



FUNDING FRAMEWORK

University excellence in development cooperation - exceed 2025-2029

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

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The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) uses funds from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support the "Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation - exceed" funding program.

The purpose of the exceed programme in the 2025-2029 funding phase is to expand and consolidate the existing global networks of German universities and their university and non-university partner organizations in the Global South. The programme thus aims to contribute to sustainable development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda and to the internationalization of participating universities. The focus here is on qualifying students and academics to work on solutions to development policy challenges in developing countries. With the exceed program, the DAAD also aims to train qualified specialists to work on development policy issues and to provide solutions to challenges within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are to be widely communicated in order to strengthen public awareness.

Long-term program goals are:

- Participating universities have acquired applicable expertise in development cooperation.
- Development-relevant networks have been established with the involvement of non-university stakeholders and special consideration of women and disadvantaged groups.
- The networks have provided solutions for challenging development issues.
- Graduates take part in overcoming development-related challenges.

Medium-term program goals are:

- The networks are managed on a decentralized basis using clear procedures and defined processes.
- Strategies to ensure the transfer of knowledge and the sustainability of the networks have been established with the involvement of non-university stakeholders.
- Research findings on development-related issues are available and widespread.
- Master's students and doctoral candidates have completed development-related courses of study/doctoral projects and are integrated into the labor market in a manner commensurate with their training.

- Participating universities offer application-oriented and state-of-the-art Master's/PhD programs.
- Teaching and supervision at the participating universities are strengthened with the inclusion of ICT-based methods.

With regard to the funding logic as well as the results (outputs), program objectives (outcomes) and longer-term effects (impacts) of the funding program, see the impact structure in the WoM handout (see **Annex 1**).

Project objectives must also be defined for all program

objectives. For impact-oriented project planning, see **Annex**

1.

Ecological sustainability

The DAAD has set itself the goal of further reducing its ecological footprint as an organization and funding body. In the context of project funding, the aim should be to plan and implement projects in a way that conserves resources, the climate and the environment. This applies in particular to mobility/travel and, depending on the type and scope of the project, can also relate to procurement and awarding, event management or marketing and public relations work. Further information on the climate-sensitive implementation of international university cooperation in DAAD project funding can be found in the [handout](#).

Diversity

In its diversity agenda, the DAAD defines diversity, equal opportunities and inclusion as important cross-cutting goals for international academic exchange. Talented people should also be given the opportunity to contribute their diversity and different perspectives as part of project funding. Projects must be planned and implemented with this cross-cutting objective in mind. Additional funding can be provided for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses (see information sheet "Information on mobility with disabilities and chronic illnesses"). Further information on diversity and equal opportunities in DAAD-funded projects can be found in the [handout](#).

ELIGIBLE MEASURES

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Eligible measures include

- Participation in / implementation of events and workshops
- Research projects / cooperation between scientists and young researchers
- Development of curricula for individual modules, courses or degree programs

- Study and research visits by individual scientists or groups of scientists, joint field research assignments
- Specialist events such as conferences, workshops and/or symposia with the participation of alumni and representatives of non-university partner organizations
- Exchange of student groups
- Guest chairs with high-ranking scientists from developing countries
- Guest lectureships in Germany and at the southern partner universities
- Scholarships for doctoral candidates and Master's students on site, in South-South exchange and in Germany

The maximum funding period for doctoral students is four years. The maximum funding period for students is two years. A maximum funding period of two years applies to early career researchers (post-docs).

- Further education and training measures for network members
- Studies (e.g. on the survey of training needs) and publications
- Design, development and implementation of digital teaching and learning opportunities

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

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All expenditure necessary for the implementation of the project (execution of the measures) is eligible for funding. This includes in particular

Personnel resources for project implementation and support

PERSONNEL IN GERMANY

- Scientific staff
- research assistant
- student assistant
- Other staff (non-academic staff, e.g. project coordinators) staff, e.g. project coordinators)

This also includes visiting professors.

