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Transcript of Lecture:

WINNING THE DAAD DEVELOPMENT-RELATED POSTGRADUATE COURSES (EPOS) SCHOLARSHIP

Saturday, May 29th, 2021; 1730 WAT

Lecturer: Amarachi Jacinta Agu

- Best Graduating Student (BGS), Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (2017).
- National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), 2018/2019 Batch, Federal Government College, Odi, Bayelsa State.
- Graduate Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (2019 till date).
- M.Sc. (in view) DAAD Scholarship recipient, Agricultural Economics, University of Hohenheim, Germany.
- Research Interests: ensuring a sustainable food system around the globe; improving the agricultural sector to feed the ever-growing population with less impact on the climate.
- Sustainable development advocate with a focus on food security.

Moderator: Scholar Hussein

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Lecture Agenda

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Objectives Of The Development-Related Postgraduate Courses (EPOS) Scholarship

With its development-oriented postgraduate study programmes, the DAAD promotes the training of specialists from developing and newly industrialised countries.

DAAD believes that well-trained local experts, who are networked with international partners, play an important part in the sustainable development of their countries. They are the best guarantee for a better future with less poverty, more education, and health for all.

The scholarships offer foreign graduates from developing countries like Nigeria from selected disciplines and with at least two years professional experience the chance to take a postgraduate or masters degree at a state or state-recognised German university, and in exceptional cases to take a doctoral degree and to obtain a university qualification (Masters / Ph.D.) in Germany.

Duration Of The Scholarship Funding

The scholarship funding lasts for a period of 12 to 42 months, depending on the programme of study.

Value Of Scholarship Stipend

The exact value of the scholarship stipend depends on the academic level. However, the scholarship generally provides:

- Monthly payments of 861 euros for graduate students and 1200 euros for doctoral students.
- Study allowance.
- Language course allowance.
- Payments towards health, accident, and personal liability insurance cover.
- Travel allowance, unless these expenses are covered by the home country or another source of funding.
- Monthly rent subsidy.
- Monthly allowance for accompanying members of family.

List Of Masters Courses and Universities Under DAAD EPOS

Kindly check the [[Attached Documents](#)] section for the brochure, there you can find the schools, their programs and eligibility criteria.

Methods Of Application

Depending on the school, it can be by post or through the school portal. The application method is programme-specific, kindly go through the corresponding university website and programme pages and find out their modalities.

Required Application Documentation

The required documents (in the following order) are:

- Signed DAAD application form with the current date.
- Personally signed CV. Use the sample Europass form available at [<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/home>] with the current date. I find it easier to use the template in MS word format.
- Personally signed letter of motivation (with reference to current occupation and choice of the postgraduate programme, two pages maximum) with the current date. Note that you have to submit one motivation letter for each course when applying for more than one postgraduate course (maximum 3 courses).

- Letter of recommendation from your current employer. The letter must have a letterhead, signature, and official stamp and must be of the current date (not in a sealed envelope).
- Certificate(s) of employment from the employer(s) proving a minimum of two years of relevant working experience (after the bachelor's degree) at the time of application. If possible, I advise including a guarantee of re-employment from your current employer upon returning home.
- Proof of Language Skills (English – IELTS or TOEFL). Some schools accept a Letter of English Proficiency from your home institution in Nigeria in place of the above. I advise mailing the school for confirmation before commencing.
- Copies of academic degrees (certified translation if necessary).
- Copies of academic transcripts, including grading scale (certified translation if necessary).

Note that some courses may require additional documents. Please see the relevant course description in the brochure [\[Attached Documents\]](#) and the respective websites for detailed information. It is important to note that incomplete applications cannot be considered.

Application And Selection Procedure

- ❖ **Step 1:** Applicants send complete application(s) directly to the chosen postgraduate course and university.
- ❖ **Step 2:** A selection committee from the respective program you applied to recommends potential candidates for a DAAD scholarship after an interview with the nominated candidates.
- ❖ **Step 3:** DAAD will contact the suggested candidates to upload their complete application to the DAAD Portal.
- ❖ **Step 4:** The selection process will be finalized, and the suggested candidates will be informed accordingly.

Make sure that you have a copy of each document of your application ready, as those documents (as PDF files) have to be uploaded to the DAAD Portal if you are recommended for a DAAD scholarship.

If possible, send an email to the program coordinator in the school of your choice requesting the application guidelines and required documents. You can find the emails in the brochure [\[Attached Documents\]](#).

How To Write A Winning Motivation Letter

The best way is to start early by creating a draft of your motivation letter. Depending on your program of interest, it can be one page or two pages. The following steps can be followed as a rough guide:

1. Write down your interest, why you want to pursue further studies in that field.
2. Write down the basic knowledge and work experience you have in that field of study.
3. Provide some information about the following:
 - i. What will the master's program offer you?
 - ii. What will the course enrich you with?
 - iii. Why do you want to study that course in that particular school?
4. Write down your study plan and career goals.

Note that the final document should be in a letter form, signed and dated while following the guidelines outlined above.

Salient Points For Applicants Aiming To Win The Scholarship

It is key to get an early start on getting your required documents ready by checking the specific school you have chosen for their application guidelines and requirements. While some schools require you to apply by post, others require you to use their portal. Mind you everything, in DAAD EPOS is programme specific. All your documents must be signed and dated, and the recommendation letters must be stamped. Also, try to use a personalized recommendation letter and not a generic one.

Attached Documents

Development-Related Postgraduate Courses (2020/2021) Link: daad_programmbroschüre entwicklungsbezogene studiengänge.pdf	 daad_programmbroschüre_entwicklungsbe
Development-Related Postgraduate Courses (2022/2023) Link: daad_programmbroschüre entwicklungsbezogene studiengänge 22-23 web-rz.pdf	 daad_programmbroschüre_entwicklungsbe:
List of Application Deadlines Link: epos_bewerbungsdeadlines 2021-2022.pdf	 epos_bewerbungsdeadlines_2021-2022.pd

Questions & Answers

Q: Is it a must I have two years of work experience before I can win the scholarship?	A: Yes, two years of work experience is mandatory, and proof must be provided.
Q: The two years' work experience has always hindered applications for this scholarship, especially for we Nigerians who hardly get employed in relevant sectors of our discipline after graduation. Can accumulated internships and volunteering suffice for this requirement? Or must one be a full-time employee in a relevant sector for two years?	A: Yes, accumulated internships can serve, provided you will get accumulated recommendations.
Q: Can someone with a B.Sc. whose initial job is teaching apply?	A: Yes, you can apply if you have a B.Sc. Most of the time, DAAD will say they don't want teaching experience, but you can present your teaching experience as a practical job.
Q: I lost out in the previous year; how can I improve my application to win a scholarship?	A: Check if your letters are well written. I think improving your motivation letter and filling the DAAD form correctly will improve your chances.
Q: I got my B.Sc. in 2013 and M.Sc. in 2018. Am I eligible for a Ph.D. or another master's program?	A: Your B.Sc. is more than six years old already, so you should be going for a Ph.D.
Q: Can I apply with a Letter of English Proficiency obtained from my university?	A: You can inquire from the school of interest if that is acceptable. Some schools are strict with the IELTS or TOEFL requirement.
Q: Is there an interview session or just the submission of documents?	A: Yes, there will be an interview if your school nominates you.
Q: Is there any quota for awarding scholarships by region/country?	A: I am not aware of such quotas. The schools screen the applications they receive and make their choices.
Q: Is there a specific format for the recommendation letter? If yes, can you share it?	A: The format is the same recommendation letter format we all know. The difference is just that this one must be stamped, dated, and signed.