Bayer Foundation Scientific Fellowships

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Critical: Please read all aspects including the FAQ in detail. If your application does not meet the requirements & conditions, or your application does not fulfill the restrictions on funding or timing, your application will unfortunately be rejected before being considered by the jury.
General Considerations

1) Purpose of Fellowship

Bayer Foundation Fellowships are designed to enhance existing study programs (MSc, PhD, and medicine) by providing additional funding for international placements or research activities, that are complimentary to current or future scientific studies.

- Non-Germany based students must undertake fellowships within Germany.
- Germany based students must undertake placements outside of Germany.

2) General eligibility

See specific fellowships for additional criteria:

- For **Otto Bayer Fellowships in Drug Discovery**: Applicants must currently be studying for an MSc or PhD (or equivalent) in natural science, pharmacy, or data science.
  Bachelor students and postdoctoral researchers are not eligible.

- For **Jeff Schell Fellowships for Agricultural Science**: Applicants must currently be studying for an MSc or PhD (or equivalent) in natural science or data science.
  Bachelor students and postdoctoral researchers are not eligible.

- For **Carl Duisburg Fellowships for Medical Sciences**: Applicants must be studying human or veterinary medicine or for an MSc or PhD (or equivalent) in medical engineering, applied medical sciences, public health, or data science in medicine.
  Bachelor students and postdoctoral researchers in medical engineering, applied medical science, public health and data science and are not eligible.

3) Application process

- Applications must be made in English.
- Applications must be made using the online application portal – applications via email, letter etc. will not be considered.
- Incorrect, incomplete, or out of scope applications will not be considered.
- Applicants should apply only once per call. Multiple applications will result in all submissions being rejected.

**Important note:**

- If your application is suitable for both the Otto Bayer Fellowships in Drug Discovery and the Jeff Schell Fellowships in Agriculture Science e.g. synthetic chemistry, please select “Otto Bayer & Jeff Schell” in the application form. Your application will be considered in both categories.
4) Evaluation process and criteria

- An initial screen of applications will be made by the Bayer Foundation to ensure applications are complete and basic criteria for applications are met.
- Applications will then be evaluated and ranked by an independent jury of scientists

Primary criteria for evaluation include:

- Fundamental quality and relevance of the application (based on our guidelines and questions)
- Motivation and potential of the applicant
- Value of the fellowship to the applicant

Additional criteria:

- Collaborative and/or interdisciplinary proposals are highly desirable

5) Important dates relating to the application and fellowships

- Applications can be submitted between Feb 28th 2022 and April 25th 2022
- Applicants will be notified on the outcome of their fellowship application by 6th June 2022
- For contracts completed & returned without error before 17th June 2022 funds will be transferred from our accounts on 1st July 2022. All remaining funds will be transferred before 31st July 2021.
- Fellowships must commence between 1st July 2022 and 30th June 2023

6) Funding and fellowship duration

- The maximum funding for a single fellowship is 10,000 €.
- Bayer Foundation Fellowships can be combined with any other funding or fellowship source.
- Funding can be used for activities for up to a maximum of six month

7) Other

We regret that we cannot provide administrative support regarding arrangements of language courses, visas, administration, housing, or travel. These and all related practical aspects are to be arranged by the applicant and/or the host institution.
Fellowships

For all fellowships, applicants should demonstrate:
- A scientifically innovative and ambitious mindset
- Understanding of the relevance of their work to the associated industries
- Awareness of the potential societal implications and response to their research

Otto Bayer Fellowships in Drug Discovery

- Please read the general considerations 1-7 before applying to this fellowship.
- For students from all fields of natural science, pharmacy, and data science with fundamental or applied studies with relevance to the pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare (over-the-counter OTC) industries.
- Students of medicine and applied medical sciences should apply for the Carl Duisburg Fellowships for Medical Sciences.

