



# Who we are

The Heinrich Böll Foundation is Germany's Green political foundation. We regard ourselves as a Green think tank and as part of a Green political network active all over the world, a network which now also includes more than 2,000 former and around 800 current scholarship holders. We operate both in Germany and abroad. Our fundamental ideals are ecology and sustainability, democracy and human rights, self-determination and justice.

We campaign for gender democracy, social emancipation, and equality between women and men. We are also committed to equality and social participation for cultural and ethnic minorities.

We share the most important values espoused by our namesake, the writer and Nobel Prize winner Heinrich Böll: defence of freedom, civil courage, tolerance that does not shy away from conflict, and the appreciation of art and culture.



*"To shape a democratic future, our society needs people willing to assume responsibility for public affairs. We help our scholarship holders to take responsibility for their actions, to play an active part in shaping our society and – if necessary – to swim against the tide. Our scholarship holders think in terms of ideals and are ambitious in what they do – whether in their professions or in public life."*

Ralf Fücks, President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation

# Whom we support

- We support undergraduates, graduates, and PhD students who embrace the Green cause, share the fundamental values of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, can demonstrate an excellent academic record, and are socially and politically active.
- We support undergraduates, graduates, and PhD students in all subjects. Having in the past awarded scholarships mainly to students of the humanities, social sciences, art, and culture, we are now, in addition, particularly interested in students of economics, law, engineering, science, mathematics, and journalism.
- We initiate programmes with a particular focus for undergraduates, such as, for example, “Putting the ‘multi’ into media,” a programme to encourage more ethnic minorities to take up careers in journalism (see p. 5), as well as thematic programmes for PhD students (see p. 9).
- Our scholarship programme brings together students from all over the world. In addition to German students, we support young people from many other countries, in particular countries in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).
- We promote women, particularly in subjects where they are traditionally under-represented.
- We promote ethnic minorities.
- We very much welcome applicants from non-academic family backgrounds.



**Gabriele Schmidt** is doing a doctorate in urban sociology at Humboldt University in Berlin and has held a Heinrich Böll Foundation scholarship since 2007. ■ *“I applied for a scholarship from the Heinrich Böll Foundation because it stands for a democratic multicultural society as one of its fundamental ideals. Its definition of justice includes equal participation and acceptance of a multiethnic and multicultural society, equality between generations, between the sexes, and between nations.”*

We are looking for young people who make active use of the opportunities available to them and seek to broaden them, who are creative, and who can translate their own ideas into practice.

**We therefore support people who**

- are politically active and interested in politics
- take an interest in the main causes espoused by the Heinrich Böll Foundation and in Green ideas
- are goal-oriented and ambitious
- are curious and original and think independently
- show team spirit
- are communicative and able to engage in conflict
- plan their future with particular goals in mind
- are reflective and (self-)critical
- are socially oriented and demonstrate competence in gender democracy and intercultural skills
- are internationally oriented

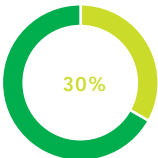
**Facts and figures**



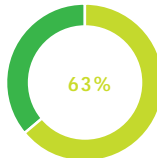
The Heinrich Böll Foundation awards around 950 scholarships a year. About **5/6** of them go to undergraduates and graduates and **1/6** to PhD students.



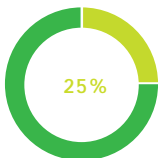
To help us in the selection procedure, we have **250 liaison university lecturers** and **a sixty-member selection committee**.



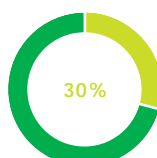
of our scholarships go to students from abroad or to students with ethnic minority backgrounds.



of our current scholarship holders are women.



of our scholarships go to students studying in eastern Germany.



of the PhD students have children.

# What we expect

Our scholarship holders all have excellent academic records and are socially and politically active. We judge achievement not just in terms of grades. We are also interested in the ability of young people to realise their potential in the context of their personal biographies.

