

**PROGRAMME  
OBJECTIVE**

## FUNDING FRAMEWORK

**SDG-Partnerships (2025-2028)****1**

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) supports the "**SDG Partnerships**" programme using funds from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Funding is provided for establishing partnerships between German higher education institutions and higher education institutions in the Global South. The programme focusses on planning, developing and realising higher education partnerships that give rise to a sustainable promotion of structures at partner institutions in the Global South, in teaching as well as research, and in the areas of higher education and research management.

The programme contributes in the long term (**impact**) to:

- The programme contributes to the development and consolidation of cooperation structures between the participating higher education institutions and institutions.
- German higher education institutions have acquired expertise in global contexts and challenges as well as in the Global South.
- The programme contributes to the internationalisation of the participating higher education institutions.
- The programme contributes to the structural strengthening of teaching and research at the partner higher education institutions.

In order to achieve these long-term effects (impacts), the programme pursues the following **programme objectives (outcomes)**:

**Area of activity: teaching**

- 1:** Graduate training structures have been improved at the partner institutions (BA and in particular MA or equivalent).
- 2:** Students from developing and emerging countries are qualified to take up professional activities in these partner countries.
- 3:** The partner institutions offer study and qualification programmes related to SDGs that are appropriate to the local context and reflect the state of the art in science.
- 4:** Established methods are in place for transferring course offerings to other higher education institutions.

**Area of activity: research**

- 5:** Research results regarding topics related to global circumstances and challenges are part of the content taught at the institutions involved.
- 6:** Topics related to global circumstances and challenges are established research focusses at the institutions involved.
- 7:** Methods for the distribution and transfer of knowledge and research findings are in place.

**Area of activity: university management**

- 8:** The organisational structures at the partner institutions have been reinforced, expanded or developed.
- 9:** Central governance and management structures have been improved at the partner institution.
- 10:** Methods for realising the third mission have been created for the area of higher education management at the partner institution.

These programme objectives should be achieved by means of the following **direct results (outputs)** of measures/activities:

**Area of activity: teaching**

- Curricula/teaching modules that relate to the SDGs and suit the local context while reflecting the latest developments in science have been jointly developed/advanced.
- Lecturers at the partner institutions have obtained further discipline-specific and didactic qualifications.
- Structural prerequisites for courses of study have been established.
- Non-university players are actively involved in education development and teaching.
- Further (non-)university players are involved in the partnership.
- Methods for making study opportunities more widely available have been created.

**Area of activity: research**

- Researchers have taken part in training regarding research methods.
- Researchers have realised research endeavours in subject areas related to global circumstances and challenges.
- Non-university players are involved in the research activities.
- The structural conditions for research have been improved at the partner institutions.
- Further (non-)university players are involved in the partnership.
- Methods for spreading knowledge and communicating research results have been created.

**Area of activity: higher education management**

- The administrative staff at the partner institutions have obtained (further) qualifications.
- Processes and structures for improved university management are in place.
- There are established processes and structures for communication with and knowledge transfer to the general public

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

Different emphases can be set in each project.

Project objectives do not have to be defined for all programme objectives.

**However, at least one project objective must be defined for each of the programme objectives in the teaching field of action or in the university management field of action.**

While there is some room for flexibility when it comes to wording project objectives and to the ways to achieve these, the project objectives must be in line with the programme objectives. The project objectives must be specified based on the programme's results framework. Measurable project objectives and results and related indicators must be specified. These must be outlined in the application and in the project planning summary.

Regarding the instructions for results-oriented project planning, the results framework and the list of indicators, please refer to Attachment 1 'Guide to Results-oriented Monitoring'.

The option to combine different areas of activity allows for a flexible strategy, depending on the respective project's demands and framework conditions. Smaller projects that relate, for example, to a specific course of study in the developing country can be eligible for funding, as well as larger endeavours that can also be an expansion of existing partnerships. **Smaller projects should explicitly not be cooperations that are still being established. The Fact Finding Missions programme** with its own call for applications is available for those seeking to initiate cooperation.

Administrators/disseminators that are relevant to higher education management and/or other participants (such as political decision-makers) can be involved, depending on the objective of the project and the combination of areas of activity.

In line with the impacts listed above, it must also be taken into account that cooperation between German higher education institutions and partners in developing and emerging countries should be a key medium and long-term objective of any project. In the sense of the 2030 Agenda, such cooperations should contribute substantially to sustainable development of higher education institutions as well as society. This also means that partnerships that allow for a longer-term connection between the institutions and a stabilisation of South-South contacts, as well as promoting dialogue and communication, are considered particularly worthy of funding. The use of further funding instruments for higher education cooperation with developing countries is advisable and desirable in this context to create synergies (e.g. Alumni and Material Support Programme).

