

THE DAAD IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

OUR APPROACH

The DAAD complements bilateral development assistance by supporting university to university cooperation. Alongside partnership and sustainability, transparency and quality are central characteristics of the DAAD's work.

Partnership and sustainability

The Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) focus on the principle of partnership to jointly solve similar problems in the global South and North. Higher education and research have a significant impact on the implementation of many SDGs beyond the education sector, for example in good governance or climate change. The instruments of the DAAD strengthen its partners in independently taking responsibility for addressing the global issues of the future, thereby ensuring the establishment of sustainable structures beyond the end of the funding period.

Transparency and quality

German universities participate in independent selection committees to decide which partnerships and scholarship holders are funded by the DAAD. The committees make their funding decisions based on transparent and scientific criteria.

RESULTS-ORIENTED MONITORING

A results-oriented monitoring system has been developed to assess the effectiveness of the DAAD's funding programmes and continuously improve the quality of its work.

The degree to which the programmes and individual projects achieve their objectives is measured in an ongoing process of gathering and evaluating information via indicators.

By this means the DAAD and the universities gain a better understanding of outcomes and effects and can draw conclusions for the design and further development of their programmes and projects.

OUR OBJECTIVES

A lack of well-trained specialists and the significant disconnection from global knowledge production prevent many developing countries from finding their way out of poverty. The DAAD contributes to facilitating high-quality education for all, as demanded by the Agenda 2030.



Broadening access to higher education and academia

Tuition fees for Master's programmes and doctorates are high in many developing countries. Only transparently awarded scholarships for the best create equal access for disadvantaged persons. In this respect, the DAAD is active especially in the poorest developing countries and specifically supports women in academia.



Improving the quality of higher education

Expanding access to higher education can only be successful if minimum standards of quality are met. To continue improving the quality of higher education and research in developing countries, the DAAD establishes effective and transparent higher education structures and professionalised teaching in the respective countries.

Relevance for profession and practice

Internationally recognised research currently takes place at only a small number of centres of excellence. With its funding programmes the DAAD helps to further increase the value of higher education and research for sustainable development. By expanding cooperation between business, government and civil society and advancing practice-oriented funding concepts, educational offerings become more relevant to the needs of labour markets.

OUR FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

Scholarships for the best

Educating professionals and leaders of tomorrow

As agents of change, DAAD scholarship holders and alumni in developing and emerging countries initiate sustainable political, economic and social change processes in their home countries, thereby contributing to solving local and global problems.

Structures for internationalisation in higher education

Developing effective higher education systems

From developing modern and practice-oriented degree programmes to establishing globally networked centres of excellence, the DAAD helps strengthen higher education institutions and academic systems in developing and emerging countries. The funded cooperation projects are based on shared interests and visions.

Expertise for academic collaboration

Connecting to the global knowledge society

Through its worldwide network and the regular exchange with higher education institutions and ministries of science in developing countries, the DAAD supports German universities to find suitable partners and continuously provides first-hand information.

PARTNER

The key partners are the universities. Only through their commitment and their contribution the programmes become possible. The **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development** provides the predominant share of the funds for development cooperation (annually over 50 million euros). A further funding provider is the **Federal Foreign Office**. The DAAD also implements development policy projects with the **Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**, the **KfW Development Bank** and the **European Union**, and cooperates closely with the **German Rectors Conference (HRK)**, the **Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**, **UNESCO**, the **World Bank** and is a member of the **European Donor Harmonization Group**.



CONTACT

DAAD HEADQUARTERS BONN

Kennedyallee 50
Postfach 200404
53134 Bonn (Germany)

T: +49 (228) 882-0

postmaster@daad.de
www.daad.de

BERLIN OFFICE

WissenschaftsForum am
Gendarmenmarkt
Markgrafenstraße 37
10117 Berlin

T: +49 (30) 22 20 08-0

DAAD NETWORK

OUR REGIONAL OFFICES

BRUSSELS
www.brussel.daad.de

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PUBLISHER DAAD
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Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn

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Enhancing Sustainable Development

OUR PROGRAMMES

SCHOLARSHIPS

The DAAD supports students, higher education staff and young professionals from developing and emerging countries. Scholarships are mainly funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Through its **In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme** the DAAD sponsors high-quality advanced education for university lecturers, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, in the Middle East, Latin America and South-East Asia. A four-week stay in Germany and an interdisciplinary training (e.g. on the use of free digital libraries) complete the programme. In response to the massive expansion of higher education in Africa, the DAAD runs a programme to award **1000 additional Scholarships for African Students** funded through BMZ special initiatives.

Students in emerging countries in Latin America and South Asia can receive support for practice-oriented semester stays through the **Country-Specific Scholarship Programme**. These are largely co-funded by partners in the respective countries and focus predominantly on engineering and sciences.

Development-Related Postgraduate Courses (EPOS) enable young specialists from developing countries with some professional experience to study at a high academic standard in Germany and gain advanced qualifications in development-related fields.

Future leaders aiming to advocate for democracy and social justice in their home countries can gain advanced qualifications in a practice-oriented Master's course in politics, law and economics through the **Helmut Schmidt Programme** (financed by the Federal Foreign Office).

FROM PRACTICE

Joselyne Nájera – EPOS scholarship holder 2014–2016

Joselyne gained comprehensive experience in sustainability and supply chain management through the Master's course "Small Enterprise Promotion and Training" (SEPT) at the University of Leipzig. In her home country of Costa Rica, she advises institutions such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on ecological innovations, for example by creating carbon footprints of banana cultivation.



ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Networking and lifelong learning are basic requirements for alumni as experts, academics and decision-makers. Thus, the activities support alumni to keep up to date with their field of expertise and remain connected to Germany.

FROM PRACTICE

HANNOVER MESSE 2016 – Alumni discuss innovations

50 alumni from 21 developing and emerging countries obtained information about new production processes for renewable energies at the world's largest industry trade fair in Hanover. In side lectures focusing on global trends they discussed the impact of innovative higher education on the use of renewable energies. The evaluation of the event showed that 75 % of respondents had initiated good contacts to the German private sector. Furthermore, the quality of the preparatory specialist seminars at German higher education institutions was considered very high.

Former scholarship holders from developing and industrialised countries can refresh their expertise through specialised training and benefit from academic exchange through the **Alumni Programme for Supporting and Integrating International Alumni** (BMZ and AA financed). The programme also enables German higher education institutions to further expand their networks with partners in developing countries.

The **Alumni Special Projects** programme gives professionals from developing countries who have been trained in Germany the opportunity to connect with German academics and companies at trade fairs and conferences preceded by a specialist seminar at a German university.



PARTNERSHIPS

Development cooperation in higher education is particularly successful when funding for individuals is complemented by the establishment of effective higher education structures.

To establish initial contacts and prepare long-term cooperation, the DAAD facilitates visits by German academics to potential partners in developing countries through the **Fact-Finding Missions** programme.

Subject-Related Partnerships with Institutions of Higher Education in Developing Countries promote cooperation between universities in Germany and partner countries to improve the quality and relevance of university teaching in the respective countries.

The **Partnerships for the Health Sector in Developing Countries (PAGEL)** focus on strengthening the health sector in partner countries and mitigate the brain drain of professionals by supporting medical students in returning to their home countries.

The programme **Partnerships for Supporting Biodiversity in Developing Countries** helps to maintain, restore and sustainably utilise biological diversity in partner countries through higher education cooperation in teaching and research.

The **University-Business Partnerships** programme was developed by the DAAD to build bridges between graduates and commercial enterprises. The programme funds partnerships between higher education institutions and business partners in Germany and in developing countries. Strengthening the labour market relevance of curricula and the support for start-ups are at the very heart of the university-business partnerships.

FROM PRACTICE

Supporting practical orientation in computer science degree programmes in Kyrgyzstan/Georgia

The Westsächsische Hochschule Zwickau supports its partner university in expanding their range of courses in a labour market-oriented manner and in networking with the industry.

"The DAAD project was a great opportunity for our university, our lecturers and our students. We now offer the only degree programme in Kyrgyzstan accredited by [the German quality assurance agency] ASIIN. [...] We look forward to many further joint projects."

– Dr Absamat Abdulaev, Dean of the Kyrgyz-German Faculty of Applied Informatics at KSUCTA

CENTRES

Since 2016 seven **Bilateral SDG Graduate Schools** in Africa, Latin America and Asia have been contributing to implementing the Agenda 2030, working in close North-South partnerships to develop new solutions to reach the SDGs. By this means, future experts from developing countries are trained according to international standards and partner institutions are supported in driving innovation. Topics include climate change adaptation, urban planning, innovative pharmacy or peace research.

FROM PRACTICE

SDG Graduate Schools – Medicines from Africa

In Africa, natural substances derived from plants and microorganisms have significant medical potential. However, no widely accessible medications have been developed yet. The German-Cameroonian graduate school YaBiNaPA bundles expertise in a network in which doctoral candidates research plants that are used in African medicine to treat parasitic diseases such as malaria or bacterial infections.

The five centres of excellence in the **Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation – exceed** programme have established specialised global networks of universities in Germany and developing countries. The centres at German universities support the partner institutions in teaching, research and consulting on central topics of the Agenda 2030 (food security, health, water, resource protection, decent work).

The **Centres of African Excellence** programme has been establishing bilateral centres to improve the quality of teaching and learning at higher education institutions in Africa, build research capacities and connect African and German higher education institutions. Topics include law of the East African community and human rights, but also mining and environmental engineering. The programme is funded by the Federal Foreign Office.



HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGEMENT

The **Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES)** programme run by the DAAD and the German Rectors Conference (HRK) supports higher education institutions in developing and emerging countries to professionalise institutional management procedures and to improve the quality and relevance of study programmes.

In DIES training courses, higher education management staff receive further training on topics such as faculty, research and financial management. DIES dialogue events offer an opportunity to discuss current reform issues in higher education management at the regional and supra-regional level. DIES projects in selected areas promote the development of transnational sustainable structures. DIES partnerships support modern higher education management and structural innovation in universities.

FROM PRACTICE

DIES project for quality assurance in East Africa

Between 2006 and 2015 the DAAD, the German Rectors Conference (HRK) and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) established a regional quality assurance system in East Africa to improve the quality of teaching and aligning it better to the needs of the labour market. The final evaluation took place in 2015: over 70 institutional projects were successful. Following the regional project's conclusion, IUCEA today is independently continuing to fund further training and a regional QA network.

Due to demand from partner countries for targeted advice from German universities, the DAAD is conducting a programme to place **higher education advisors**. Providing advice on issues such as higher education management and curriculum development, these experienced specialists contribute to the establishment of a more effective teaching, research and service provision of universities in developing countries.

OUR COMMITMENT IN NUMBERS