Personnel expenses include the gross salary of the employer. Special annual payments under collective agreements are only eligible for funding for the approval period and only insofar as the payment date falls within this period. Other individual and collectively agreed one-off payments are only eligible for funding if the DAAD has made a provision to this effect and provides information about it.

PERSONNEL ABROAD (only in the context of forwarding)

- Scientific staff
- research assistant
- student assistant

- Other personnel

Material resources

HONORARIES (not for own staff and their foreign partner universities or participating alumni)

for external speakers up to 250 euros/day

Expenses for mobility and, if applicable, accommodation can also be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of efficiency and economy. These expenses, which do not relate to the fee itself, must be included in the fee contract.

MOBILITY PROJECT PERSONNEL

Expenses for personnel of the grant recipient for travel/flights can be applied for and claimed in accordance with BRKG/LRKG; in deviation from this, only 2nd class rail travel and economy class air travel.

Expenses for project personnel of the foreign partner university for travel and flights can be claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and economy.

STAY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL

Expenses for personnel of the grant recipient for the stay (accommodation and meals) can be applied for and claimed in accordance with BRKG/LRKG.

Expenses for project staff of the foreign partner university for accommodation (overnight stay and meals) can be claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and economy.

MATERIAL RESOURCES INLAND/ABROAD

- Consumables (e.g. test tubes, paper, etc.)
- Assets (e.g. computers, data carriers, licenses and software) Note:

Small equipment can be purchased as part of the network work to better equip the partner universities abroad. The prerequisite for this is that subsequent expenditure can be demonstrably borne by them.

- Printing/publications/advertising and public relations (e.g. flyers, brochures, posters; in the online area (e.g. development, establishment and maintenance of communication and learning platforms, internet presences, e-journals, online libraries, scientific publications))
- External services (e.g. catering, coach travel, repair services, IT services, professional and cultural supporting program for events)
- Other (e.g. expenses for entrance tickets for excursions, museum visits, payment of participation fees for conferences, contribution to insurance, visa fees, necessary vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis, fees for money transfers abroad)

Sponsored persons

MOBILITY SUPPORTED PERSONS

- Expenses for travel/flights of foreign students, doctoral candidates and researchers from DAC countries (see Annex 2) to Germany (South-North exchange), from DAC countries to other DAC countries (South-South exchange, incl. Sur-Place funding) and from Germany to DAC countries (North-South exchange) can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economy and thrift. Expenses for rail travel can only be applied for and claimed in 2nd class and for flights only in economy class.

STAY OF SPONSORED PERSONS SHORT STAY UP TO 3

MONTHS

- Expenses for short stays (accommodation and meals), in particular for students, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, experienced academics and professors from foreign partner universities to participate in events (e.g. conferences, seminars, workshops, summer schools) for **up to 22 days** can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of efficiency and economy.
- Stay flat rate
 - ' For **research and work stays of up to a maximum of 3 months** by funded students from foreign partner universities in Germany, a lump sum for stays can be applied for and claimed (see **Table 1**).
 - ' The flat-rate accommodation fee is payable on the first day of the stay and must be evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants. The flat-rate accommodation fee covers the costs of accommodation and meals as well as health, accident and liability insurance.

Table 1

Status	Monthly flat rate (from day 23)	Daily flat rate
Students	934 Euro	31 Euro
Doctoral candidates (PhD students doctoral students)	1,300 Euro	43 Euro
Post-Doc (postdoctoral researcher and postdocs)	2000 Euro	67 Euro
Experienced scientists with an independent research profile (comparable to postdoctoral lecturers in German and English). country)	2150 Euro	72 Euro
Professors or academics with a comparable position (comparable to university professors in German-speaking countries). country)	2300 Euro	77 Euro

Sur-Place/ third country

For sur-place/third-country stays (accommodation and meals) of funded students from foreign partner universities abroad, flat-rate accommodation allowances can be applied for and claimed in accordance with Table 2. The amount of the monthly lump sum for the respective status group must be specified by the applicant in the application for project funding to the DAAD.

