

Frequently Asked Questions about applications to the Ph.D. scholarship program “Beyond Borders”

Do I need to have the German nationality to be eligible?

No. The scholarship program “Beyond Borders” is open for all nationalities.

Do I have to move to Germany?

No, you do not have to Germany or somewhere else. You can continue your Ph.D. studies at your location.

Am I only allowed to apply if I am enrolled at a German university?

An affiliation with a German university is not necessary. “Beyond Borders” scholarships can be awarded for Ph.D. studies worldwide.

I don't have a Ph.D. position yet. Can you support me in my search?

The program “Beyond Borders” provides primarily scholarships and invites fellows to join program conferences and workshops. Ph. D. supervision, admission to Ph.D. program at the universities or individual Ph.D. positions must be arranged by the applicants themselves.

Is admission to the doctoral program necessary at the time of application?

At the time of the application the admission should be available. Exception is the application for a Start Up Scholarship.

What kind of certificate shall I upload?

Please submit a certificate that qualifies you for the Ph.D. studies. In general, it is the Master’s degree. We also accept transcripts. Please refrain from uploading all certificates of your studies.

My certificate is not available in English, German or French. Can I still submit it?

Please submit a certified translation in addition to the original certificate.

Can I apply at the beginning/final stage of my dissertation?

You can apply at any stage of your Ph.D. research. Please give information on the accomplished research steps and your timeline in the research plan requested in our online application system.

What do I have to consider for my recommendation letters?

Both recommendation letters should be uploaded directly from the supervisors or sent to us directly from your referee. We have no formal requirements concerning the letters. Please ask two persons who know you and your project well. For the Start Up applications please ask professors from your previous studies.

My supervisor can only submit a recommendation letter in a language other than English. What should I do?

The working language of the program is English and for practical reasons only documents in this language can be reviewed by all members of the selection committee. Letter submissions in other languages will be accepted, but unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that the letters can be fully taken into consideration in the reviewing processes. In order to facilitate the communication, please ask your supervisor to attach at least a working translation into English in addition to their recommendation letter.