**DAAD**

# International Mobility and Cooperation through Digitalisation

**Objective and Purpose**

Access to and participation in research and higher education are becoming increasingly global. Physical mobility coupled with virtual access, teaching and cooperation options open up potential for rapid structural change with fundamental shifts in learning, knowledge and skills acquisition, as well as for international cooperation opportunities. Thus, universities get innovative possibilities to develop physical and virtual mobility opportunities for their students across borders with appealing partners and to offer students clearly structured and administratively secured forms of digital participation in international educational programmes, also as a way to attract highly qualified international students. This results in the sustainable development of local teaching and learning conditions and in the establishment of new forms of international cooperation. Among other things, this requires an increased alignment of teaching and students' mentoring to the model of the *Student Journey* [1].

In order to support the internationalisation and profile development of German universities through the digitalisation of teaching and student mobility, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) relies on the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) to fund the "International Mobility and Cooperation through Digitalisation" programme.

The application, selection and funding of projects is carried out in two stages:

## Stage 1: Preparation of project application

In the first stage, eligible parties submit their funding applications to prepare the detailed project application. These include a university-specific positioning in the strategy area of internationalisation through digitalisation and, in particular, describe how the university's organisational units work together to achieve the project's goals. Furthermore, contributions provided by the international partner institutions should be outlined, if possible with written expressions of interest. The project outline to be submitted seeks to describe a funding project of at least three years (see point "Application") and identify the organisational structures and processes, as well as define the implementation phases that will make a significant and long-term contribution to the promotion of digitally supported international mobility and cooperation. Up to 20 projects will be selected on the basis of this project outline. The four-month funding of the first stage (up to 50,000 EUR per project) serves to prepare the project application.

## Stage 2: Project implementation

In the second stage, eligible parties submit project funding applications. Up to five projects will be selected and funded with the corresponding grant. Where applications are qualitatively equivalent, the one requesting the lower amount will be given priority.

**The funding program pursues four objectives:**

**Objective 1: Strengthen digitally supported, transnational curricula and study programs**
Within the framework of partnership networks, existing and/or new curricula and joint study programs that intelligently combine virtual and physical *mobility (so-called blended mobility)*, must be (further) developed. Digital educational technologies (e.g., Learning Management Systems / E-Learning platforms, mobile applications, social media applications, *augmented* and *virtual reality* technologies), teaching and learning formats (e.g., blended learning, MOOCs, web-based training, mobile learning) and digital forms of examination (e.g.,

audio and video documentation, e-exams, e-portfolios) adapted to students' mobility and learning rhythms must be implemented.

**Objective 2: Build methodological and digital skills through the development of digital teaching-learning scenarios**
Media-didactic, internationally networked teaching-learning scenarios are designed to enable students to enjoy learning experiences that are adaptive, personalised, sensitive to diversity and inclusive, independent of time and place, and ensure the acquisition of digital skills. Train-the-trainer qualifications, expert exchanges, media-didactic concept workshops and peer-to-peer counseling processes for teachers aim to develop and expand didactic methodological knowledge. Specific evaluations of these scenarios should provide information on the scalability and digital competence acquisition of students, for example, in the context of cross-border collaborative project work. The documentation of the teaching-learning concepts and their availability as *open educational resources* (OER) should be systemized and can thus be utilized in multiple ways in the future.

**Objective 3: Coordination, adaptation and implementation of service-oriented, digital infrastructures for transnational teaching**
Service-oriented, interoperable IT architectures that support student mobility as well as teaching and learning processes at all levels (administrative, didactic, cultural) should be coordinated, necessary adjustments should be defined and implemented. This includes system/service decisions, process documentation and harmonisation, the definition of standards and creation of interfaces, as well as cross-process quality assurance and management.

**Objective 4: Establishment of a student administration according to the Student Journey**
Student mobility as part of the *Student Journey* should be supported by transparent teaching and learning offers (e.g., through automated recognition practices), and modern digital administrative procedures (e.g., transfer of student data which is uncomplicated and free of media disruption). Existing networks (e.g., EDUROAM, DFN, EMREX standard) and the goal of *digital student data portability* pursuant to the Groningen Declaration must be observed. Joint process descriptions and cooperation agreements for the regulation of international cooperation must be defined and assessed with partners in Germany and abroad and, if necessary, further developed throughout the project to ensure its implementation.

