

In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme Central America and the Dominican Re- public

**Call for Master Scholarship Applications 2026
at Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR)
Master in Atmospheric Sciences
Master in Biology
Master in Hydrology**

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

Application Closing Date in the DAAD Portal
(for all candidates):
20.03.2026

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.

In-Region Scholarship Programme Central America and the Dominican Republic 2026

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

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The programme aims to foster strong, internationally oriented higher education systems in *Latin America* with the capacity to contribute to sustainable development. For this purpose, scholarships for development-related Master's studies are awarded to individuals who plan to pursue a career in teaching and/or research at a higher education institution in *Latin America*.

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 *Latin America*
- Graduates strengthening education and research in Latin America
- 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-Region Scholarship Programme“, the DAAD offers scholarships for Master 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 Central America and the Dominican Republic with a first academic degree, who want to pursue Master's courses

- in another Central American country

(**In-Region scholarships** are designed for students who want to participate in a study programme in a country of their home region (here:

Central America /outside their home country/in the country for which they do not have a residence permit).

It has been agreed that the DAAD cooperates with Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR) by offering **up to 3 scholarships for each Master program** at UCR for the intake 2026.

The awarding of scholarships will be subject to the provision of funds.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

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Applicants for a Master's degree

- graduates with a first academic degree, who have successfully completed a three-year university degree/ Licenciatura 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 Central American country (except Costa Rica) or the Dominican Republic;
- 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.

Please note: If you have already received a Master's scholarship from the DAAD, further Master's funding from the DAAD is not possible.

Please note: Universidad de Costa Rica might have additional requirements for admission to the university.

ELIGIBLE FIELDS FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

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

Scholarships at Universidad de Costa Rica are available for the following programmes:

- *Master in Atmospheric Science*
- *Master in Biology*
- *Master in Hydrology*

PLACE OF TENURE FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

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Universidad de Costa Rica, San Pedro, Costa Rica

DURATION AND COMMENCEMENT FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

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The duration

- Scholarships are awarded for the duration of the standard period of study for the chosen programme (up to a maximum of 24 months for Master in Atmospheric Science and Master in Biology; up to a maximum of 30 months for Master in Hydrology). Please state the entire period for which you wish to apply for a scholarship in your application. For example, if you are planning a 2-year degree programme, you must directly communicate two years as the desired scholarship duration in your application. After the first year of study, your academic achievements will be assessed in a further funding procedure. If this assessment shows that you will successfully complete your programme within a reasonable period of time, the scholarship will continue as planned.

The scholarship usually begins in *August* of the following year.

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.

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

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The scholarship covers:

Benefits	Payment Schedule	Amount
Tuition Fees*	every academic term	<i>The regularly charged amount will be specified in the Letter of Award.</i>
Study and research allowance	annually	460 EUR
Thesis publishing costs	once towards the end of scholarship	400 EUR
Monthly Scholarship (Accommodation, food etc.)	monthly	750 EUR
Travel allowance (In-Region only)	usually twice (beginning/ end of scholarship)/	<i>The flat rate travel allowance will be specified in the Letter of Award.</i>
Health insurance (In-Region only)	monthly	<i>Directly paid by DAAD to CCSS</i>
Family allowance (if your husband, wife or children) accompanying you to your host country; a separate application needs to be submitted for the family allowance upon admission to the programme	monthly	Up to 255 EUR

***Please note that in some cases not all fees and costs mentioned in 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 the 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. The DAAD will transfer the fees directly to the host institution.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

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The DAAD will endeavour to transfer/pay out the first monthly payment 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 only able to set up your bank account after your arrival in your destination country. To cover the costs which arise before 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 other 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 funds 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.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

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DAAD In-Region scholarship holders in the framework of **Master programmes (only research based)** are also

a) encouraged to apply for a **short-term research stay in Germany** for 2 up to 6 months.

Please note:

- **The short-term research stay in Germany should preferably be communicated 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-Region programme and the regular study period of the programme may not be exceeded by the short-term research stay in Germany. It must be included in the regular study period of the In-Region programme. Further information will be provided

upon request via the DAAD Portal after you have received your 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

All DAAD /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 and/or Soft Skill Trainings.