Table 2

Status	Monthly flat rate	Daily rate
Students	400 Euro to 934 Euro	1/30 of the

<p>Doctoral students (doctoral candidates), post-docs (post-doctoral researchers), experienced scientists with their own research interests, and experienced researchers with their own research interests. permanent</p>	<p>400 Euro to 1,300 Euro</p>	<p>monthly flat rate</p>
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Research profile (comparable to habilitated researchers in Germany) and professors or researchers with a comparable position (comparable to university professors). in Germany)		
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STAYS FROM 3 MONTHS (or scholarships from 3 months)

- Residency scholarships
 - ' Students, doctoral candidates and young academics (post-docs) from foreign partner universities can be awarded a scholarship for a study, research or work stay (accommodation and meals) in Germany (see Table 3).

Table 3

Status	Monthly installment	Daily rate
Students (Master)	934 Euro	31 Euro
Doctoral candidates (PhD students) and young female scientists and scientists (post-doc)	1300 Euro	43 Euro

In addition to the scholarship installment, the following additional benefits can be applied for and claimed for these stays. The scholarship installment and the additional benefits must be provided for as benefits in a scholarship agreement:

- ' **Flat-rate allowance** for health, accident and personal liability insurance i. 145 euros/month
- ' **Family allowances (scholarship duration more than 6 months)**
 - Accompanying spouse or registered partner 276 euros/month
 - Children traveling with you
 - 194 euros each for the first and second child
 - 200 euros for the third child

- 225 euros for each additional child (unless the scholarship holder receives state child benefit)

Aid (scholarship duration more than 6 months)

- Grantees from DAC countries
 - 1st to 3rd funding year 460 euros/year each
 - possibly further years per 230 Euro/year

Sur-Place or in a third country

For sur-place/third-country stays (accommodation and meals) of funded students from foreign partner universities abroad, accommodation grants can be awarded in accordance with Table 4 in a scholarship agreement. The amount of the monthly installment for the respective status group must be specified by the applicant in the application for project funding at the DAAD.

Table 4

Status	Monthly installment	Daily rate
Students	400 Euro to 934 Euro	1/30 of the monthly salary
Doctoral students and PhD students	400 Euro to 1,300 Euro	

CONTINUATION

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The transfer of the grant for project funding (in whole or in part) is possible if this is necessary to achieve the purpose of the grant.

The **project description** must list the measures and associated objectives of the on-lending recipient(s) in addition to the project's own measures and objectives. The entire project must therefore be addressed (including the forwarding level).

In the financing **plan**, the expenditure items of the on-lending recipient(s) must be marked separately (e.g. with "WL") in addition to the recipient's own expenditure items. This means that the expenditure of the entire project (including the forwarding level) must be shown in the financing plan.

If the intended onward transfer (recipient, specific content, etc.) is not yet known at the time of the application for project funding (before the contract is concluded), the expenses that may be incurred as a result of a possible onward transfer must be reimbursed.

The costs that would be incurred by on-lending recipients must first be shown as separate expenses in the financing plan and their necessity must be justified in the project description. As soon as the actual forwarding of the grant becomes known (after conclusion of the contract), a change request for project funding (adaptation of the project description and financing plan) must be submitted to the DAAD.

Forwarding takes place on the basis of a forwarding agreement.

The audit certificate on the proof of use of funds by the on-lending recipient must be attached to the proof of use of funds by the funding recipient, which must be submitted to the DAAD.

TYPE OF FINANCING

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Funding is provided by way of shortfall financing.

The grant is subject to the proviso that own funds, third-party funds and other funds are brought in to finance the project. If own funds, third-party funds and other funds are contributed in the form of income/expenses that cannot be documented, these must be plausibly presented in the financing plan and project description.

