



SMUS

Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability
Prof. Nina Baur | Prof. Angela Million

GCSMUS Directors, Steering Committee Members, and Action Speakers
TU Berlin | Dep. Sociology (IfS) | Dep. Urban & Regional Planning (ISR)

Call for Applications

SMUS Action 3: Post-Doctoral Research

Action 3 Step 3 – Evaluate: SMUS Post-Doctoral and Researcher Scholarships

Application Deadline: Wednesday 31 May 2023

This SMUS call is funded by DAAD with funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ)

Post-doctoral and international research collaborations

Given the diversity and inherent complexity of the themes contained within the targets of the SDG #11, which are underlain by as well as directly concerned with “the urban”, conceiving academic work and conducting research turns out to be pivotal to enable the critical evaluation of the numerous challenges encountered throughout the various world regions when it comes to furthering urban sustainability.

On such account, turning the respective methodological skills into practice, developing and mapping frameworks for cross-cultural and socioeconomic perspectives about urban spaces should provide the basis for:

- evolving comparative studies across developing countries;
- deriving common principles of urban space usage and management and;
- understanding the intricacies of contextual knowledge.

To that end, career development for qualified personnel is essential for constructing a sound footing and common ground and establishing long-term cooperation between partners on equal terms.

Against this backdrop, in SMUS Action 3 Step 3, a second round of **Post-Doctoral and Researcher Scholarships** are offered for post-doctoral researchers at different stages of career development. While the scholarships will be awarded in 2023, scholarship recipients will only begin activities between **1 January and 31 October 2024** (see Timeline below). More specifically, the scholarships are aimed at enabling a minimum of 3 post-doctoral researchers (Track A) and a minimum of 3 advanced researchers/junior professors/lecturers (Track B) from partner



1



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universities to complete a research stay at a SMUS partner university of their choice. The list of SMUS partner universities can be found here: <https://gcsmus.org/global-network>.

To encourage knowledge transfer and the transition towards scientific-academic autonomy, both south-to-south and south-to-north collaborations are strongly encouraged. Moreover, **the scholarship will only be awarded to applicants who plan to submit their research proposal to a research grant institution.**

This call is open to all researchers in the SMUS partners network and pursues the promotion of innovative ideas for research on urban sustainability, spatial research methods, and their (potential) practical/professional applications. **The ultimate outcome of the research stay is the writing and submitting of a proposal to become the recipient of a grant-in-aid located within the European Union or any other SMUS partner country.** For potential grants in Germany, check the DAAD research base: <https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/21148-scholarship-database/>.

Important facts:

- The earliest possible start date of the scholarships is: **1 January 2024.**
- The duration of the scholarship is: **a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 months.**
- The latest completion date for all scholarships is: **31 October 2024.**
- Expected outcomes/deliverables: **A completed and submitted grant proposal** to a recognised grant giving body + **A report in the form of a reflexive exercise** on the experience of completing the research stay at the respective SMUS partner university.
- The host institution of scholarship holders: any **SMUS partner university** (including TU Berlin).

Eligibility

This call is only open to all SMUS partner institutions and their research scholars. There are two tracks.

Track A

Track A is focused on young academics at an early stage of their academic career (that is, at the post-doctoral phase). To qualify for this track, your doctoral dissertation should not be, upon submission of your application, any older than 2 years. (Allowances will be given for childcaring responsibilities, please refer to the Google application form for more information).

Track B

Track B is focused on advanced researchers/junior professors/lecturers that want to engage in south-to-south or south-to-north research collaborations.



Financing

The scholarship includes:

- A flight to your host university.
- **Track A:** A monthly scholarship of €1.200 for post-doctoral researchers to cover accommodation, local travel and living expenses.
- **Track B:** A monthly scholarship of €2.000 for south-to-south exchange or €2.150 for south-to-north exchange for advanced researchers/junior professors/lecturers to cover accommodation, local travel and living expenses.
- A monthly financial support for covering health insurance of up to 145 €.
- A sum of up to €150 for visa fees, Covid-19 necessary vaccinations and tests and international money transfer. Please note that, according to DAAD regulations, receipts/invoices of these expenses must be provided for them to be reimbursed.