A scholarship is not simply a reward for what has already been achieved. It is also an expression of our high expectations of our scholarship holders – our expectation that they will take a goal-oriented approach to their studies and will be prepared to shoulder responsibility, broaden their horizons, and be socially and politically active. The latter might include being active in faculty student bodies, having been a pupils' representative at high school, leading international youth camps, being an active member of the Young Greens, or working for non-profit organisations and NGOs.

Our students take a constructive and critical approach to scholarship. In particular, our PhD students are open-minded with respect to unconventional, innovative, and interdisciplinary approaches to research.

Our scholarship holders also participate actively in the varied programme of events offered by the Scholarship Department, contributing their own ideas to it. During their scholarship they report regularly on the progress of their studies or PhD.



**Nico Bürker**, a student of energy and environmental management at the Flensburg University of Applied Sciences, has held a scholarship since 2008. *"I applied to the Heinrich Böll Foundation because I wanted to be part of the Green think tank. This allows me to use the practice-oriented technical know-how I have acquired at the University of Applied Sciences to contribute to discussions about and concepts for sustainable development and to broaden my horizons in other fields of politics. During my time as a scholarship student, I expect to meet interesting people from other fields and to gain additional impetus for my political engagement."*

# What we hope to achieve

- We would like to support future professionals and leaders who will assume positions of responsibility in politics, academia, and society.
- We would like to acquire communicators who will promote the fundamental political ideals of the Heinrich Böll Foundation worldwide.
- By promoting global exchange, intercultural dialogue, and networking, we hope to foster international understanding.



**Ximena Rodriguez**, a student of communications at the Westphalian Wilhelm University, held a scholarship from 2003 to 2006. ■ *"There were two things I found exciting about the Heinrich Böll Foundation: one was the idea that achievement and equality of opportunity can be combined. This means that talented people who are at a disadvantage in our society can and should be supported, provided they actively pursue their ideals. The other was that my ideals concur with the political profile of the Böll Foundation."*

## "Putting the 'multi' into media"

This scholarship programme is designed for school leavers with university entrance qualifications and students from immigrant families or with bi-national or bi-cultural backgrounds who would like to go into journalism.

It is a joint initiative of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the taz newspaper, the station radioeins of Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg, Deutsche Welle, and the advertising agency Zum goldenen Hirschen.

**For more information please visit:**  
[www.boell.de/scholarships](http://www.boell.de/scholarships)

# What we offer

We help young people obtain professional qualifications, offering them opportunities to engage in discussion with people from other disciplines. We offer programmes for obtaining key qualifications and for career orientation, and promote personal development and organisational skills.

In helping a new generation to obtain an education, we believe we are helping to further democratic culture. We actively promote participation and give our students many opportunities to have a say – for example, in the selection of new candidates for scholarships. They can also participate in consultations of the expert advisory board of the Scholarship Department or attend Foundation members' meetings.

As well as providing scholarships, we also offer our students an extensive annual programme of events that they have helped to conceive.

- We give students advice about how to plan and organise their studies and about their PhD dissertations.
- We bring together the ideals of achievement and equality of opportunity. Our challenging objective is to have a group of scholarship students that is as diverse as possible.
- We accord gender democracy and intercultural issues a special place in the promotion of our ideals.
- We encourage our scholarship holders to gather as much and as varied experience as possible and therefore support study and practical experience abroad.

# Our programme of events

Themes covered by our broad programme of events for scholarship holders include:

- political education
- interdisciplinary discussions of science and its social responsibility
- international networking and exchanges
- professional qualification and the strengthening of key competencies

The programme includes seminars on such topics as policy advice, manifestations of right-wing extremism, or the life and work of Heinrich Böll as mirrored in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany. Other aspects of the programme from which our students stand to gain are gender and diversity training sessions and workshops on moderation techniques, the use of video technology in political work, and conflict resolution. Study trips (in recent years to Brussels, Istanbul, and Minsk) and the popular summer academy "Campus", which focuses on a different current political issue each year, also provide enriching experiences.

We help our scholarship holders to initiate and organise working groups to address the principle issues with which our Foundation is concerned, such as migration, economic policy, or political ecology, and to organise local network initiatives at their place of study.