### **Ecological sustainability**

The DAAD has set itself the goal of further reducing its ecological footprint as an organisation and funding body. In the context of project funding, the DAAD should strive 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 refer to procurement and awarding, event management or marketing and public relations.

### 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 within the framework of project funding. Projects must be planned and realised 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").

## ELIGIBLE MEASURES / ACTIVITIES

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### Eligible measures / activities are:

- Development and revision of teaching/learning materials relevant to project implementation
- Organisation of events
- Carrying out further and advanced training
- Implementation of project-related stays (research, specialised course/workshop, internship, study, teaching)
- Realisation of target group-oriented public relations work
- Conduct SDG-relevant research

When choosing the form in which individual measures/activities are realised, it should be checked, whether a digital format might be suitable and possible in pursuit of sustainability.

### Not eligible for funding:

- Applications focussing on research funding only;
- Projects that are already funded by other institutions (e.g. DFG, BMZ, GIZ);
- Representative trips without academic interests and excursions;
- Applications for a funding volume of less than 10,000 euros per year;
- Extended (i.e. more than five months) research stays of researchers and students (please refer to the general scholarship and research funding programmes for this type of endeavour);
- Trips for the purpose of contract initiation. The **Fact Finding Missions** programme with its own call for applications is available for those seeking to initiate cooperation.

## EXPENDITURE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

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

### **Personnel resources for project implementation and support:**

- Scientific staff
- research assistant
- student assistant
- Other personnel

Personnel expenses are appropriate up to a maximum of 30% of the total expenditure applied for.

Personnel expenses include the gross salary of the employer. Collectively agreed annual special payments 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.

Only expenditure for persons who have an employment relationship with the grant recipient may be recognised under personnel funds. A contract for work does not constitute an employment relationship. Therefore, expenditure for contracts for work must be reported under material resources.

Expenses for personnel abroad are possible within the framework of a forwarding agreement.

### **MATERIAL RESOURCES INLAND / ABROAD**

#### **FEES**

(not for own staff, not for staff of domestic or foreign partner higher education institutions/institutions named in the application)

- 
- for external experts and service providers up to 250 euros/day (not for employees of the funding recipient or the partner higher education institutions involved in the project) for lectures or workshops; not for curriculum development;
- for auxiliary staff (e.g. for auxiliary work at conferences, workshops)
- for translations of teaching or project-related teaching and learning materials, flyers, brochures, etc.

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

#### **MOBILITY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL**

- Expenses for travelling/flights can be applied for and claimed in accordance with BRKG/LRKG in accordance with BRKG/LRKG; however, rail travel only 2nd class and flights only in economy class.
- Expenses for travel and flights for employees of the foreign partner university/higher education institutions (onward transfer recipients)

must be claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and economy .

If trips are organised in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner, the necessary costs incurred as a result shall be reimbursed insofar as they are in reasonable proportion to the objectives of environmental compatibility and sustainability.

In the interests of environmental sustainability, rail journeys should always be chosen over air travel for distances of less than 800 km (one way).

**Only travel and flight expenses from the university location / location of the partner university/s are eligible for funding.**

#### STAY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL

- Expenses for accommodation (overnight stay and meals) at the event venue can be applied for and claimed in accordance with BRKG/LRKG.
- Residence allowances for employees of the foreign partner university/higher education institutions (see Annex 2).

The flat-rate accommodation fee is payable on the first day of the stay and must be evidenced in a suitable manner, e.g. by a hotel bill. The flat rate for the stay covers all expenses associated with the stay.

#### MATERIAL RESOURCES INLAND/ABROAD

- Consumables (expenditure on printing and duplication, toner, ink, etc.) inks etc.)
- Economic goods (expenditure on software, licences; small equipment to improve the equipment of the foreign partner university are eligible for funding up to 5,000 euros; in justified exceptional cases for South-South partnerships and particularly financially weak partner higher education institutions up to 10,000 euros)
- Printing/publications/advertising and public relations (expenditure for flyers, brochures, posters, etc.; in the online area, e.g. for the development, establishment and maintenance of communication and learning platforms, websites, e-journals, online libraries)
- External services (companies commissioned to provide services, e.g. for translations, website creation, setting up and maintaining communication and learning platforms, internet presences, e-journals, online libraries)
- Other: *Expenditure for*
  - Teaching and learning materials , textbooks, textbooks and reference books, specialised media, etc.;
  - Visa fees;
  - Necessary vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis;
  - Fees for money transfers abroad;
  - Specialist excursions;
  - **Participant flat rate (50 euros/day/participant)** for the organisation of events (workshops and conferences etc.). The participant fee is payable on the first day of the event and is evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants. The participant fee covers the costs of technical equipment,

room hire and, if applicable, coffee breaks.

