country
 - Certificate of an academic degree in Law**
 - Transcripts of records:** Certificates of annual examinations taken at the home university
6. **Language certificates:**
 - English** (TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge, etc. or English-taught degree)
 - German** (DSD, Goethe Institut, TELC, etc. or German-taught degree); knowledge of the German language, however, **can also be acquired in the period** following up to the **start date of the scholarship**; German language proficiency is thus **not necessarily required** at the time of application, even though it is advantageous

7. Any documents certifying completed practical work (internships etc.)

8. A list of publications (if applicable)

Other formal requirements:

- At the time of application, **candidates must not have lived in Germany for longer than 15 months**
- The **last final examination** for the highest university degree (usually the Master's degree) should **not** have taken place **more than six years ago**

Applications should be submitted via email in **one** pdf-document (in the order indicated above, not exceeding a file size of 10 MB with the subject line: Application DAAD grant EPEDER) by **January 31, 2018** to:

info.els@hu-berlin.de

Please note **February 8, 2018** as the date of a potential interview; the interviews will be conducted in Berlin (in exceptional cases, where it is not possible for you to travel to Berlin, the interview may be conducted via Skype)

4. Contact and additional information

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