We strongly encourage:
- Interdisciplinary and/or collaborative research projects
- Projects that contribute to the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda defined by the United Nations

Jeff Schell Fellowships for Agricultural Science

- Please read the general considerations 1-7 before applying to this fellowship.
- For students from all fields of natural science and data science with fundamental or applied studies with relevance to the Crop Science industry.

We strongly encourage:
- Interdisciplinary &/or collaborative research projects
- Projects that contribute to the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda defined by the United Nations

Carl Duisburg Fellowships for Medical Sciences

- Please read the general considerations 1-7 before applying to this fellowship
- For students in the fields of human and veterinary medicine, medical engineering, applied medical sciences and public health. Applications of data science in medicine are eligible.

We strongly encourage:
- Interdisciplinary &/or collaborative research projects
- Projects that contribute to the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda defined by the United Nations

We encourage:
- Projects specifically relevant for health in developing nations
- Projects relating to the treatment of rare or orphan disease
- Projects relating to the development of cell and gene therapies
Specific requirements and conditions

Requirements for application

- Very good to excellent bachelor and/or master studies in a scientific discipline or very good to excellent medical studies up to the current date.
- Currently studying a MSc, PhD, medical degree or equivalent.
- Two letters of recommendation from home institute(s) including current and/or previous direct supervisors.
- A letter from the host institute confirming acceptance and support of applicant undertaking placement.
- Fellowship applications can be for up to 10,000 € and for a maximum duration of up to six months

Students who will have completed their doctoral studies (defense of thesis) prior to the conclusion of the proposed fellowship are not eligible.

Bayer Foundation fellowships can be used for:

- Compulsory aspects of study programs (e.g. Master’s thesis, clinical rotations etc.) to be undertaken abroad
- Additional (non-compulsory) research stays abroad as part of master, doctoral (PhD), or medical studies
- Research stays abroad to learn specific scientific skills and techniques relevant for current research programs
- Internships between master and PhD studies
- Research stays/use of specialist facilities for activities which cannot be performed at the home institution, e.g. specialist hospitals, use of cyclotrons, radio-facilities, specific microscopes and related.
- Interdisciplinary research stays are permitted and encouraged e.g. a microbiologist to study systems biology, synthetic chemist to study chemical biology.

Use of funds

Fellowship money can be used for the following:
Travel costs; visa costs; living costs; exceptional project costs e.g. machine time at specialist institutes, specialist training for field studies; costs that are essential to ensure the project can be undertaken.

Exceptional project costs must be justified and will be assessed by the Bayer Foundation on a case-by-case basis. Please see the FAQ for more information.

Fellowship money cannot be used for the following:
Lab consumables or equipment; laptops, tablets or similar; conferences, workshops or similar; costs for writing papers, books, reviews or similar; guest lectures, visiting professorships or similar; course fees e.g. fees for studies in a foreign country.
Applicants with disabilities & chronic illness

At Bayer Foundation, we are striving to ensure more equitable access to our programs. Please contact us directly @bayerfoundation should you wish to apply for one of our fellowships yet would require additional funding to enable you to complete this program.

Please note, we do not offer special scholarships for those with disabilities or chronic illness. Applicants will be considered alongside all others and be considered by our jury primarily on professional/academic criteria.
FAQ

Where can I find more information on fellowships?

The main resource in addition to these guidelines & FAQ is our website: bayer-foundation.com (to be updated with specific link for updated website).

Which subject areas are supported?

This is dependent on which fellowship you are applying for though in general: all areas of natural science & data science with relevance to pharmaceutical, consumer healthcare (over-the-counter OTC) & crop science industries; pharmacy; human & veterinary medicine; applied medical sciences; medical engineering & public health.

Examples include but are not limited to: plant physiology, bio-physics, machine learning, organic chemistry, process engineering, drug formulation technology, data science, digital farming, genetics, chemical engineering, molecular & cell biology, synthetic chemistry, chemical biology, supramolecular chemistry, pharmacology, agricultural engineering, etymology & plant pathology, crop science, biochemistry, bio-informatics, bio-markers, microbiology, mathematics, statistics, physical organic chemistry.