**Britta Walkenhorst** studied socioeconomics at the Hamburg University for Economics and Politics and held a scholarship from 2003 to 2004. *"I found the scholarship hugely enriching. It meant I didn't have to worry about money while studying and it gave me the privilege of taking up educational opportunities, always broadening my horizons, as well as meeting many nice people, having inspiring exchanges, getting advice from peers, making many different kinds of contacts, forging friendships, and having fun..."*

# Support for PhD students

- Every year we award scholarships to about 180 PhD students whose research we regard as worthwhile, ambitious, and innovative.
- We support our PhD students during a phase when they are acquiring academic qualifications and training.
- Students can use the PhD students' forum to present their work and participate in interdisciplinary exchange.
- We also offer them practically-oriented training and seminars on subjects like academic communication, event conception and planning, strategies for getting published, and university-level teaching skills.



**Dr René Wildangel** did his doctorate on the history of Arab perceptions of National Socialism in Palestine at the University of Cologne and held a scholarship from 2001 to 2004.

■ *"As well as this giving me the chance to finish my doctorate in a reasonably short time, I've got a lot out of the scholarship in many other ways too: through contacts with other scholarship holders, through the programme of events, and on a wonderful study trip to Russia. After working at the Foreign Ministry for two years I am now a foreign policy adviser to the Greens' parliamentary group in the Bundestag – a career path that the scholarship certainly helped me to pursue."*

# PhD research programmes

In collaboration with university lecturers, the Heinrich Böll Foundation each year conceives one or two PhD programmes on topics of central interest to the Foundation. These usually involve five PhD students working together as a research team at one university.

Our PhD programmes address the research topics of tomorrow and help those participating to obtain both specialist and more general qualifications. Our political education programme offers them a stimulating environment.

## PhD research programmes and research topics since 2000

- Gunda-Werner Programme: Gender Democracy and Organisational Reform in a Global Context (*University of Bochum/University of Bielefeld: 2000–2005*)
- The Prospects and Consequences of Technical Innovation (*Research Focus Green Academy: 2000–2003*)
- Gunda-Werner Programme: Gender Dynamics in Violent Conflicts (*University of Bremen, Center for Feminist Studies: 2003–2006*)
- The Nature of the Knowledge Society (*Research Focus Green Academy: 2003–2006*)
- The Risks of Exclusion and Strategies for Inclusion in an Expanded Europe (*University of Bremen, Graduate School of Social Sciences: 2005–2008*)
- Ecology and Fairness in the World Trade Regime (*Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy: 2005–2008*)
- Overcoming Dictatorships and Establishing Civil Societies: An East-West Comparison (*University of Heidelberg/University of Vienna: 2005–2008*)
- The Future of the European City. Forms and Consequences of New Urban Governance (*Humboldt University Berlin, Georg-Simmel Center for Metropolis Research/University of Bremen: 2006–2009*)
- Global Social Policies and Governance (*University of Kassel: 2007–2010*)
- Civil Society and External Democratisation in Post-Socialist Europe (*European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)/Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich: 2008–2011*)
- Real Costs in Transport – Dresden Post-graduate Programme “DIKE” (*Technical University Dresden: 2009–2012*)
- Transformation Processes in Party Democracy (*University of Bremen*)


# Green network and alumni

## **Students to whom we award scholarships also gain access to our Green network.**

- We set up contacts with experts and volunteers working for the Foundation headquarters in Berlin, for the branches of the Foundation in the federal German states, and in our offices abroad.
- We support the networking of our students and have set up a virtual communications platform for this purpose.

## **Many former scholarship holders (alumni) maintain close contacts with the Foundation via this network.**

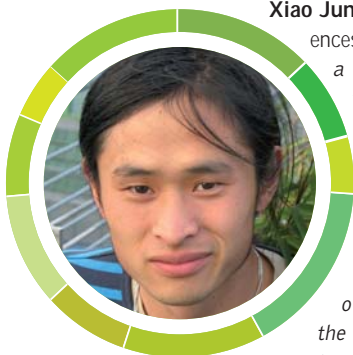
- We invite our alumni to our annual "Alumni-Salon".
- We regularly publish an alumni newsletter reporting on the activities of former students.
- We welcome the support of former scholarship holders in providing ideas and material support for the Foundation. Many alumni are active in our selection committee or, as academics, later act as liaison lecturers for the Foundation.

