

INFORMATION SHEET

Only the German version is legally binding

Procedures and Guidelines for Funding Bilateral SDG Graduate Schools*

**Funded by the Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**

Submission deadline: 31 May 2016

Funding period: 2016 – 2020

* The developing countries eligible for this program are those included on the DAC List of the OECD (Attachment 7).

What are the objectives of the programme?

September 2015 saw the adoption of the new UN Development Agenda “Transforming our World – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The key focus of the new Development Agenda is on the joint responsibility of industrial, emerging, and developing countries working within a global partnership. Within this framework, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were developed as a follow-on concept from the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). In this respect, great importance is placed on the goal of providing access to equal opportunities, high-quality education. This programme, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), seeks to help achieve the new Development Goals by funding bilateral higher education institution partnerships in establishing SDG graduate schools in developing countries. To this purpose, the programme supports bilateral partnerships between higher education institutions in Germany and those in developing countries in providing relevant, high-quality educational offerings of structured study courses on research subjects having the greatest possible interdisciplinary content. The graduate schools are to provide specialised experts and lecturers with **training at Masters, doctorate, and postdoc level** and so work towards the joint development of innovative solutions to central SDG topics. The graduation certificates are to be issued by the partner higher education institution in the developing country. Since the key focus of the partnership is on the structural development of teaching and research at the partner higher education institution abroad, that is also where the core activities should take place. Nevertheless, a stay in Germany is to be included so as to promote the internationalisation of the project and the scholarship holders since intercultural skills and experience in cooperating in international teams is a key success factor for many projects. This forms the basis of a sound concept for the future which, with the participation of the partners in the developing countries, ensures the sustainability of the SDG graduate schools even when the funding has ended.

The subject focus is not necessarily on individual SDGs but on the core areas of the 2030 Agenda:

- end hunger and poverty and ensure human dignity, equality and health (*people*);
- environmental protection, e.g. through sustainability in consumption and production and sustainable resource management in tackling climate change (*planet*);
- development and well-being in economic, social, and technological terms (*prosperity*);
- the promotion of peaceful, equitable, and inclusive societies (*peace*);

including, as an interdisciplinary topic and key basic concept,

- the establishment of a global partnership for sustainable development (*partnership*).

In addition, the targeted deployment of information and communication technologies (ICT) is to help towards implementing the German federal government’s Digital Agenda (Chapter VII.5). This includes both the deployment of ICT in teaching (e.g. blended learning) as well as its use within the scope of project implementation and cooperating in international teams (e.g. establishment and use of databases, online libraries, communication platforms).

In keeping with the Agenda Digital Africa, the key regional focus will be on the African continent. A total of four SDG graduate schools are to be established here, one in Eastern Africa, one in Western Africa, and one each in Southern and Central Africa. As far as is possible, the aim is to have a francophone project and a lusophone project. An additional SDG graduate school is to be established in Latin America and Asia respectively.

The **long-term objective** of the programme for establishing bilateral SDG graduate schools is to work towards sustainable development within the scope of the SDG and to help establish high-quality, outward-looking higher education institutions. The specialists and lecturers trained at the graduate schools are to work towards solving development-related issues. SDG teaching and research at the partner higher education institutions is to be structurally strengthened through improvements in quality and relevance. In the long term, the SDG graduate schools are to be competitive and sustainable.

Based on these long-term objectives, the following **programme goals (outcomes¹)** are set out for the SDG graduate schools. These programme goals were defined within the scope of the results framework of the programme (cf. Attachment 5):

- The partner higher education institutions offer SDG-related study courses deploying ICT-based methods in keeping with the local context and cutting-edge scientific knowledge.
- The SDG research capacities have been expanded.
- Qualified Master's students and PhD students have been educated in development-relevant study courses.
- The graduate schools operate within networks and work together with relevant employers and stakeholders from politics, business, and civil society.
- The partner higher education institutions have developed innovative financial and strategic approaches towards ensuring the sustainability of the SDG graduate schools.

