

climapAfrica: Climate Research for Alumni and Postdocs in Africa

- DAAD

Overview

Objective

The goal is to foster application-oriented research results by enhancing knowledge exchange between the postdoctoral fellows and experienced alumni of German funding initiatives. Fellows and alumni will collaborate in joint working groups that encompass several postdoctoral projects in a specific field related to climate change research. The working groups will benefit from the expertise of distinguished German mentors.

Fellows and Alumni will increase their research impact and output through a comprehensive training and support program, including general skills training, science policy advising and science management.

Postdoctoral fellows and alumni will connect with peers, regional and international experts and practitioners in their fields and create a growing network. This community will represent an important voice to raise the awareness for climate change as one of the most pressing issues of our time.

Who can apply?

Applicants

- must be nationals of an African Country.
- should be willing to contribute to the initiation and the coordination of alumni working groups.
- should be willing to realize their project at a host institution in western or southern Africa.

What can be funded?

ClimapAfrica supports research on climate change, its impacts and possible counter actions. It should be possible to assign the postdoctoral research project to one of the following research areas: Agriculture, (Adapted) Land Use, Climate science, Law, Economic and social science, Mathematics/Natural science, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Biodiversity, Food security, Marine Science, Human Security, Education, Energy, Informatics, Water security and water resources, Woodland and forest sustainability. If you are not sure if your research field is fitting, do not hesitate to contact climapafrica@daad.de [<mailto:climapafrica@daad.de>].

ClimapAfrica can build on the commitment of SASSCAL and WASCAL research centres. Together they cover the spectrum of research disciplines which is addressed by climapAfrica. Both centres declared their willingness to act as host institutions for researchers. Therefore, applications for the countries which are covered by the activities of SASSCAL (Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar) and WASCAL (Bénin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sénégal, Togo, Cape Verde Islands, Guinea, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone) are encouraged. However, all universities and research institutions in all countries in southern and western Africa are eligible as long as they are adequately equipped for the realization of the planned research. The selected institution should be willing to host the fellow during his/her research stay and to provide adequate assistance. The terms of cooperation at the host institution must have been clarified and documented.

While the research work will be realized largely in western and southern Africa, successful applicants can apply additionally for funding of a temporary research stay in Germany (2-6 months) to work on a specific research question within the framework of their proposal and for

worldwide conference participations.

Duration of the funding

The fellowship awards are tenable for a period of 12 to 18 months.

Please note, that funding of the 4th scholarship cohort will start 1st July 2021 and end 31st December 2022 and is limited for a maximum of 18 months.

Value

The basic fellowship consists of:

- A flat-rate travel allowance to your target country and back
- A research lump sum of max. EUR 10,000
- A monthly allowance of EUR 800
- An accident, personal liability and health insurance

Additionally, support for the following activities can be granted (subject to availability of funds):

- Short-term research stays in Germany (2 to 6 months)
- Mobility fellowships for the active participation (poster or talk) in relevant international conferences in the field of climate change/ climate Research

Selection

Applications will be reviewed by an independent selection committee consisting of experts in the relevant fields.

The performance-based assessment will consider:

- The evaluation of the proposal. Particular emphasis will be placed on the quality of the research plan. It should detail the preliminary work undertaken and the relevance of the topic for research and explain why the chosen institutions are especially suitable for the realization of the planned project. The strategy for the investigation of the scientific problem should be readily understandable and the choice of methods and work equipment be adequately established. The achievements of the applicant to date (scientific and other qualifications, and particular conditions which have influenced the academic progress)
- The quality of the proposed project and its consistency with further scientific qualification and long-term career planning.
- The relevance of the research topic for the understanding of climate change, its impacts in Africa and for the development of countermeasures.
- The fit of the facilities and the support offered by the host institution and the requirements of the research project.
- The coherence of the applicant's ideas to start an alumni working group and to accompany it's activities.

Further information

<https://www.wascal.org/> [<https://www.wascal.org/>]

<http://www.sasscal.org/> [<http://www.sasscal.org/>]

<https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/what-we-do/sustainable-development/funding-programmes/climapafrica/>

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Application requirements

What requirements must be met?

At the start of the fellowship:

The qualification for this program requires a PhD degree, the nationality of an African country and a host institution in western/southern Africa in one of the listed countries below:

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde Islands, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe

At the end of the fellowship the fellow must provide:

- a detailed final report on the findings of the research at the end of the funding period
- a summary of the executed activities within the alumni network
- an assessment of the future development of the career paths, the research topic and the alumni working group activities

Furthermore, the fellow must fill out the final questionnaire that will be provided by the DAAD.