What are the additional benefits/activities of the Bayer Foundation Fellowship Program?

All awardees will be invited to be active members of the Bayer Foundation Science Network. This will include events specifically for each cohort i.e. events for all awardees in a given year. Additional activities for all early career scientists within our network e.g. careers events; invitations to present work; science communication may also be provided. Should you choose to remain actively involved in the network, you will be extended life-time membership.

There have been changes to my fellowship since I submitted my application, what should I do?

Please contact us as soon as possible.

Minor changes (e.g. to the research topic or timing of fellowship) are typically acceptable, though as selection for the fellowship is based primarily on the proposal, reference letters and invitation from the host major changes will typically not be accepted and funding will be withdrawn.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered. Examples include but are not limited to: host professor changes institution; proposed research topic is no longer valid (explanation & proposed alternative must be supplied; illness; COVID related challenges.
I am already abroad/doing my research project/have completed my project – can I apply for funding for the time left or retrospective funding?
Unfortunately, no.

Can I combine funding from Bayer Foundation with other funding sources?
Yes, though please check the restrictions on other funding sources. Bayer Foundation funding can only be used to finance aspects for which no other funding source is available. For example, if an internship is paid, then it is not permitted to apply for general living costs from the Bayer Foundation.

My proposed activity is for longer than 6 months, can I still apply for a Bayer Foundation Fellowship?
Yes, but you are only eligible for funding for six months and your application must reflect this. Please use the dates for which you are applying for funding in your application not the full length of the placement.

Can I apply for a Bayer Foundation fellowship if I receive payment (e.g. stipend/salary) for my proposed internship/research stay?
Yes, but you cannot apply for general living costs. In this instance the application could cover additional cost such as flights or visas.

What can I use the funds for?
Fellowship money can be used for the following:
Travel costs; visa costs; living costs; exceptional project costs e.g. machine time at specialist institutes, specialist training for field studies; costs that are essential to ensure the project can be undertaken.

Fellowship money cannot be used for the following:
Lab consumables or equipment; laptops, tablets or similar; conferences, workshops or similar; costs for writing papers, books, reviews or similar; guest lectures, visiting professorships or similar; course fees e.g. fees for studies in a foreign country.

What constitutes exceptional project costs in a request for funding?
Applications will be considered on a case-by-case funding

Examples could include:

- Support for fellowships being undertaken in low- or middle-income countries in which additional funds are essential for completion of the fellowship.
- Training to enable field studies to be undertaken.
- Costs for machine time at specialist institutes.

How much funding can be utilized for exceptional costs?
A maximum of 2,500 €
Is there a separate fund from which we can apply for funding for consumables, lab equipment or similar?

Unfortunately, no.

What kind of documentation is required in terms of the proposed use of funds?

In the application, we require a proposal for approximate costs. We expect that proposals are reasonable and only to cover costs that are essential for your proposed activity.

Please by aware that proof of costs must be made available on requests e.g. travel bookings, housing contracts and utility bills.

Exceptional costs are likely to require additional documentation.

What do you consider as “reasonable” costs?

As a guideline:

- We expect travel costs to be based on economy travel and booked in advance.
- We expect accommodation costs to reflect that of a typical student in the area the placement is taking place i.e. shared apartments, small studios or similar. Do not use hotel costs, Air B ’n’ B or business travel costings as a guide.
- For daily living costs, these should reflect the standard of living you are used to at your home institute i.e. primarily eating at home, traveling on public transport, economic use of utilities & phone. Do not use business travel costings as a guide.

Approximate monthly living costs for European countries

Please note, we understand that this will vary depending on the city/area in which the application takes place, and this is simply a guide to orientate applicants in the relative costs of a given country.

Germany, France, Austria, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Belgium 1000€ per month

Sweden, UK, Finland 1150€ per month

Denmark, Ireland, Norway 1300€ per month

Switzerland 1450€ per month