

Bayer Foundation Scientific Fellowships – Guidelines

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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.

- Students who are enrolled outside of Germany **must** undertake placement within Germany.
- Students who are enrolled at a German university **must** undertake placements outside of Germany.
- Fellowships **cannot** be undertaken at commercial organizations (i.e. in industry).

2) General eligibility

See specific fellowships for additional criteria:

- For **Otto Bayer Fellowships for Drug Discovery Sciences**: 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 Sciences**: 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 Duisberg 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 in medicine are **not eligible**.

3) Application process

- Applications must be made in **English**.
- All documents must be uploaded in **English**. (see page 6)
- 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 for Drug Discovery Sciences and the Jeff Schell Fellowships in Agriculture Sciences 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 they are complete and the criteria for application are fulfilled.
- 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 **February 12th, 2024 and April 8th, 2024** (the application portal closes on April 9th)
- Applicants will be notified on the outcome of their fellowship application by **June 24th, 2024**
- For contracts completed & returned without error before **July 5th, 2024** funds will be transferred from our accounts on **July 22nd, 2024**
- All remaining funds will be transferred before **August 14th, 2024**
- Fellowships must commence between **July 22nd, 2024 and June 30th, 2025**

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 up to **a maximum of six months** in duration

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 for Drug Discovery Sciences

- **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 Duisberg 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 Sciences

- **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 and/or collaborative research projects
- Projects that contribute to the goals of the [Sustainable Development Agenda](#) defined by the United Nations

Carl Duisberg 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 and/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.
- 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. (We request evidence of the PhD offer in this case.)
- 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 funding 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 funding 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 information/documents are needed?

In addition to the short form questions (personal data, CV, host institute experience etc.), for completing the application you will need to include the following key information. Each answer is limited to a maximum of 1750 characters (approximately 300 words)

- Project description including its relevance to the advancement of your field and/or associated industry.
- Description of the potential relevance and impact of your project on society (including the UN sustainability goals if relevant) and the potential societal response to your work.
- Personal statement including motivation for the application, personal and professional aspirations, and any additional relevant information.
- If relevant, an explanation on the collaborative nature of your fellowship. *Definition: Your project is a collaboration between your host & your home institute i.e., researchers from both groups would be listed on potential publications.*
- If relevant, an explanation on the interdisciplinary nature of your fellowship. *Definition: You will personally be working outside your own core area of expertise (e.g. data scientist doing lab work; organic chemist doing molecular biology).*
- If relevant, an explanation on the collaborative nature of your project. *Definition: More than one research group is working on this project i.e., multiple academics or research organizations would be listed on potential publications.*
- If relevant, an explanation on the interdisciplinary nature of your project. *Definition: The project brings together distinct scientific disciplines to achieve its goals.*
- If relevant, a detailed justification of requests for exceptional costs, e.g., machine time at specialist institutes, specialist training for field studies. **We suggest consulting with your host to answer this question.** This should include a justification of the exceptional costs, why they are not covered by the host organization, and why these costs are essential to the program. Please also include a detailed breakdown of the costs (as mentioned above: maximum 1750 characters, approx. 300 words).
- If relevant, an explanation of additional funding or payments you receive. If this funding cannot be used to cover any of the fellowship costs, this must be justified appropriately.

For completing the application, you will need the following key documents (in English):

- **A budget proposal** including a breakdown of all costs e.g., travel; rent; exceptional costs etc.
- **Two letters of recommendation** including one from a current and/or previous direct supervisor at your home institute.
- **A letter from the host institute** confirming acceptance and support of applicant undertaking placement.
- **Certificates for any completed studies** e.g., bachelor's degree/master/medical degree
- **Transcripts (exam marks and similar)** for studies up to the current date

Applicants with disabilities & chronic illness

At Bayer Foundation, we are striving to ensure more equitable access to our programs. Please contact us directly at bayer.foundation@bayer.com 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 fellowships 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 [here](#).

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 fellowship awardees are invited to join and actively contribute to our Bayer Foundation Science Network. This will include scientific events such as lectures, award celebrations with renowned researchers and networking events.

Can I use the funding to undertake internships in industry?

Unfortunately, not. Internships cannot be undertaken in commercial organizations.

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. Please include additional income/funding sources in your budget planning.

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. Please include additional income/funding sources in your budget planning.

What can I use the funds for?

Fellowship funding 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 funding 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 €. The maximum fellowship **including** the exceptional costs is 10,000 €.

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 be 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

Living costs are the expenses that arise in the course of leading a normal life, e.g. for accommodation, food.

- Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Finland, Norway 1000 € per month
- France, Austria, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark 1200 € per month
- UK, Ireland, Switzerland 1400 € per month

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.

Examples of budgets

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND CHECKING YOUR BUDGET WITH YOUR HOST INSTITUTE BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.