Based on the formulated programme goals, the following **outputs²** are to be delivered:

- Following a quality-based, transparent selection process, Master's students and PhD students with the requisite specialist and methodical skills have received funding.
- In joint cooperation and deploying ICT-based methods, SDG-related curricula and/or teaching modules have been developed in keeping with the local context and cutting-edge scientific knowledge.
- Contacts to relevant employers and stakeholders from politics, business, and civil society have been established.
- The partner higher education institutions' teaching staff have the requisite specialist and didactic qualifications.
- Joint framework planning for research-oriented SDG training has been developed.
- The partner higher education institutions' employees have the requisite qualifications for administrating the projects.

¹ The outcome level describes direct (short- and medium-term) effects.

² The output level describes achievements and results, i.e. created technical capacities, personal skills, or imparted knowledge.

To achieve these outputs, funding for various measures can be applied for at the **input and activities** level. These measures reach from providing staff support, to the organisation and staging of events (e.g. further training workshops) and project-related stays, all the way to developing and procuring teaching and learning materials, consumables and small devices.

Please note from the DAC list in Attachment 7 which countries can receive funding within the scope of these higher education institution co-operations.

For more information on the funding framework, see Attachment 1 to the Information Sheet.

Particularly eligible for funding are those higher education institution partnerships whose focus is on establishing longer-term institutional ties and ensuring the continuity of south-south contacts while also enabling a dialogue between industrial and developing countries within the context of taking joint responsibility for global development.

The individual projects may set different key focal points within the scope of the programme goals. The project partners are free to formulate their goals and determine how to achieve those goals as long as their project goals are consistent with the programme goals.

Correspondingly the higher education institutions are called upon to formulate their **own measurable goals and indicators** on the basis of the results framework and in keeping with the indicators set by the DAAD (cf. Attachment 5). These are to be described in the application. A handout on how to formulate project-specific indicators is to be found in Attachment 5.

The programme to establish bilateral SDG graduate schools will be subject to an indicator-based and results-oriented monitoring, in coordination with the donor. The participating higher education institutions shall be expected to be actively involved in future monitoring activities. The indicators listed in Attachment 5 shall be part and parcel of the annual reporting so as to enable the DAAD to monitor the overall programme. Since the programme goals are in some cases only achievable after several years, programme monitoring requires indicators at the levels of activities, outputs, and outcomes. In addition, the annual status reports are to provide a narrative description of how the funded partnerships are contributing towards achieving the goals and the results framework of the programme.

Who is eligible to apply?

German state and state-recognised higher education institutions may apply.

What is funded?

Funding measures:

For management and coordination purposes, **project staff** (preferably based abroad) may be employed and funded within reasonable bounds.

In addition, **equipment and material resources** may be procured if required for implementing the project (e.g. small devices, consumables).

To promote the exchange of scientists, postgraduates and students within the scope of events and scholarships, etc. expenses incurred for **trips and stays** shall be refunded.

For further details on expenses eligible for reimbursement by the DAAD please see Attachment 1.

Funding period:

Project funding may be applied for from **1 September 2016 to 31 December 2020 at the latest** (5 calendar years). An extension will be decided on the basis of an interim evaluation.

Funding resources:

The maximum funding amount available to a partnership between a German and a foreign higher education institution for the purpose of establishing the SDG graduate schools shall be no more than **€450,000** per year.

The funds shall be appropriated subject to the public funding legislation of the German federal government by way of funding agreements between the DAAD and the German higher education institution (partial funding to cover any shortfall of the total expenses).

Which branches of study are funded?

The programme is open to all branches of study.

Which target groups are funded?

The target groups are particularly graduates (on a Master's course) and PhD students, postdoctoral scholars, higher education institution teachers, lecturers and scientists, administrators, multipliers, and alumni from developing countries and, to a small extent, German graduates (on a Master's course), postdoctoral scholars, higher education institution teachers, lecturers and scientists, administrators, multipliers, and alumni.

What framework conditions need to be met?

German higher education institutions can submit funding applications to set up bilateral partnerships for the purpose of establishing SDG graduate schools at higher education institution or faculty level if partnership agreements between the partner higher education institutions have been concluded in writing. These should basically be concluded at higher education institution administration level and, in individual cases, may be submitted subsequently after the project has been approved. Applicant and cooperation partner should be active higher education institution teachers.

In selecting funding recipients within the scope of conducting the said measures, the following requirements are to be observed:

The measure must be put out to tender; the target group must be given the opportunity to learn about the invitation to tender and must be given corresponding access.