Internal accounts of the grant recipient (e.g. expenses for printing documents in an in-house print shop, expenses for internal event rooms) must be justified at the time of application with regard to unavailability, proportionality, economic efficiency and economy.

### **Funded persons:**

#### **MOBILITY OF FUNDED PERSONS**

From the funding recipient to the foreign partner university/partner institutions (and vice versa)

Expenses for travel/flights can be applied for and claimed in accordance with **the principles of economic efficiency and economy.**

If trips are organised in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner, the necessary costs incurred as a result shall be reimbursed insofar as they are in reasonable proportion to the objectives of environmental compatibility and sustainability.

In the interests of environmental sustainability, rail journeys should be chosen instead of air travel wherever possible for distances of less than 800 km (one way).

#### **From partner university to partner university (South-South)**

Expenses for travel and flights are to be claimed in accordance with the principles of economy and thrift; train journeys (regardless of their duration) only 2nd class and flights only in economy class.

#### **Within the partner country/countries**

Expenses for travelling and flights can be applied for and claimed in exceptional cases. The approval of the DAAD must be obtained separately in each case.

#### **RESIDENCE OF FUNDED PERSONS**

Lump-sum allowances for foreign scholarship holders in Germany to participate in the following activities: [Research](#), [specialised course/workshop](#), [internship](#), [study](#), [teaching](#) etc.

Students, doctoral candidates, experienced researchers and professors can apply for and claim a lump sum for their stay (accommodation and meals) in Germany.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Daily rate</b> for short stays (up to 22 days) (in Euro)	<b>Monthly instalment</b> for study and research visits lasting several months (max. 5) (in Euro)
Students and doctoral candidates	98	Students: 934 Doctoral students: 1,300
Postdocs/scientists/professors	121	Postdoctoral researchers: € 2,000 Experienced scientists: € 2,150 Professors or scientists in a comparable position: € 2,300

**The accommodation allowance is payable on the first day of the stay** and must be evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants (this must be submitted with the interim/utilisation certificate). The accommodation allowance covers the costs of accommodation and meals as well as health, accident and liability insurance.

Subsistence allowances for **Germans in the partner country and in the South-South exchange programme** for participation in the following activities: [Research, specialised course/workshop, internship, study, teaching etc.](#)

Students, doctoral candidates, experienced researchers and professors can apply for and claim a lump sum for their stay (accommodation and meals) in the partner country and in the South-South exchange programme in **accordance with Annex 2 (short-term stays) and Annex 3 (long-term stays)**.

The daily rates according to Annex 2, which are independent of academic status, apply to German and foreign sponsored persons.

The accommodation allowance is payable on the first day of the stay and must be evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants (this must be submitted with the interim/utilisation report). The accommodation allowance covers the costs of accommodation and meals as well as health, accident and liability insurance.

**Arrival and departure days may each be claimed as one day.**

**Note:**

Foreign participants should urgently be made aware of the need for adequate insurance cover. If it is not possible to take out international

health insurance in their home country, they should ensure that they are insured immediately upon arrival in Germany.

## FORWARDING

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It is possible to forward the grant for project funding (in whole or in part) 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. This means that the entire project must be addressed (including the forwarding level).

In the financing plan, the expenditure items of the on-lending recipient(s) must be labelled separately from the recipient's own expenditure items (e.g. with "WL"). 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 would be incurred by a possible onward transfer recipient must first be shown in the financing plan as own expenses and their necessity must be justified in the project description. As soon as the actual onward transfer of the grant becomes known (after conclusion of the contract), a modification application for project funding (adaptation of the project description and financing plan) must be submitted to the DAAD.

Onward transmission shall take place on the basis of an **onward transmission contract**.

The recipient's proof of use of funds and the corresponding audit certificate must be attached to the proof of use of funds submitted to the DAAD.

## FINANCING TYPE

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Funding is provided by way of **deficit 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 to the form of income/expenditure that cannot be documented, these must be plausibly presented in the financing plan and project description.

## FUNDING PERIOD

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The funding period begins on **1 February 2025 at the earliest** and ends on **31 December 2028 at the latest**.