These budget plans are **only** a guide. Individual costs and specific expenses will vary depending on the application. Please include all relevant costs for **your application**.

Please provide all **final costs in euros and indicate exchange rate** used for conversion as appropriate.

Please be aware that Bayer Foundation funding can only be used to finance aspects for which no other funding source/salary is available. For example, if an internship is paid, then it is not permitted to apply for general living costs from the Bayer Foundation. In this instance the application could cover additional cost such as flights or visas. **Please include additional income/funding sources in your budget planning.**

Example budget plans for internships

*The items marked with * vary and must be adjusted for the respective country of origin and destination city.*

Example 1: Lokaja, Nigeria to Münster, Germany (6 month stay)

Expense type	Description	Amount for 6 months (€)
Airfare*	Return economy flight: Abuja (Nigeria) – Frankfurt (Germany)	1500
Travel to/from airport*	Lokaja – Abuja 25 € Private car Frankfurt – Münster 50 € Train Abuja – Lokoja 25 € Private car Münster - Frankfurt 50 € Train	150
Local transportation costs in Germany	Monthly ticket 49€ per month	294
Visa costs*	Application 75 € Travel* Lokaja – Abuja and back 40 € via private car	115
Housing/rent inc. utilities (e.g. electricity, water etc.)* (For city-specific prices in Germany in 2023 have a look on the table here.)	Student accommodation estimated at 480 € per month shared apartment in Münster	2880
Internet	20 € per month	120
Phone	20 € per month	120
Food	220 € per month	1320
Health Insurance	125 €	750
Total		7249 €

Example 2: Düsseldorf, Germany to Sao Paulo, Brazil (6 month stay)

Expense type	Description	Amount for 6 months (€)
Airfare*	Return economy flight: Frankfurt (Germany) – Sao Paolo (Brazil)	1000
Travel to/from airport*	Düsseldorf – Frankfurt Airport via train 50 € Sao Paulo Airport – Sao Paolo City via public transport 10 € Sao Paolo City – Sao Paolo Airport via public transport 10 € Frankfurt Airport -Düsseldorf via train 50 €	120
Local transportation costs in Brazil*	Monthly ticket Sao Paulo 50 € per month	300
Visa costs*	Application 170 € Travel* Düsseldorf – Frankfurt and back 40 € via train	210
Housing/rent inc. utilities (e.g. electricity, water etc.)*	Student accommodation estimated 500 € per month	3000
Internet	10 € per month	60
Phone	10 € per month	60
Food	200 € per month	1200
Health Insurance	60 € per month	360
Total		6310 €

Example 3: Düsseldorf, Germany to Boston, USA (4 month stay)

Expense type	Description	Amount for 4 months (€)
Airfare*	Return economy flight: Frankfurt (Germany) – Boston (USA)	600
Travel to/from airport*	Düsseldorf – Frankfurt 50 € Train Boston – Cambridge return U Bahn 12 € Frankfurt – Düsseldorf 50 € Train	112
Local transportation costs*	Monthly ticket 90 € per month	360
Visa costs*	Application 176 € SEVIS fee 324 € Travel* Düsseldorf – Frankfurt and back 40 € via train	540
Housing/rent*	Student studio 1400 € per month inc. internet	5600
Utilities (e.g. electricity, water etc.)*	Estimated 130 € per month	520
Phone	20 € per month	80
Food	400 € per month	1600
Health Insurance	60 € per month	240
Total		9652 €

Additional guidelines for international students coming to Germany

Please note that any suggestions or guidance can be subject to change regarding accuracy, completeness or suitability for your specific fellowship. Please seek for appropriate accounting, legal or other professional advice to address specific facts and circumstances.

Please check any policy documents, contracts, financial regulatory protections etc. in relation to any banking or insurance organizations you use and that they are meeting your individual needs.

Budget Planning

We strongly recommend getting support from your host university and supervisor in reviewing your budget. Please specifically request up to date information on accommodation costs including deposit/caution and availability.

Costs in Germany have increased significantly since the pandemic, and specific cities have seen particularly high increases in accommodation costs.

If in doubt about your financial planning, ***we strongly recommend undertaking a slightly shorter fellowship*** e.g. 5 months instead of 6 to make sure your fellowship is financially viable.

Money Transfers

Please note, that you will receive your fellowship **funding in Euros** to avoid ancillary costs. The converted amount is always based on the current exchange rate of the day of the transfer. We will share some suggestions regarding the bank accounts, international money transfers and alternative solutions with you after the funding approval.

Health Insurance

You will need health insurance. Please consider the International Healthcare Company though please check if it fulfils your needs. We believe it is good value and comprehensive for short stays in Germany.

<https://ihc-company.eu/wp/ishcp-scholarship-holders/>.