A circular portrait of Martin Kaatz, a young man with brown hair and glasses, smiling. The portrait is framed by a decorative circular border composed of several segments in shades of green and yellow.

**Martin Kaatz** studied audiovisual media in the fields of film and television at the Media Academy in Cologne. He held a scholarship from 2006 to 2008. ■ *"The Heinrich Böll Foundation scholarship means I'm not under pressure and can develop freely. I would like to draw attention to particular issues, but in an incidental, non-obtrusive way. I come from a Polish background and would like to make that a theme of my work. The main character in my degree film is a Pole who has grown up in Germany. I talk about Central Europe, my attitude is not tied to state boundaries."*



**Dr Sosan Jafari** did her doctorate in general literature at the University of Siegen on "Images of Femininity in Islamic Fundamentalism and Their Dissolution in Modern Iranian Prose Taking as an Example the Work of Scharnush Parsipur". She held a scholarship from 1994 to 1998. ■ "What did I gain from it? Formally: the opportunity to work on my dissertation; in terms of ideals: the chance to work together with the Foundation and with many other scholarship holders. The Foundation is a point of contact for projects both in Germany and in Iran. It is a forum in which to advance certain issues and discussions. The Foundation can draw on my competence as a communicator and an adviser."



**Xiao Jun Zhu** is studying economics at the University of Applied Sciences in Erfurt and has held a scholarship since 2006. ■ "As a Chinese citizen I don't have many opportunities to obtain funding for my studies. The Heinrich Böll Foundation is one of them and suits me well. I know the Thuringia branch of the Foundation from my work as a member of the students' council at the University. I am active on the Erfurt refugees' council and in the campaign against the Thuringian law on study fees, so there are many things that connect me with the Foundation. Besides the scholarship it has a lot of other interesting things to offer me as well: I am a member of the Working Group on Economic Policy of the Scholarship Department, which addresses the political consequences of shortages of energy and natural resources."

# Applications and the selection procedure

Undergraduates, graduates, and PhD students interested in obtaining a scholarship can apply directly to the Heinrich Böll Foundation. They should be able to demonstrate an excellent academic record and show that they are socially and politically active. In the case of PhD students, the quality of their research project will also be considered.

The selection procedure consists of three stages:

- a written application
- an interview with a liaison lecturer
- participation in a selection workshop including a one-to-one interview and a group discussion

Decisions on the awarding of scholarships will be taken by the Selection Committee, which consists of experienced university lecturers, experts from a variety of professional backgrounds in politics, economics, and society, active members of the Green network, alumni, current scholarship holders, and the staff of the Scholarship Department.

There are normally two application deadlines each year – March 1 and September 1. Successful applicants commence their scholarships approximately six months later.

We will publish information about new post-graduate programmes on our website: [www.boell.de/studienwerk](http://www.boell.de/studienwerk). Applications are invited from students whose dissertation subjects match one of our programmes.

**For current information on application procedures, please visit:**  
**[www.boell.de/scholarships](http://www.boell.de/scholarships)**

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Heinrich Böll (1917–1985) was one of the Federal Republic of Germany's most important and best-known writers. "Bound by the times and my contemporaries to what my generation has lived through, seen and heard," as he wrote, Böll was the critical chronicler of German history in the middle of his century. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1972 for his novels and short stories.

Not wanting to function as the "moral conscience of the nation," Heinrich Böll resisted taking on the role of the "showcase intellectual" in which the public tried to cast him.

During the European elections in 1979 and in the elections to the Tenth German Bundestag in 1983 in which the Greens won seats in parliament for the first time, Böll supported Green politics. "I believe the FRG will become more governable with the Greens than without them," he said. For Böll the Greens embodied the hope of a political corrective, of new perspectives for the expansion of democracy, and for preserving a humane environment.