## AMOUNT OF FUNDING

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The maximum amount of DAAD funding for a partnership between a German and a foreign higher education institution is EUR 293.750, split into budget years as follows:

2025: 68,750 euros

2026: 75,000 euros

2027: 75,000 euros

2028: 75,000 euros

In the case of multilateral cooperation (one German and two or more per higher education institutions, usually from different partner countries), the DAAD grant can be increased by up to 25,000 euros / year for South-South exchange .

## DISCIPLINE(S)

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The programme consists of two funding lines:

Funding line I

is open to **all disciplines with a clear SDG reference** (including interdisciplinary proposals), except for proposals that take into account the approaches specified in funding line II.

Funding line II

Considers applications that make a significant contribution to the topic of **"Climate change - amongst others energy transition, mitigation, environmental education"**, including interdisciplinary applications.

Applications must be assigned to one of the two funding lines at the time of application. **Applications that are assigned to funding line II must be justified accordingly (see project description).**

## TARGET GROUP

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Scientists, students, graduates, doctoral candidates and administrative staff of the universities.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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Eligible applicants are state and state-recognised German higher education institutions, university hospitals and/or non-university research institutions based in Germany that are recognised as non-profit organisations and conduct their own research.

## APPLICATION

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Note:

*Due to Russia's attack on Ukraine, the DAAD has suspended all institutional forms of cooperation with partners in Belarus until further notice. Against this background, no applications for project funding with partner institutions in Belarus are possible.*

The application for project funding in German or English must be submitted on time and in complete form exclusively via the DAAD portal ([www.mydaad.de](http://www.mydaad.de)). In addition, the following documents must be uploaded in the "Attachments" tab:

- Project application with a meaningful project title (in the DAAD portal)
- Financing plan (in the DAAD Portal)
- Project description, see form template (attachment type: project description)
- Project planning overview, see form template (attachment type: project planning overview)
- If forwarding: Project description and financing plan of the forwarding recipient(s) (if known at the time of application, otherwise submit later as soon as known) (attachment type: Supplementary financial information)
- Dedicated justification of the own interest in the project on the part of the partner institution from (type of facility: programme-specific facilities)
- Signed cooperation agreement(s) on the partnership between the participating German and foreign university/higher education institutions, otherwise justification, if submitted subsequently to the conclusion of the contract (attachment type: contracts/agreements)
- Endorsement by the university management, see form template (Annex-type: programme-specific attachments)
- Short curriculum vitae and a list of the 5 most important relevant publications of the project leaders and partners on both sides. (Attachment type: Programme-specific attachments)

After the application deadline, changes to the financing plan, the project description as well as subsequently submitted or amended documents can no longer be considered. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.

In deviation from this, signed cooperation agreements on the partnership/partnerships between the participating German and foreign higher education institutions can be submitted later until the contract is concluded, but this must be justified in the timely application (attachment type: contracts/agreements).

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

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The deadline for applications is **28 June 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) Relation of the project to the programme objectives (according to the impact structure) as impact-oriented planning with indicators that meet the SMART criteria (see Annex 1) (weighting: 15%)
- (2) Concrete contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (weighting 20%)
- (3) Discipline-specific relevance and quality of the project (weighting 20%)
  - Demand for the project and its benefits are clearly recognisable
  - Discipline-specific expertise of the applicants.
  - Experience of the project coordinator gained from past projects in or with target groups from developing or emerging countries
  - Experience of the German project managers in the management of international projects
  - Balanced project concept that adequately addresses the fields of activity listed above in line with the respective focus areas
  - Appropriate and balanced calculation.
- (4) The project's relevance to development policy (weighting 20%)
  - Contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
  - Consideration of the principles of development cooperation: planning, conceptualisation and implementation are based on the requirements of the partner university/universities and are carried out jointly.
  - Plausible explanation, how the project's discipline-specific and regional focus contributes to the development of the partner institution and/or partner country in general.
- (5) Balance of cooperation measures (weighting 15%)
  - Coordination and cooperation of the cooperation partners involved
  - Contribution made by the German and foreign higher education institutions/partners
  - Integration and exchange of students, academics and researchers on both sides
- (6) Sustainability of the intended impacts (weighting: 10%)
  - Networking with further higher education institutions/partners and stakeholders in the region, South-South partnerships
  - Creation of sustainable cooperation structures that will outlast the funding period.

1. Guide to Results-oriented Monitoring (RoM, incl. impact structure, indicator catalogue)
2. Country-specific residence allowances

**FORM-  
TEMPLATES**

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- Project description
- Project planning overview
- Endorsement of the German university management

**IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION**

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- Information on mobility with disability and chronic illness
- OECD DAC list
- Completion aids for financing plan

**CONTACT**

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