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DEADLINES

TWAS-DFG Cooperation Visits Programme - SSA

Postdoctoral researchers from sub-Saharan Africa, can go on a 'Cooperation Visit' lasting in Germany.

<div style="border-left: 3px solid blue; padding-left: 10px;"> <p>Deadline</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">15 April 2026</p> </div>	<p>Partner Organizations</p> <p>German Research Foundation</p>	<p>Host countries</p> <p>Germany</p> <p>Eligible nationality</p> <p>Any country</p> <p>Minimum degree held</p> <p>PhD</p> <p>Duration</p> <p>3 months</p>
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APPLICATIONS CAN ONLY BE SUBMITTED VIA THE ONLINE PORTAL- PLEASE USE THE "APPLY NOW" BUTTON AT THE BOTTOM OF THE APPLICATION.

The TWAS-DFG Cooperation Visits Programme provides postdoctoral researchers living and working in sub-Saharan Africa a month 'Cooperation Visit' to a research institute in Germany. Such visits must be undertaken within 12 months of the award.

The aim of the visit is to initiate research collaboration between African and German scientists with the ultimate goal of doing so through other Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, or German Research Foundation) programmes. DFG will cover travel costs for the stay in Germany. The administration and financial operation of TWAS is undertaken by UNESCO in accordance with the host organizations.

Deadline: 15 April 2026

Eligibility

- Applicants need to hold a PhD obtained not earlier than 2021; however, for female applicants the year limit for the PhD is extended by one child, i.e. for a woman with one child the PhD year would be 2020 or later. This exception for female applicants has a maximum of six years. Therefore, the PhD of a female applicant with three or more children should not have been obtained earlier than 2018.
- At the time of submission of the proposal applicants hold a research position at an institution located in a sub-Saharan African country or MENA country.
- Applicants need to have been engaged in a science system (including graduate and postgraduate training, research, or a postdoctoral fellowship) in a sub-Saharan African country or MENA country.
- Applicants already on site in Germany are not eligible.
- Applicants with an established collaboration with the intended host are not eligible. Examples of established collaboration with the host Professor; the host Professor was previously the applicant's MSc or PhD supervisor; or other types of interactions (such as virtual meetings, including other forms of communication) prior to the planned guest visit are not sufficient.
- Previous recipients of a TWAS-DFG Cooperation Visit cannot reapply. For a second visit, the German host can apply for a second visit under the International Collaboration Programme.
- Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply.
- All academic fields will be considered.

Finding a German host

Please click [here](#) for useful information on how to identify the best German host in your field. TWAS and DFG cannot provide any assistance in identifying a German host.

Information sheet for the host institution in Germany:
https://www.dfg.de/twas_information_sheet_host_institution_germany/

Informationsblatt für die gastgebende Einrichtung in Deutschland:

- 31 MARCH 2026 ^
 Seed Grant for New African Principal I...
- 31 MARCH 2026 v
 Open Call for Inputs - United Nations ...

https://www.dfg.de/twas_infoblatt_gastgebende_einrichtung_deutschland/

Submitting your application

Applicants must complete the online application form by clicking on the 'Apply now' button at the bottom of this page. Applicants also need to upload the following documentation:

- scanned copy of your passport, even if expired (page with your name and surname);
- a recent invitation letter from a German host:
 1. - maximum two pages on the host institution's letterhead paper,
 2. - it should contain the proposed time of the visit (up to 3 months) and should refer to the proposed cooperation. **It is available in January/February 2027. Therefore, the visit can take place between February 2027 and February 2027.**
 3. - It should be made evident that the applicant and the proposed host have mutually agreed on the research proposal.
 4. - confirmation that the necessary research facilities are available;
- two reference letters from senior scientists familiar with your work. The letters need to be on headed paper and signed by the host.
- copy of the PhD certificate;
- evidence of proficiency in either English or German;
- supporting statement from the Head/Director of the applicant's home institute: it must confirm that the Head/Director agrees that the applicant will be granted leave to take up the cooperation visit in Germany if awarded.

Other information

- TWAS-DFG Cooperation Visits do not include provisions for accompanying family members.
- Applications for part-time visits will be considered ineligible.
- Successful applicants must not take up other assignments during the period of their Cooperation Visits.
- DFG shall be entitled to a repayment of all or part of any funds paid to an applicant hereunder, in the event that the applicant fails to fulfil any or all of the above conditions. The applicant agrees to pay any reasonable legal and/or collection costs.

Please be advised that applicants may apply for only one programme per calendar year in the TWAS and OWSD portfolio. Another institution in that year under the TWAS Visiting Professor programmes. One exception: the head of an institution whose expertise under the TWAS Visiting Professor programmes may still apply for another programme.

Please note that a detailed research proposal should be mutually agreed between the German host and the applicant before the application.

Contact email: exchanges@twas.org

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