



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

DOCTORAL PROGRAM
IN BUDDHIST STUDIES



PhD-scholarships 2024 (DAAD Graduate School Scholarships Program (GSSP))

The Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany offers two PhD scholarships for dissertation projects related to Buddhism.

Deadline for applications: October 25th, 2023

Start of scholarship: Spring, summer, or autumn 2024

Duration of scholarship: Four years¹

Scholarship amount: € 1,200 per month + insurance² + support for rent³ + € 260-460 per year (research allowance) + lump sums for travel + € 1,000 per year⁴ + family allowance⁵

Scholarship donor: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

The Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich is based on a cooperation between Asian Studies (Indology, Japanology, Sinology, Tibetology), Philosophy of Religion, and the Study of Religion and promotes and supervises PhD theses related to Buddhism within a broad range of subjects and disciplines. To strengthen the disciplinary and communicative skills of the doctoral students, the research-oriented study program is complemented by activities such as workshop organization, presenting at a conference, or teaching experience as well as by transferable skills courses. Intensive supervision by mentoring teams helps students to accomplish doctoral projects at the highest level. In addition, the integration of the doctoral candidates into interdisciplinary and international networks promotes their professional development as young scholars.

The doctoral program is launching **two scholarships for excellent PhD projects related to Buddhism** for four years beginning in spring, summer, or autumn 2024. The scholarships are provided by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

¹ The DAAD grants the scholarship for one-year periods. If the PhD project makes progress, the scholarship can be extended three times, for a total period of funding of four years.

² The DAAD offers combined insurance that comprises health insurance, accident insurance, and personal liability insurance.

³ The DAAD can offer a rent subsidy, depending on the actual rent paid by the PhD student.

⁴ A material resource and supervision allowance of currently € 1,000 per year, which is paid upon application to the host institution.

⁵ A monthly allowance for accompanying family members – about € 200 child allowance per child and about € 275 marriage allowance.

The selection process comprises two stages: Applications are sent to the Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies in Munich. The program will select promising candidates, who then have to submit their materials to the DAAD. Subsequently, the DAAD decides upon the successful candidates. It is expected that the successful candidates will be chosen and informed some time between March and May 2024.

The prerequisites for application are non-German citizenship, a Master of Arts degree or equivalent in a relevant field, excellent knowledge of at least one Buddhist source language, outstanding qualifications in the subject, and fluency in English. A basic knowledge of German is also desirable, though not a prerequisite, but depending on the dissertation project willingness to learn German/improve German language skills may be expected. Applicants must not have been resident in Germany for more than the last 15 months prior to the time of the submission of their materials to the DAAD, which will most probably take place in December or January, and they should not have graduated any longer than six years before this date.⁶ In addition, applicants must not have completed a PhD previously.

Depending on the degree of previous knowledge of German and the dissertation project, a 2-4 months intensive German language course might be necessary before the start of the 4-year scholarship (the DAAD will provide the fees for the language course, free accommodation, insurance, € 470 per month, and a travel lump sum during this period).

Research stays abroad for field work are possible, but their total duration must not exceed 25% of the duration of the scholarship, and they cannot start immediately at the beginning of the scholarship period.

Please apply using our online application portal:

<https://www.en.buddhismus-studien.uni-muenchen.de/applications/index.html>

After you have registered, you will be asked to submit the following documents:

1. Full curriculum vitae
2. A letter of motivation that demonstrates your qualification in the subject, your acquaintance with our program and your willingness to join our activities.
3. An outline of the planned dissertation project including a schedule (no more than 3000 words, including references)

⁶ In rare cases, exceptions might be made due to pregnancy and childbirth, the care of children up to the age of 12 (maximum of three years per child), the care of care-dependent relatives, disability or chronic illness, compulsory military service, or, if applicable, other circumstances. The DAAD reserves the right to ask you to submit appropriate supporting documents.

4. A short schedule/ working plan of your planned research stays/field trips abroad (when, where, what, how long) (if applicable)
 5. A digital version of your M.A. thesis
 6. Contact details of two university professors from your home university who are willing to write a report about you. Once you have filled in the information about these professors (referees) and saved it, they will receive an email from the application portal asking them to write a report about you and to upload it onto the portal by November 1st, 2023. The referees will be asked, for example, to give information about the preparation, feasibility, and relevance of your dissertation project and about the significance of the desired scholarship to your academic or professional career.
 7. Certificates:
 - a. School leaving certificate qualifying you for admission to higher education in your own country
 - b. Certificates of annual examinations taken at the home university (transcripts of records) (including an explanation of the grading system)
 - c. Certificates of any academic degrees or advanced qualifications showing grades and explaining the grading system (description of grade scale).
- The essential parts of all university certificates and diplomas in languages other than German or English should be translated.
- Certified copies of all translated documents must be submitted to DAAD only after a letter of award has been received.
8. Document certifying fluency in English or German.
 9. Document certifying excellent knowledge of at least one Buddhist source language.
 10. List of publications, if any.

Please make sure to submit all documents mentioned in this list.

The documents can be submitted in either English or German.

For further information, please read our homepage:

<https://www.en.buddhismus-studien.uni-muenchen.de/index.html>

If you have any questions concerning our program or with regard to the scholarship, please do not hesitate to contact us at: buddhist-studies@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.