DLG Young Talents Award
Agriculture & Food Scholarship Programme

Award Guidelines

Preamble

The DLG Young Talents Award is an innovative and future-oriented award for young talents with outstanding personalities from the entire agricultural and food industry value chain. Every year, the award honors outstanding young talents from the fields of agricultural practice, the food industry and food trade, agribusiness, universities, colleges and technical colleges, vocational education, teaching and research.

1. Targets

Innovative minds and their ideas get promoted. The focus is on the personal profile and proven commitment in one of the above-mentioned areas. The aim is to promote young professionals who can provide impetus for the development of the agricultural and food industry and serve as role models because of their personalities and work experience. A mixture of professional experience and extra-professional commitment is required.
The aim is to offer the award winners the opportunity to improve their knowledge and gain further qualifications beyond their defined professional field. Practical relevance is an important element in the selection of nominees and award winners. In addition to professional and personal development, the aim is to promote the exchange between science, consulting, administration and practitioners. This is to be achieved through the targeted integration of junior staff into the DLG network via defined processes.

2. Who can be awarded

The DLG Young Talents Award can be awarded to young people who meet the following requirements:

- Young professionals from agricultural practice, the food industry and food trade, agribusiness, universities, colleges and technical colleges, vocational education, teaching and research

3. Selection criteria for award winners

Applicants must provide evidence of their professional training and have experience that shows that they are willing to actively participate in decision-making processes as opinion leaders and multipliers and to take on responsibility, as the award also aims to promote agriculture. High demands are therefore made.

a) All applicants must demonstrate very good professional performance and professional commitment.

b) The particular practical relevance of their work and interests must be evident from the application.

c) All applicants are expected to be actively involved in voluntary work and be open to international developments. It should be apparent that the applicants are actively involved in society. Voluntary commitment is not only being part of an association. It means active participation, which should be proven. For example, by an honorary certificate, for the benefit of the community of the association or beyond.

d) All applicants are expected to have a strong connection to the German agricultural and food industry as well as an interest in and willingness to get involved in the DLG and become part of the DLG network.

4. Selection committee

The selection committee is appointed by the Executive Board and is made up of the following persons:

- Experts from agriculture and the food industry, agribusiness, education, teaching and research
- Representative/s of the Young DLG
- Representative/s of the DLG Executive Board/Supervisory Board
- Award winners from recent years

5. Nominees and prizes

The DLG Young Talents Award is awarded in the form of a maximum of 10 nominees and a maximum of 3 prize winners. The commission determines the nominees and prize winners at the same time.

Selection of nominees: The commission selects a maximum of 10 nominees from all applicants.

- All nominees can participate in the DLG Network Mentoring Program for one year.
- The program is a combination of personal mentoring, meetings (physical/digital) and offers of active participation in various committees, events, publication opportunities within the DLG network
- Award winners and nominees are provided with personal network mentors from the DLG network (max. 3 - 4 people per mentor): personal support during the first year
- The program starts with the award ceremony.

Selection of prize winners: The commission selects a maximum of 3 prize winners from among the nominees. They will be announced at the DLG Entrepreneur Days.

The prizes of the DLG Young Talents Awards will be awarded in 3 categories:

- **Main prize**
  - For an ambitious individual with great development potential in the food and agriculture sector
  - The aim is to complement their professional knowledge, exchange experiences and deepen professional qualifications in order to improve suitability for leading management positions at a later stage. This is to be achieved through participation in exhibitions, conventions, professional excursions, internships abroad or specialized training, etc.
  - Age limit up to and including 36 years (age limit for assignment to Young DLG)
  - Endowment: 6,000 Euro

- **Special prize**
  - Is awarded for an annually changing current topic in the agricultural or food sector. The jury decides on the basis of the applications received for which topic a prize will be awarded.
  - Age limit up to and including 36 years
  - Endowment: 5,000 Euro

- **Junior prize**
  - for the target group apprentices and students
  - The award is intended for young professionals during their vocational education / professional training. It serves to complete their personal and professional development through further training measures such as training courses, seminars and internships.
  - Age limit: 18 to 24 years inclusive
  - Endowment: 4,000 Euro

The DLG Young Talents Award is awarded in form of scholarships for further training measures. These training measures are designed by the award winners themselves and initially submitted to the DLG for approval.
The prize money is restricted for a specific purpose. They may only be used to cover travel and training costs, the costs of additional language training and reasonable living expenses incurred during the training. If this is not the case, the DLG reserves the right not to approve the corresponding measure.

Award winners are encouraged to prepare the training measures associated with the award largely on their own initiative and to settle accounts with the DLG independently.

It is not possible to retroactively offset the prize money against further education and training measures completed before the DLG Young Talents Award funding period. Furthermore, further education and training measures that have already begun at the time of the announcement of the award winners cannot be offset against the prize money.

It is expected that the prize money will be used within three years of the award ceremony. Amounts that are still outstanding at that time will be forfeited without replacement.

5. Application and award procedure

Applications are submitted via an application form in which all details can be entered and documents uploaded. This also includes a motivational video. This should include the following points:

- The motivation video should briefly describe the previous commitment to the agricultural and food industry as well as the commitment in voluntary work.
- The medium and long-term goals for the professional and personal future should also be explained.
- In view of the above, it should be described and justified how the DLG Young Talents Award is used to achieve the above-mentioned goals (company internship, technical school, study trip, etc.).

Proof of employment and certificates do not have to be certified. However, the DLG reserves the right to request certified copies of certificates.

The deadline for entries is **April 2nd.**

The prizes are awarded by the DLG Executive Board. Only it is authorized to publicly announce the award winners. The award winners are selected by a selection committee appointed by the DLG Executive Board. This committee checks whether the proposed candidates meet the conditions of these award guidelines and examines the documents submitted. It is authorized to obtain assessments from third parties and to invite candidates to a selection interview for personal assessment or to conduct an online application interview.

The decisions of the DLG Executive Board are incontestable; there is no legal entitlement to a DLG Young Talents Award.

6. Follow-up support

The award winners are obliged to send a report on the course and their experiences to the DLG no later than 8 weeks after the end of the training measure carried out with the scholarship. The prize winners are invited as guests to the Young DLG working group and can play an active role.

The exact details of the DLG Network Mentoring Program as well as the requirements for further training measures, the reporting obligation and the billing procedure are set out in the guidelines for nominees and award winners.

7. Award ceremony

The public award ceremony takes place every year as part of the DLG Entrepreneur Days.