

2021 Duke DAAD Recommendations

The DAAD offers a funding support for graduate, doctoral and long-term research study in Germany. They seek to support US and foreign students with bachelor's degrees or in graduate programs. They encourage applications from young and early-stage researchers with strong research and academic achievements for their age and education level. Their grants are designed to attract future leaders in all fields.

NCS-OUSF Advice on DAAD recommendations

Students are allowed to have advice from you on their personal statement and proposal for study or research. We encourage you to ask for drafts of both of these before you begin writing.

Writing an DAAD recommendation:

This is a form NOT a letter.

The recommendations take into account what a foundation is looking for and demonstrate how the student meets those criteria. The primary goal of the DAAD grants is high quality study or research that takes place in Germany. Like graduate recommendations, please address their readiness to enroll in a foreign university or to complete a research project. Is the student resilient? Is the project feasible? How has the student prepared for this experience, either through coursework or other research?

Where possible, use anecdotes to illustrate the points you are making. If you claim Johnny is brilliant—how did he perform in class relative to other students, what was brilliant about the paper he wrote, the argument he made or the experiment he proposed? If you claim that Suzy will cure cancer in her lifetime, what tendencies show that she has the perseverance to get the job done?

We do urge you to consider carefully before you agree to write the form. You are not required to write for every student that asks—only those for whom you believe you can make a good case.

If you have questions or concerns about a student, please contact Babs Wise babs@duke.edu or Bevin Tighe bevin.t@duke.edu.

Please note: All students have waived their rights to see your forms. It is against OUSF policy to accept forms originally authored by students. We need the form to be from you.

Further Resources:

Strong Recommendations from Inside Higher Ed: <http://bit.ly/stronger-letters>

Penn State on Recommendations: <http://bit.ly/PennRecAdvice>

Process for DAAD Recommendations

Action	Comment	Date
Receive a request from a student to write a recommendation		Spring/Summer 2020
Decide whether to support the student	Students should supply you with a resume, a conversation about what they are applying for and why, and papers they have written for you. YOU make the decision on whether or not you have the time to help the student's application or not.	ASAP
Complete the recommendation form provided by the student and send those to us at nsc-ousf@duke.edu	This form should be in its final form for the DAAD committee. Please consult with NCS if you want feedback on your form prior to submitting it.	October 8, 8 AM
Campus Committee Evaluations	A Committee of Faculty and Staff interview students and prepare an evaluation to complete their application to DAAD.	October 19-21
Finalists Named	DAAD will notify students directly	March - April 2022