

## Cooperation with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) South Africa 2019–2023

### Goal and purpose

Using funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is supporting a higher education cooperation between a German higher education institution and the **African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)** in South Africa (<http://www.aims.ac.za>) with the research chair funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) that focuses on “Partial Differential Equations, Fluid Mechanics and Mean-Field Games” (chair holder: Dr Marc Sedjro).

The long-term goal of the programme is to contribute to strengthening mathematics in Sub-Saharan Africa and creating excellent, cosmopolitan higher education institutions in Germany and partner countries. The programme focuses on improving support for young academics in the field of mathematics at national and regional levels and on strengthening higher education and research in mathematics in partner countries. The programme is also intended to contribute to networking and the consolidation of cooperative structures between participating higher education institutions and the AIMS centres, and thus the internationalisation of the research chair and the German higher education institutions.

The following programme objectives for the cooperation between higher education institutions and AIMS are derived from these long-term aims:

**Programme objective 1:** Graduates and young academics are prepared for academic work in mathematics departments at higher education institutions in the region.

**Programme objective 2:** Capacities in mathematical sciences have been expanded and improved.

**Programme objective 3:** Networks between AIMS and participating higher education institutions as well as other institutions are established.

Based on the formulated programme objectives, the following results should be achieved:

- Doctoral and postdoctoral scholarship holders are trained and supervised at the research chair.
- Graduates and young academics are trained in applied mathematics in terms of both subject and method.
- As part of the higher education cooperation applied research is conducted.
- Contacts between AIMS and the participating higher education institutions and other institutions are established.

### Measures eligible for funding

#### **These measures are mandatory:**

- The awarding of scholarships to at least two African doctoral candidates at the above-mentioned research chair (scholarship period generally for three years)
- The awarding of at least one postdoc scholarship at the above-mentioned research chair (scholarship period generally for two years)

#### **Further measures eligible for funding:**

- Study, teaching and research stays by university teachers, academics, graduates and doctoral candidates of the higher education institution in Germany
- Research stays by academics, doctoral candidates and graduates of the AIMS centre in South Africa to German partner higher education institution
- Research stays by African academics, doctoral candidates and graduates from an African partner higher education institution at the AIMS centre in South Africa (South-South exchange)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events and workshops (e.g. summer schools, subject-specific qualification measures, networking and work meetings, coordination meetings, excursions)</li> <li>• Mobility and stay of German and African participants for the above-mentioned types of event</li> <li>• Release of academic publications</li> </ul>
Grant expenditure eligible	See <b>Appendix 1</b> “Funding Requirements” in this regard.
Type of financing	Funding will be provided as full financing.
Funding period	The <b>funding period</b> begins on 01/08/2019 at the earliest and ends on 30/09/2023 at the latest and should last four years.
Grant level	<p>The maximum grant should not exceed EUR 600,000 and should cover the budget year as follows:</p> <p>2019: EUR 75,000  2020: EUR 150,000  2021: EUR 150,000  2022: EUR 150,000  2023: EUR 75,000</p>
Subject areas	The programme is available in the subject area of mathematics and its applications.
Target group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• German and African graduates, doctoral candidates, postdocs, academics and university lecturer</li> <li>• Administrative staff of the AIMS centre in South Africa</li> </ul>
Eligible applicants	State and state-approved higher education institutions and non-university research institutions based in Germany are eligible to apply.
Submission of applications	The application for project funding must be completed in full and submitted by the stipulated deadline exclusively via the DAAD portal ( <a href="https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal">https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal</a> ).
Application requirements	<p><b><u>Application documents relevant for selection:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project application</b> (template in DAAD portal)</li> <li>• <b>Financing plan</b> (template in DAAD portal)</li> <li>• <b>Detailed project description</b> (see Appendix 2 for template; appendix type: Project description)</li> <li>• An <b>endorsement of the application</b> signed by the German higher education institution (see Appendix 4 for template; appendix type: programme-specific appendices)</li> </ul> <p>The above-mentioned application documents relevant for selection (mandatory documents) must be named in accordance with the specifications and submitted by the deadline in the form of the specified appendix type. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> If it is not possible to submit a memorandum of understanding, a letter of intent or a cooperation agreement with the AIMS centre in South Africa by the selection date, the status of negotiations should be outlined in brief. Please submit this outline with the application documents.</p> <p><b><u>Application documents relevant to the contract</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorandum of understanding, letter of intent or cooperation agreement with the AIMS centre in South Africa</li> </ul>



- Short version of the project description (see Appendix 3 for template; appendix type: project description)

If these contract-relevant documents are not provided by the application deadline, they must be submitted to the DAAD on request (if funding is granted) no later than before conclusion of the contract.

#### Application deadline

The application deadline is **18 June 2019**.

#### Selection procedure

A selection committee appointed by the DAAD will decide on the applications for project funding.

##### Selection criteria

- Academic quality of the project, which has to be agreed in close cooperation with the chair holder.
- Feasibility of the project objectives with the planned measures within the planned time.
- Plausibility of financing plan and project description.

#### Scholarship selection procedure

Decisions on scholarship applications by doctoral candidates and postdocs are made by a selection committee appointed by the grant recipient.

The selection procedure has to be presented in the project description. A selection report must be drafted.

The following should be specified:

- Public announcement of scholarship offers
  - The call for scholarship applications must be made in cooperation with the chair holder
- Composition of the selection committee
  - At least one professor from the German partner higher education institution, the chair holder from the research chair at the AIMS centre in South Africa and one additional committee member with the appropriate expertise
- Selection criteria
  - Subject-specific/academic aptitude and achievements
  - Personal aptitude
  - Regional aspects
  - Quality and feasibility of the research project
- Awarding of scholarship
  - via scholarship agreement (e.g. a “Letter of award” containing a precise description of scholarship benefits and their amount (e.g. scholarship instalment and mobility allowance, tuition fees) and a “Declaration of acceptance”)
  - Provision of a scholarship certificate (here: naming of the DAAD and the funding body)
- Payment of the scholarship grant

#### Contact

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#### Appendices

1. Funding requirements
2. Template “Detailed project description”
3. Template “Project description (short version)”
4. Template “Endorsement of application by the university administration of the German higher education institution”
5. DAAD table of fees

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