A selection commission/committee is to be formed in which the higher education institution teachers are represented. In addition, higher education institutions from the partner countries are to be appropriately incorporated. The meetings and decisions are to be placed on record, such records being filed by the higher education institution.

Selections must be made on merit, i.e. the best candidates are to be respectively selected. Selection criteria are to make certain that, as far as the professional requirements are met, a balanced gender distribution is assured. Quality assurance in the selection process and the selection decision shall be the responsibility of the project management team. After a selection has been made, a scholarship agreement is to be concluded with the intended funding recipient. This means a contractual agreement in the form of a scholarship award letter (Letter of Award) from the funding institution and a declaration of acceptance from the funding recipient. The declaration of acceptance must rule out any double funding. In addition, the documents are to bear the logos of the DAAD and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The selection procedures are to be described in the project specifications.

Submission of applications

The application must be submitted **in completed form and in due time** via the **DAAD online portal** (<https://portal.daad.de>).

Project planning and design are to be **jointly** elaborated with the foreign partner higher education institution(s). The application is to be formulated **in coordination** with the foreign partner(s).

When drafting applications, please be sure to observe the “Instructions for Making Applications” (Attachment 3).

A higher education institution teacher is to be named as the partnership officer in charge by the applicant German higher education institution. This project manager shall be the contact person for content and financial matters for the DAAD. This person shall be responsible for the project vis-à-vis the DAAD.

Submission deadline

Applications are to be submitted with all the required documents attached as early as possible, but by no later than **31 May 2016**.

What selection criteria are there?

The **decision** on which projects are to be funded and the scope of such funding shall be made by an external **selection committee** – designated by the Executive Committee of the DAAD and comprised of expert academics with relevant experience in cooperating with developing countries – in observance of the criteria mentioned below and subject to the availability of funds.

Applications shall be considered according to formal criteria and content-based criteria, with special focus on their relevance to development policy and their results orientation. **The content criteria are derived from the programme goals and indicators described in the results framework (Attachment 5).**

Set out in detail, the following criteria shall be observed in the evaluation:

- the **academic quality** of the projects and measures specified in the application as well as the **degree of subject orientation** towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- the **relevance to development policy**. Projects having particular relevance to development policy are those which
 - form a clear connection to the programme goals and indicators described in the results framework;
 - convincingly describe how the project’s subject orientation and regional focus will help towards the development of the higher education institution sector and/or the partner country/target region in general;
 - present a compelling concept for sustainable, structural, and content-based further development of teaching and research at partner institutions abroad;
 - decide the planning, design, execution, and evaluation jointly with their foreign partners with a key focus on their requirements;
 - develop sustainable cooperation structures during implementation that continue beyond the funding period.
- the **innovative impact** and **sustainable structural improvement** of the teaching conditions to be achieved by the proposed measures, particularly

at the foreign partner higher education institution (e.g. through joint development of the curricula, module development, development of joint study courses involving actors from outside the higher education sector; through joint specialist symposiums/workshops; by passing on experience when establishing service centres, etc.);

- the **degree of integration of ICT-based methods** (e.g. learning how to cooperate in virtual teams, using online libraries, etc.) in keeping with the Digital Agenda of the German federal government (Chapter VII.5);
- the degree of bilateral **integration and exchange of students and young academics** in the project;
- the consideration given to **gender equality**;
- the financial participation of the partner in the project within the bounds of its financial resources and the **appropriateness of use of funds** with regard to the overall targeted results.

Contacts and additional information

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You will find the link to online application submissions and all corresponding information (forms and attachments, etc.) in the [DAAD Programme Database](#).

Attachments for the invitation to tender

- Attachment 1:** Funding Framework
- Attachment 1.1:** Catalogue of Funding Rates
- Attachment 1.2:** Insurance Information
- Attachment 2:** Application Approval by the German Higher Education Institution Administration
- Attachment 3:** Instructions for Applicants
- Attachment 4:** Instructions for filling out the Financing Plan
- Attachment 5:** Handout on Results-Oriented Monitoring
- Attachment 6:** Project Planning Overview
- Attachment 7:** DAC List of the OECD

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for Economic Cooperation
and Development