



Notes on the Regulations for Doctoral Scholarships of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V.

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The MPG normally supports the completion of scientific research work in the early and mid-career stages in the form of employment relationships that are subject to social security contributions. Scholarships are only awarded in exceptional cases and only for a temporary research stay as a guest researcher.

The following regulations therefore only apply if you receive a scholarship of this type from a Max Planck Institute.

1. Doctoral scholarship

Within the framework of guest programmes, Max Planck Institutes can award scholarships in the run-up to doctoral research or during doctoral research for a limited research stay. In particular, these scholarships are also intended to promote international cooperation and networking.

2. Personal acceptance

By accepting the scholarship, the scholarship recipient agrees to devote themselves fully to their research project. Acceptance must be made in person and confirmed by personal signature.

3. Commencement and duration

The scholarship letter for the award of the doctoral scholarship contains the commencement date of the research stay.

The maximum duration of a doctoral scholarship is 6 months and cannot be extended.

4. Funding amounts

Basic scholarship allowance	€1365
Material expense allowance	€103
Child allowance 1st child	€400
Child allowance for each additional child:	€100
If applicable, subsidies towards transport and luggage costs for travelling to Germany and returning to the home country	

The scholarship letter confirming the award of the respective scholarship details the financial composition of the scholarship.

5. Scholarship payments

As a rule, monthly scholarship payments are transferred to a private bank account (current account) in the SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area) on the 30th of each month.

6. Health insurance

6.1. Obligation to take out comprehensive health insurance cover

Recipients of a doctoral scholarship of the Max Planck Society are obliged to take out health insurance cover equivalent to the scope of services of the statutory health insurance in the Federal Republic of Germany. Certification according to § 257, para. 2a, sentence 2a, of the Social Security Code (SGB - Sozialgesetzbuch) is proof of appropriate health insurance cover. You are obliged to submit evidence of sufficient health insurance cover within 14 days of accepting the scholarship.

The presentation of a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) fulfils the requirement of sufficient health insurance cover, provided that a confirmation from the statutory health insurance of the country in which the insurance has been taken out is available. The confirmation must certify that the requirements for maintaining insurance cover in the scholarship holder's

home country during their scholarship period in Germany are met and that the European Health Insurance Card can therefore be used in Germany.

6.2. Termination of the scholarship in case of non-submission

If the scholarship recipient fails to submit proof of sufficient health insurance cover to the extent described, the scholarship will automatically terminate 14 days after the scholarship commencement date.

6.3. Employer's contribution to health insurance

Recipients of a scholarship of the Max Planck Society are obliged to take out health insurance cover equivalent to the scope of services of the statutory health insurance in the Federal Republic of Germany (cf. No.6.1). Scholarship holders receive a subsidy towards health insurance amounting to 50% of the insurance premium, up to a maximum of 100 euros (this also applies to accompanying family members). Corresponding evidence must be submitted.

7. Financial benefits from third parties

Scholarship holders are required to inform the Max Planck Society of all financial benefits received from third parties (e.g. additional income, including from other scholarships). If the scholarship holders earn additional income from third parties (not the Max Planck Society) that exceeds the earnings limit for mini-jobbers¹, the excess amount will have to be deducted from their scholarship.

Benefits from other scholarship providers for the same purpose (securing living expenses) must be offset against the MPG scholarship benefits.

8. Ancillary activities

Ancillary activities with income that exceeds the aforementioned "earnings limit for mini-jobbers" requires the Max Planck Society's prior approval. In this context, a check will be performed to determine whether the ancillary activity jeopardizes the fulfilment of the purpose of the scholarship according to the scholarship letter; in such cases, the Max Planck Society reserves the right to terminate or interrupt the scholarship.

9. Travelling during the scholarship stay

If travelling is necessary for the research work, a subsidy towards the costs can be applied for. The decision on the application is made by the Institute, taking into account the scholarship holder's own interests.

10. Family benefits

10.1. Child allowance

A child allowance is paid for children in the form of a monthly lump sum until they reach the age of 18. An amount of € 400 is paid for the first child, and € 100 for each additional child.

¹ Currently 520.00 euros gross.

10.2 Family component

Scholarship holders with children can receive an extension to their scholarship or/and take advantage of a child care allowance (known as "Geld-statt-Zeit"). This offer is intended to facilitate the reconciliation of a scientific career with family life for junior scientists and enable them to complete their project quickly.

10.3 Extension of the scholarship

The scholarship period can be extended for 3 months if the scholarship holder has at least one child aged 12 or under to take care of in their own household. This also applies if the first child is born during the scholarship period. The children of a scholarship holder's partner can be considered if they were already living in the scholarship holder's household before the scholarship was awarded.

10.4 Childcare costs

Alternatively, a child allowance equal to the cost of the unused months of extension (only in the amount of the basic scholarship allowance) may be granted, provided that the expenses of childcare are documented.

11. German course

Language courses to acquire German language skills may be granted individually upon application.