



Global Centres
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



Call for Applications:

**8 Scholarships
for Master and Doctoral Students as well as PostDocs
from German Universities and Research Institutions
in the field of Water and Climate Adaptation**

**Host universities:
Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India, and
Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand**

**Awarded by the DAAD-funded
“Global Water and Climate Adaptation Centre – Aachen,
Bangkok, Chennai, Dresden
(ABCD-Centre)”**

I. What is the Global Water and Climate Adaptation Centre – Aachen, Bangkok, Chennai, Dresden (ABCD-Centre)?

With the ABCD-Centre, the project partners RWTH Aachen University, Asian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, United Nations University – Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES) and Technische Universität Dresden are joining forces in an effort to address the global challenge of water security and climate change adaptation in a systematic manner.

The ABCD-Centre is engaged in three intertwined research clusters:

- Cluster I: “Water Security, Water Resources Management, Secure Water Supply and Water Treatment”
- Cluster II: “Ecosystem Resilience and Nature-Based Adaptation Measures”
- Cluster III: “Transfer Strategies for Climate Adaptation: Traditional Knowledge, Local Economies and Societal Acceptance”.

A key objective of the ABCD-Centre is the research-oriented scientific training of talented students and researchers. It is in this context that the ABCD-Centre awards two scholarships for master students and one for a doctoral student for a research stay in the field of water and climate adaptation.

II. Current opportunity: 8 Scholarships in 2025

Talented and motivated students and researchers from German universities are offered the unique opportunity to conduct research stays at two outstanding Asian institutions of higher education:

the [Indian Institute of Technology Madras in Chennai, India](#) and

the [Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand](#).



(Sources: OIR IIT Madras; AIT Bangkok)



Global Centres
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



The ABCD-Centre currently accepts applications for four scholarships to conduct funded research or teaching stays in the year 2025. The scholarships are given to successful applicants from German Universities as follows:

No.	Destination	Duration of stay	Status group	Monthly scholarship	Available Scholarships
1	AIT Bangkok	up to 3 months	Master students	up to 1200€	1
2	IIT Madras	up to 3 months	Master students	up to 1150€	1
3	AIT Bangkok	up to 3 months	PhD students	up to 1675€	2
4	AIT Bangkok	up to 1 month	PhD students	Up to 1675€	1
5	IIT Madras	up to 3 month	PhD students	up to 1600€	2
6	AIT Bangkok	up to 1 month	PostDocs	up to 2000€	1

Additionally, a one-time amount for travel expenses of up to 1000€ and monthly amounts for insurance can be provided.

III. Who can apply?

For scholarships 1 and 2:

Master students who:

- have graduated with a Bachelor's degree and
- are currently enrolled in a Master program at a German university and
- are currently planning a research stay abroad as part of their Master thesis or in preparation of their Master thesis.

For scholarship 3 to 5:

Doctoral students who:

- have graduated with a Master's degree and
- are currently carrying out their doctoral studies at a German university or research institution;
- are currently planning a research stay abroad as part of their doctoral thesis.

For scholarship 6:

PostDocs who:

- have completed their PhD a maximum of four years ago and
- are currently holding a scientific position at a German university or research institution;
- are currently planning a research (or teaching) stay abroad as part of their PostDoc-Project.

IV. Application process and selection criteria

Please apply through our application portal [here](#) .

Application deadline for the scholarship: March 16th, 2025.

Documents required for master and doctoral students:

1. Recent Curriculum Vitae;
2. Passport copy;
3. Invitation by host supervisor;
4. Degree certificates and current enrolment certificate with current transcript of records (not older than 3 months) from the home institution (if applicable);
5. Abstract of the planned research work in a subject relevant for the ABCD-Centre with a detailed time schedule (max. 4 pages);
6. A recent letter of recommendation from an academic supervisor (not older than 3 months) specifically written for this application;
7. Personal motivation for a research stay at IIT Madras or AIT Bangkok (max. 2 pages)
8. Documentation of relevant internships or work experience, if any;
9. Description of planned contributions to the ABCD-Centre (max. 2 pages), e.g. willingness to:
 - contribute to outreach activities of the ABCD-Centre and participate in events;
 - present (intermediate) results of research work.

Selection criteria:

- The application needs to be complete to be considered;
- The ABCD-Centre advocates equal opportunities and diversity;
- The selection is based on merit. A very good academic record, the quality of the recommendation letters and the personal motivation of the applicant are important;
- Preference is given to applicants who are willing to contribute to the ABCD-Centre's outreach agenda;
- Demonstration of English skills and communication skills is important;
- The selection will be conducted by the Steering Committee of the ABCD-Centre;
- The ABCD-Centre will announce a positive selection result within four weeks after the application deadline. Please refrain from inquiries until then.

Important information:

- A mandatory experience report has to be handed in after completing the research stay (final report, max. 4 pages);
- Please refer to the Federal Foreign Office's website for country specific travel information;
- The funding rules and regulations by the DAAD under the program "[Global Centres for Climate and Environment](#)" apply;
- After the selection, the scholarship recipient has to confirm in a binding manner the acceptance of the scholarship

Contact: abcd-centre@rwth-aachen.de