
Call for Applications: *ABCD Future Environmental Leaders Scholarships 2021-2022*

Awarded by the DAAD-funded
“Global Water and Climate Adaptation Centre –
Aachen, Bangkok, Chennai, Dresden (ABCD-
Centre)”

For Doctoral Students from the Global South

I. What is the Global Water and Climate Adaptation Centre – Aachen, Bangkok, Chennai, Dresden (ABCD-Centre)?

With the new ABCD-Centre, the project partners RWTH Aachen University, Asian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, United Nations University – Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES) and Technische Universität Dresden are joining forces in an effort to address the global challenge of water security and climate change adaptation in a systematic manner.

The ABCD-Centre is engaged in three intertwined research clusters:

- Cluster I covers “*Water Security, Water Resources Management, Secure Water Supply and Water Treatment*”
- Cluster II works on “*Ecosystem Resilience and Nature-Based Adaptation Measures*”
- Cluster III deals with “*Transfer Strategies for Climate Adaptation: Traditional Knowledge, Local Economies and Societal Acceptance*”.

A key objective of the ABCD-Centre is the scientific training of future environmental leaders, who will enable the transfer of research into practice. It is in this context that the ABCD-Centre awards the ***ABCD Future Environmental Leaders Scholarships*** to doctoral students from the Global South to conduct research stays at RWTH Aachen University, at TU Dresden or at UNU FLORES.

II. Current opportunity: Two *ABCD Future Environmental Leaders Scholarships* 2021-2022

The ABCD-Centre currently accepts applications for two scholarships for a duration of up to 12 months for doctoral students from the Global South who will later transfer their research findings into practice. Specifically, a research stay at RWTH Aachen University or at TU Dresden or at UNU FLORES is funded from October 1st, 2021 until September 30th, 2022. In line with the funding rules and regulations of the DAAD, it is possible to start the scholarship in a **virtual manner** in case a physical start in Germany is not possible due to the global Corona pandemic. To allow for this, each case has to be considered individually in view of the circumstances that make a physical stay impossible.

The thematic focus of the current call is “**Urban Water Security**”. Specifically, applications related to the following two thematic fields are requested:

- **Project a) “Urban water security in South Asia or Southeast Asia from an engineering perspective”**
- **Project b) “Assessment of urban water security in South Asia or Southeast Asia from a Resource-Nexus perspective”**

Who can apply?

Doctoral students from the Global South¹ who are in the first half of their doctoral project, whereas the start of the doctorate should not be more than three years ago.

The so-called **sandwich model** applies, i.e. the first year of the doctoral project is typically spent at the home institution in the Global South, the second year is spent in Germany, and the third year is spent at the home institution again, where the doctoral degree is finally awarded.

Graphic: ‘Sandwich structure’ of *ABCD Future Environmental Leaders Scholarships*



¹ List of eligible countries, see this link: <https://www2.daad.de/downloads/foerderprogramm/file.php?id=6298>

III. What do the *ABCD Future Environmental Leaders Scholarships* entail?

The scholarship usually consists of a mobility component, a component for accommodation and living expenses and a component for insurances. Possible are:

- a monthly amount for accommodation and living expenses: max. 1.200 €;
- a monthly amount for insurances: max. 105 €;
- a one-time amount for travel expenses: max. 1.000 €;

In addition, equipment for the implementation of the research project can be funded up to an amount of 5.000 €.

IV. Application process

Please send your application with the documents mentioned below in **one pdf file** to:

abcd-centre@tu-dresden.de

Application deadline: September 1st, 2021.

Period of funding for a research stay in Germany: October 1st, 2021 – September 30th, 2022.

At the time of the application, the supervisor at the (sending) home university, at the (receiving) German university (either Technische Universität Dresden or RWTH Aachen University or UNU-FLORES) and the doctoral student have to agree on:

- a specific research topic in line with the topic of the current call;
- a detailed timeline;
- the modalities of supervision in the form of a **supervision agreement**. This agreement has to be signed by the (sending) supervising senior scientist in the home country, by the (receiving) supervising senior scientist in Germany and by the doctoral student.

Furthermore, the applicant has to submit:

- Description of research project, including a timetable for the research stay of 4-6 pages;
- Personal motivation for a research stay of 2-3 pages;
- Example of a written scientific paper;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- Recent letter of recommendation from the home university for the specific research project;
- Enrolment certificate and current transcript of records (not older than six months) from the home university;
- Passport copy;
- Statement on the ability to work remotely (online) in the home country due to the hybrid character of the scholarship.

V. Selection process

The ABCD-Centre normally announces a positive selection result within two weeks after the application deadline. Please refrain from inquiries until then.

- The selection is based on merit. A very good academic record and a high personal motivation of the doctoral student are required.
- The ABCD-Centre advocates equal opportunities and diversity.
- Preference is given to doctoral students who plan to spend the maximum period of 12 months at a German partner institution.
- Preference is given to doctoral students who are willing to contribute to the ABCD-Centre's outreach agenda and are interested in translating their research findings into policy papers.
- Very good English skills, communication skills and the ability to live and do research in Germany are required.

VI. Important information

- Please plan enough time to obtain a visa after you received the result.
- A mandatory scholarship and experience report (3-4 pages) has to be handed in at the latest 3 months before the end of the scholarship.
- The rules and regulations by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Federal Foreign Office under the programme "*Global Centres for Climate and Environment as well as for Health and Pandemic Prevention*" as well as of the host institutions apply.

Contact: abcd-centre@tu-dresden.de

The project is funded by the DAAD with funds from the German Federal Foreign Office.

funded by:



Federal Foreign Office



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

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