PROMOTION PERIOD

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The funding period begins on 01.01.2025 at the earliest and ends on 31.12.2029 at the latest.

GRANT AMOUNT

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A grant of up to five million euros can be applied for.

FACILITIES

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The program is open to all disciplines.

TARGET GROUP

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Master's students, doctoral students, post-doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers, academics, professors

AUTHORIZED APPLICANTS

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State and state-recognized German universities that have partnerships within the seven exceed networks (GPN, SEED, SOLID, OH-TARGET, ACCESS, SDG-Nexus Network and SMUS) are eligible to apply.

APPLICATION

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The application for project funding must be submitted in full and on time exclusively via the DAAD portal (www.mydaad.de). In addition, the following documents must be uploaded in the "Attachments" tab:

- Project description, see **form template** (attachment type: project description)
- Project planning overview, see **form template** (attachment type: project description)
- Cooperation agreement of the participating university/universities (Annex type: Contracts/agreements)
- Endorsement of the university management, see **form template** (attachment type: program-specific attachments)

After the application deadline, changes to the financing plan, the project description and subsequently submitted or amended documents will no longer be considered.

APPLICATION CLOSURE

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Application deadline is 28.06.2024.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

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Selection of applications for project funding

The DAAD decides on funding on the basis of the evaluation of the applications by a selection committee.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- (1) Technical and substantive quality of the project in relation to the achievement of the project and program objectives (weighting: 70%)
- (2) Quality and stringency of project planning (weighting: 15 %)
- (3) Impact of the project on the individual target groups and addressed areas beyond the funding period of the project (weighting: 5 %)
- (4) Consideration of diversity (weighting: 5 %)
- (5) Climate-sensitive project organization (weighting: 5 %)

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCEDURE

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Selection for scholarships

The recipient of the grant decides on the award of the scholarship on the basis of a selection committee appointed by the recipient.

- Public announcement of the scholarship offer.
- Composition of the selection committee with appropriate participation of universities from the partner countries. The meetings and

Decisions must be recorded, the records remain at the university and DAAD is informed. The selection must be a quality selection, i.e. the best candidates must be selected. The scholarships should be advertised primarily within the network at the partner universities.

- Selection criteria should also ensure that access opportunities for women in particular are guaranteed if the professional requirements are met.
- Award of the scholarship by scholarship contract (e.g. "Scholarship commitment" and "Declaration of acceptance").
- Handing over a scholarship certificate (here: Naming the DAAD, the sponsor, concrete description of the scholarship benefits and their amount, e.g. residence and mobility grant).
- Quality assurance in the selection process and the selection decision are the responsibility of the project management. The selection procedures must be set out in the project description.
- The selection procedure must be described in the project description.

When selecting long-term scholarship holders, it should be noted that only people from developing countries can be funded through this measure. There is no age limit for scholarships for study purposes. However, for scholarship holders for postgraduate courses (usually Master's courses or continuing education courses) and for doctoral scholarships, the last degree should not have been awarded more than 6 years ago at the time of application. If the doctoral project has already been started before the start of funding, it should not have started more than three years before the application. For applications from early career researchers (post-docs), the doctorate should not have been awarded more than two years previously at the time of application. Furthermore, applicants should not have been in the Federal Republic of Germany for more than 15 months at the time of application. However, this does not apply to foreigners who have come to Germany as part of their studies, a doctorate or other academic work and have already been in Germany for a longer period of time for this reason. Persons who have been granted refugee status are also excluded from this regulation. The signature of the funding recipient on the numerical proof of the use of the funds spent also confirms that the beneficiaries of the project meet the above requirements.

FACILITIES

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1. WoM handout (incl. impact structure, indicator catalog)
2. OECD DAC List 2024-2025

FORM TEMPLATES

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- Project description
- Project planning overview
- Endorsement by university management

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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- Leaflet "Information on mobility with disabilities and chronic illness"

CONTACT

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SUPPORTED BY

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