Based on the program objectives above, funding should help achieve the following results:

- Study and qualification offerings with digital components and mobility windows are developed/revised and implemented in the curricula along with digital teaching and learning formats.
- Educational technologies and digitally networked teaching-learning-infrastructures are (further) developed; findings from practice (e.g., *user experiences* of students and teachers, collaboration and learning effects) are considered.
- Teachers are qualified through train-the-trainer seminars, expert exchanges, media didactic concept workshops and peer-to-peer counseling processes, as well as by applying acquired knowledge and methodological skills in the context of teaching-learning scenarios.
- The test phases of administrative procedures for the exchange of electronic student data and credit transfer have been completed.
- Responsibilities, rights/role management and principles of funding have been agreed between partners in such a way that permanent, regular operation is possible without further project funding.
- A sustainable operating and operator's concept for the future has been developed.

■ Results achieved are disseminated in the university community.

Not every project must contribute to all program objectives. Projects can be flexible in how they formulate and attain their objectives; however, project objectives must be consistent with the programme objectives to that end.

**Funding measures**

## Stage 1: Preparation of project application

Measures defined below relate to the preparation of the content described hereby for the second stage of the application, which should outline or refer to them

- Personnel assignment at the German university for project preparation and strategy development
- Project-related travel (e.g., coordination meetings to attract national and international cooperation partners)
- Planning and implementation of strategy, work and networking meetings
- Commissioning of external service providers (e.g., for technical or legal advice) and interactive workshop formats)
- Outline of cooperation agreements

## Stage 2: Project implementation

In principle, measures that are suitable and necessary for the achievement of objectives are eligible. These include in particular:

- Personnel assignment at the German university for project preparation and coordination
- Project-related travel (e.g., coordination meetings for the development of curricula and the preparation of joint cooperation and operational structures)
- Development and introduction of innovative, collaborative and exportable teaching and learning scenarios (e.g., Open Educational Resources, modular reusability, etc.)
- Continuing education measures for teachers (e.g., in the field of media didactics, online cooperation or hands-on demonstrations)
- (Blended) Guest Lectures
- Commissioning of external service providers (e.g., IT, media experts), for example, for advice purposes, to examine the digital education market in cooperating countries
- IT measures (e.g., for, in-house IT adaptations, interface programming)
- Survey of existing, relevant OER with regard to curricular fit, if necessary new development of content for teaching materials
- Public relations for the project
- Mobility and accommodation of students for short periods of time developed from the curricula (e.g., summer schools, student projects and conferences)

Note: The development and procurement of basic IT solutions (hardware and software) for regular operation cannot be funded.

**Eligible grant expenditures**

All expenditures that are necessary and appropriate for project implementation are eligible (for detailed information, see funding conditions, annexe 1).

## Stage 1: Preparation of project application

### Personnel for project preparation and strategy development
- Personnel in Germany
  - Research personnel
  - Research assistant
  - Student assistant
  - Other personnel

### Material expenditures

- Mobility of project personnel
- Accommodation of project personnel
- Material expenditures in Germany
  - Consumer goods
  - Fees for experts commissioned for in-house skills development and media professionalisation
  - Fees for external IT and media experts
  - Expenditures on external services

### Stage 2: Project implementation

**Personnel for project implementation and support, planning**
- Personnel in Germany
  - Research personnel
  - Research assistant
  - Student assistant
  - Other personnel

**Material expenditures**
- Mobility of project personnel
- Material expenditures in Germany
  - Assets: Acquisition of specialised hardware directly related to the project (up to a maximum of € 10,000/year) and software (up to a maximum of € 20,000/year) for in-house IT developments/adaptations
  - Issues for printing, publications, advertising and public relations
  - Fees for experts commissioned for in-house skills development and media professionalisation
  - Fees for external IT and media experts
  - Expenditure on external services

**Funded individuals**
- Mobility of funded individuals
- Accommodation of funded individuals

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| **Funding type** | **Stage 1: Preparation of project application**<br>The funding of the 1st stage is implemented as fixed-sum financing.<br><br>**Stage 2: Project implementation**<br>The funding of the 2nd stage is implemented as full financing. |
| **Funding period** | **Stage 1: Preparation of project application**<br>The funding period starts on 2019-08-01 and ends on 2019-11-30.<br><br>**Stage 2: Project implementation**<br>The funding period starts on 2020-04-01 and ends on 2023-03-31. Up to three projects, which are best rated in the accompanying assessment, can be extended for up to two years under the condition that the German partners contribute at least 30% of the self-financing, and that foreign partners (universities) also participate appropriately. |
| **Grant amount** | **Stage 1: Preparation of project application**<br>The maximum grant amounts to 50,000 EUR per project.<br><br>**Stage 2: Project implementation**<br>The amount of the grant per project and financial year depends, within the extent of the available BMBF funds, on the content requirements of the described work modules, as well as the appropriateness of the financial expenditures. If necessary, external expertise will be used to assess these efforts as well as the overall cost-effectiveness of the procedure. If the quality of the content is the same, the project with the lower funding request will be selected. |