The scholarship is meant to cover living expenses and thereby allow working **full time on writing the grant proposal**. Please note: Additional income during the scholarship period has to be reported to TUB. Any additional earnings of more than €450 per month will be deducted from the scholarship.

Deadline for Application

Wednesday 31 May 2023 at 23:59 (Berlin time). Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Timeline

Review process	June 2023
Meeting of the academic selection committee	June–July 2023
Notification of scholarship holders	July 2023
Earliest start of scholarship	1 January 2024
Latest end of the scholarship	31 October 2024

Application Procedure

Applications should be sent as **one single .pdf file** to: raffaella.reinboth@tu-berlin.de. Furthermore, all applications must be prepared in the English language and include the following documents:

1. The filled SMUS Google Application Form: Please complete the form by **Wednesday 31 May 2023 23:59 (Berlin time)** at the latest. The link to the form is the following: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRel95U-wbpjcxIRvRlXm5tFIIT_yrON0Cnujav0ywTWnIkA/viewform?usp=sf_link. The information



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indicated in the form may be updated at anytime until the given deadline. Moreover, to complete the form, it is not necessary to have a google email address.

2. Your CV with academic and professional achievements.
3. List of your publications.
4. A draft of the research proposal indicating topic(s) related to the targets of the SDG #11 as well as two potential grant givers (max. 1000 words, excl. references).
5. **For Track A:** Copies and transcripts of your doctoral degree.
6. **For Track B:** Copies and transcripts of your doctoral degree AND proof of your advanced researcher, lecturer or professor status.
7. A scan of the information page in your passport.
8. A signed Letter of Invitation from the hosting SMUS institution. **Do not apply without a letter of invitation of a host institution!** The letter of invitation should include the following details:
 - a. The name of the person that is willing to be your mentor, or collaboration partner during your research stay;
 - b. A brief description of the host's interest in the applicant's project topic;
 - c. A declaration from the host that they will provide you with the necessary infrastructure to prepare the research grant. This includes a desk/working area, library access and other and access to other potential resources. **Please note: A so-called "desk fee" is not covered by the scholarship.**
9. The completed and signed **SMUS Post-Doc Scholarship Application Checklist**.

Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered!

Non-discriminatory Selection Processes and Promoting Underprivileged Groups, Scholars from Different Disciplines and World Regions

Consideration is given to the thematic and professional spectrum of different disciplines and to the representation of the world regions within the SMUS partners network. SMUS follows the non-discriminatory selection processes of DAAD (see DAAD Selection of scholarship holders within the "In-Country/ In-Region Scholarship Programme" March 2020, p. 5):

DAAD's goal is to continuously increase the participation of less represented (social) groups in our programmes, as we are convinced that diversity and inclusion characterise universities that are particularly high performing. The scholarship programme therefore aims to increase the participation of less strongly represented target groups and the diversity of scholarship holders. For this very reason it is particularly important that the selection processes are carried out without discrimination. Particular care must be taken not to disadvantage applicants with disabilities, chronic illnesses, or other social aspects of disadvantage. The applicants have the possibility – if they wish – to provide information in the application form about disadvantages they have suffered during their studies or in their research due to their disability, chronic illness or other disadvantage (e.g. longer duration of studies due to disability or childcare, necessity to work, etc.). (...)



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In the context of gender equality, we would like to point out that DAAD gives preference to female applicants if they are equally qualified.

To adhere to and promote the non-discriminatory DAAD selection of the scholarship holders procedure, SMUS will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion in awarding the scholarships. We will include candidates of different career stages from diverse world regions, social and economic backgrounds, and a range of social sciences, engineering, architecture and planning disciplines.