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

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

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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 Universidad de Costa Rica **deadline.**

The application process for DAAD scholarships contains the following steps:

1. Register on the portal:
<https://funding.meindaad.de/sites/personalfunding#PBFAApplication-Start?fundingProgramInstance=57818206>
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 deadline indicated on the cover page of this document **20.03.2026**

Remember to check that your application is complete and meets the DAAD requirements before submitting! Otherwise, your application cannot be considered.

The 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 Universidad de Costa Rica 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.

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 May. The final decision will be announced for the region of Latin America, approximately one month after the selection process has been concluded.

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.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED TO THE DAAD PORTAL

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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 where the document should be uploaded
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

One recent Letter of Recommendation	The letter of recommendation should be from and signed (and, if possible, stamped) by a university teacher(s) (which provides information about your qualifications).	→ You can generate the recommendation form in the DAAD Portal as a writable PDF under ' Request reference form '. Please send it to your university 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 is mandatory and will be the only one which will be accepted by the DAAD.</u>
Copies of the last relevant Bachelor's degree certificate	For at least a successfully completed three-year university degree, Bachelor or equivalent, with above average results (at least: Second Class/Upper Division or equivalent). If, at the time of applying, you completed your Bachelor degree in the last academic year and your certificate has not been issued, it can be submitted later (before the scholarship begins at the latest).	→ "Mandatory Attachments" - University degree certificates
Copy of the most recent university degree certificate stating final grades	If available, please also provide a grading scale for the final university degree and information on the recognition of the university degree certificates in the host country.	
Transcript of records	of your most recent university degree	→ "Mandatory Attachments" - Transcript of records/academic achievements
Letter of Motivation	1-2 pages (at least 300 and not more than 1000 words) with a personal, social motivation and academic motivation for choosing the studies	→ "Mandatory Attachments" - Study project / Motivation letter

	together with a possible Master project. If you are applying for a COURSE-based Master programme, please describe the time schedule of your studies and your course project.	
Copy of a valid passport or 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 documents before departure	→ "Mandatory Attachments" Passport / Identity card

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
Semester Schedule	For COURSE-based Master programmes only	→ "Attachments"-Time schedule / Schedule / Workplan

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

A List of publications	If available	→ "Attachments" - List of publications
Time Schedule	For RESEARCH-based Master programmes only, (if applicable, mentioning the planned short-term-research stay in Germany , see "Additional benefits")	→ "Attachments/Others"-
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"

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 once.

→ a proof of Admission (this can be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins if it is not available before) from the university has been issued

AND

→ a proof of arrival (e.g., airline ticket, letter from supervisor or coordinator, admission test) has been submitted to show that you are on site at the host university to begin your studies. This must be submitted via the DAAD portal as soon as possible and is part of a complete application (this can also be subsequently submitted before the scholarship begins if it is not available before).

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION VIA THE DAAD PORTAL/THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

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Applications must be submitted via the DAAD portal

<https://funding.meindaad.de/sites/personalfunding#PBFAApplication-Start?fundingProgramInstance=57818206>

All documents should be saved in PDF format. Please note that you can only upload PDF files to the portal.

Deadline: 20.03.2026

Applications submitted through other channels or to other authorities will not be considered.

The DAAD portal closes at 24.00 hours. Central European Time (CET or CEST) on the last (deadline) 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.

CONTACT AND

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Enquiries related to the DAAD Scholarship

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COUNSELLING

DAAD Contact Person: Grettel González Altamirano

E-Mail: gonzalez@daad.de

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

Enquiries related to the general admission and the study programme at UCR Master in Atmospheric Science

Contact Person: Rodrigo Alberto Castillo

E-Mail: rodrigo.castillorodriguez@ucr.ac.cr

Enquiries related to the general admission and the study programme at UCR Master in Biology

Contact Person: Eric Fuchs

E-Mail: posgrado.biologia@ucr.ac.cr

Website: <https://biologia.ucr.ac.cr/>

Enquiries related to the general admission and the study programme at UCR Master in Hydrology

Contact Person: Rodrigo Alberto Castillo

E-Mail: rodrigo.castillorodriguez@ucr.ac.cr

Website: <https://www.sep.ucr.ac.cr/ppcat-maestrias/ppcat-maestria-hidrologia>

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