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| **Discipline(s)** | The programme is open to all disciplines. |
| **Target groups** | ▪ Students and graduates<br>▪ Teaching personnel |
| **Eligible applicants** | State and state-recognised German universities and university consortia with German and foreign partner universities |

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| **Application** | Applications for project funding must be submitted in full and within the deadline exclusively via the DAAD portal (https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal). |

### Stage 1: Preparation of project application

A maximum of ten pages of project outline (DIN-A4) plus max. five pages of annex may be submitted to define the intentions of proposed projects, implementation concepts (see also above "Funding measures" for Stage 2) and the achievement of the outlined goals, as well as identifying possible international partners, and outlining operator structures.

The project funding application consists of:
▪ Project application
▪ Financing plan
▪ Project outline

On the basis of a digitalisation concept linked to the internationalisation strategy of the involved university(ies), the planned project (see Stage 2) must be outlined including goals, contents and methods, with underlying concepts, binding international partners and clearly described functions, expected added value for learners and teachers and participating universities, funds used, stabilisation strategy, milestone planning, etc. The opportunities for innovation, networked research and teaching, but also equal opportunity and facilitating educational advances via *internationalisation @home* must be presented.

### Stage 2: Project implementation

The project funding application consists of:
▪ Project application
▪ Financing plan
▪ Completed project description
▪ Completed project planning overview for results-oriented project planning, with formulation of measurable project goals and associated indicators
▪ Favourable statement by the university management
Project-related cooperation agreement (s) of the participating universities

On the basis of the project outline chosen by the selection committee in Stage 1, any project-relevant requirements and experiences, project goals and desired results, accompanying strategies and concepts, measures for monitoring and quality assurance, as well as sustainability and the expected use of results must be described.

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| **Application requirements** | The applicant must have an internationalisation strategy, ideally linked to a digitalisation concept. |

The applicant must ensure that the project is firmly anchored in the university strategy. The university management expressly declares its support for the project and makes it clear the extent to which the requested project is part of the internationalisation strategy of its university and fits into existing international partnerships.

The applicant must have a basic IT structure that is fundamentally suitable for cooperation.

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| | Only one application per university is to be submitted. |
| **Application deadline** | **Stage 1: Preparation of project application**<br>The deadline for the submission of project outlines is **2019-03-31**.<br><br>**Stage 2: Project implementation**<br>The deadline for the submission of detailed projects is **2019-11-30**.<br><br>Once the deadline passes, no documents will be requested by the DAAD and no amendments will be considered, even if they concern the financing plan. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure. |
| **Selection process** | Applications for project funding (both Stage 1 and Stage 2) will be reviewed by an (international) selection committee appointed by the DAAD.<br><br>**Selection criteria for both Stage 1 and Stage 2:**<br><br>▪ Quality of project goals and project measures<br>▪ Innovation and sustainability<br>▪ Relation to the effectiveness and action-oriented project planning of the programme<br>▪ Balance and long-term commitment of cooperation activities<br>▪ Adequacy of the planned fund allocation<br>▪ Sustainability and stabilisation potential |
| **Contact person** | Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst<br>German Academic Exchange Service<br>P44 – Digitalisation for Internationalisation, Universities of Applied Sciences<br>Kennedyallee 50<br>53175 Bonn<br><br>Contact:<br><br>Harald Matthiessen<br>Senior Desk Officer for Digitalisation<br>E-Mail: imkd@daad.de<br>Phone: +49 228 882 7984<br><br>Michaela Klinge<br>Senior Desk Officer<br>E-Mail: imkd@daad.de<br>Phone: +49 228 882 8646<br><br>Inga Filster<br>Project Management<br>E-Mail: imkd@daad.de<br>Phone: +49 228 882 584 |
| **Annexes** | 1. Funding conditions **for Stage 1 and 2**<br>2. Project description template  **- Stage 2 only**<br>3. Guideline for results-oriented project planning and monitoring - **Stage 2 only**<br>4. Project planning overview - **Stage 2 only**<br>5. Supporting statement by the university administration - **Stage 2 only**<br>6. DAAD fee scale **for Stage 1 and 2**<br>7. Accommodation and mobility lump sums **for Stage 1 and 2** |

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and Research