Language skills

English

Application Procedure

Application documents

Documents to be uploaded to the DAAD portal (in English):

- DAAD application form, duly filled (available in the DAAD portal).
- Curriculum Vitae (please use the Europass specimen form at <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu> [<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>]).
- List of national and international publications: The list should be categorized according to (a) publications in peer review journals, (b) specialist books, and (c) conference proceedings. It should indicate the type of publication (original paper, review etc.). For each publication the state of publication (published, in print, accepted, submitted) and complete bibliographical information (including the first and last page number) must be provided. Where available, please include electronic links. You are also welcome to upload maximum 2 abstracts of two publications (abstract should be up to 2 pages maximum).
- Letter of invitation: from the host institution in western-/southern Africa (including current date and stamp of the institution). This letter should state the time frame of hosting and detail why the host institution is particularly suitable for the execution of the research project, as well as the support that will be provided.
- Research proposal: A detailed and independently prepared research proposal upon which both the applicant and his/her host institutions have agreed on. Please provide a precise description and a clear presentation (including a detailed workplan and the methodological approach). Please also describe the connection of your proposal to climate change and to Germany. The total length of the research proposal should be between 5 and 8 pages.
- Time schedule for the realization of the planned work (e.g. in the form of a bar chart). Please name the working packages in your bar chart and add the country of execution of each package. If you plan a concrete or abstract research stay in Germany, please include it into the time schedule.
- Alumni Working Groups: The centrepiece of the climapAfrica program are seven thematic working groups. The working groups are composed by climapAfrica postdoc fellows and alumni of German funding initiatives with expertise in the field of climate change research. Over 100 experts from 25 African countries exchange knowledge, skills and ideas and promote climate change knowledge. The goal of the working groups are:
 - 1) To provide a platform for discussion for the climapAfrica postdoc research projects;
 - 2) To contribute to actionable science and bridge the gap between climate change research, policy and practice.ClimapAfrica postdoc fellows will be assigned to a consisting working group based on their expertise. Their task is to initiate and boost collaboration efforts, organize and moderate meetings, contribute to tasks, and disseminate information. The applicant should understand the potential of the working groups, the precondition for their efficient functioning, and is motivated to cooperate with others in the development of innovative solutions. Please provide an outline for:
 - Three activities for your working group and specify how you would implement them with your working group.
 - Two challenges that you might be facing and how to overcome them when coordinating and motivating experts from all over Africa to perform joint activities.Find more information on the working groups on our [website \[https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/what-we-do/sustainable-development/funding-programmes/climapafrica/wg/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/what-we-do/sustainable-development/funding-programmes/climapafrica/wg/). (must be uploaded as a separate document under the category "research project"!).

- Master's certificate
- Copy of passport (must be uploaded as a separate document under the category "miscellaneous").

To be submitted by post:

2 recommendation letters by academic referees

The recommendations must be handed out to the applicant in sealed envelopes and can be submitted together via post:

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

ST32, Mariane Michels,

Kennedyallee 50

53175 Bonn

Germany

Or in exceptional cases via fax: (+49 228 882 98143)

The number is valid for classic and online electronic fax.

Please note that DAAD is allowed to offer post as the only legal way of submission for the reference letters. The submission via fax is reasonable in exceptional cases only and must be executed by the academic referees. The submission via email is not adequate. This is reasonable by the European laws for data privacy protection and the requirement to offer a way of safe data transfer.

When submitting via email and in cases of data abuse, DAAD can't be held accountable.

Application deadline

Application deadlines are updated at least once a year. In most cases, they are in the same period as the previous year. You can find the current dates here:

Applications for the 4th cohort can be handed in between 14th of December 2020 and 16th of February 2021.

Please note, that funding of the 4th scholarship cohort will start 1st July 2021 and end 31st January 2023 and is limited for a maximum of 19 months.

We will provide you with the appropriate details as soon as possible.

Application location

Mariane Michels

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V. (DAAD)

German Academic Exchange Service

Referat ST32 – Stipendienprogramme Afrika

Kennedyallee 50

53175 Bonn

Germany

Tel.: +49 (228) 882-8143

E-Mail: climafrika@daad.de [<mailto:climafrika@daad.de>]

Please note

- It is possible to upload additional documents after you have submitted your application! Thereby, we can check the completeness of your application at an earlier stage and are able to support you in case you have any complications.
- For submitting references by post, the postmark date serves as proof that they have been dispatched on time. Please note the long times of shipping to Germany and make sure to meet the deadline of the call for applications.
- The DAAD portal closes at 24.00 hrs. Central European Time (CET) on the last application day.
- The application documents remain with the DAAD. Data relating to applicants is saved by the DAAD in accordance with the Federal Data Protection Act and with the EU Data Protection Regulation insofar as this data is needed to process the application.

Information and advisory centres

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V. (DAAD)

German Academic Exchange Service

Kennedyallee 50

53175 Bonn / Germany

E-Mail: climapafrica@daad.de [<mailto:climapafrica@daad.de>]

[climapafrica FAQ \[https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/what-we-do/sustainable-development/funding-programmes/climapafrica-faq/\]](https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/what-we-do/sustainable-development/funding-programmes/climapafrica-faq/)

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