

NHR Graduate School

Funding guidelines on the award of a NHR Scholarship



The NHR-Verein (NHR Association) founded the NHR Graduate School to promote qualified national and international doctoral projects in the field of high-performance computing. To support qualified national and international doctoral projects in the field of high-performance computing, the NHR-Verein awards each year up to nine scholarships for completing a Ph.D.

1. Call for application

The call for applications is published on the website of the NHR-Verein. There is no entitlement to funding.

The yearly application deadline is September 15. The application deadline can be extended. Incomplete applications and applications received after the respective application deadline cannot be considered.

2. Application requirements

Funding is available for graduates who have completed a master's degree in computer science, mathematics, natural sciences, engineering, or another discipline related to HPC by December 31 of the year of the call for application. In general, the degree qualifying for a doctorate must be completed no longer than 5 years ago at the time of application.

Funding is not available to persons who are or have been funded from other sources for the same purpose (doctorate) and the same period.

3. Application and Eligibility criteria

The following documents must be submitted to complete application:

- Application form (available for download on the NHR website)
- Description of the planned research project
- Letter of motivation
- Proof of existing English language skills. Recognized English language proficiency tests are:
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): Internet-based Test (iBT) minimum score of 79, not older than two years
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS): minimum score of 6.5 in the academic test, not older than two years
 - C2 Proficiency / CPE (Cambridge English: Proficiency) or C1 Advanced / CAE (Cambridge English: Advanced): minimum score 180 / Grade C
 - certified certificate from school, college, or university if English has been the language of instruction.

The excellent professional qualification of the applicants must be demonstrated by outstanding study and examination achievements. The Ph.D. project must be expected to make a significant contribution to the research field. The research topics offered by the NHR centers are available on the website.

The supervisors at the NHR centers select the scholarship holders. A steering committee makes the final decision.

4. Approval

The scholarship is awarded for the period from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2028. Even if the scholarship starts later, the funding ends on March 31, 2028; the maximum funding period is 36 months.

The scholarship comprises a monthly payment of 2,200 EUR in total. Scholarships do not constitute remuneration within the meaning of § 14 of the German Social Security Code IV (Sozialgesetzbuch IV, SGB IV); no social security contributions must be paid from it.

5. Funding conditions

The scholarship holder must be enrolled at one of the participating universities within the NHR Alliance.

The NHR scholarship is an attendance scholarship, i.e., scholarship holders are required to spend at least two-thirds of their scholarship period at the NHR Center where they are supervised. During their stay, all scholarship holders are obligated to register their main residence in Germany (registration obligation) at a Local Registration Office (Bürgeramt).

The scholarship period begins with the arrival on site.

A doctoral agreement with the faculty of the university that is a member of the NHR-Verein is a prerequisite for awarding the scholarship. Acceptance as a doctoral candidate by the relevant faculty must be demonstrated within six months after the start of the scholarship.

The award of the scholarship is linked to concentrating all efforts on preparing the dissertation and research on the funded doctoral project.

The details of the funding are regulated in a scholarship contract between the NHR-Verein and the scholarship holder.