

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Procedures and Guidelines for Funding of the Networks in the Programme
Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation - exceed



Funding period: 2020 – 2024

Eligible applications can only be submitted by German Higher Education Institutions, represented by their faculties, departments and institutes. Developing countries are the countries on the DAC-List of the OECD 2018-2020.

Supported by the



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation - exceed 2020 - 2024

Objective and Purpose

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) supports the "Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation - exceed" programme with funds from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The exceed programme was tendered for the first time in 2009 with the objective to strengthen and further combine the commitment of German higher education institutions and their partners in developing countries, whilst simultaneously making it more publicly visible. The concepts of five German higher education institutions with partners in developing countries were selected by an international team of experts through a two-staged selection process for five-years' funding within the range of up to 1 million euros per year and centre. After an overall positive interim evaluation, the programme was transferred into the second funding phase with the existing five projects. An evaluation of this second funding phase, pursuant to the DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, development policy effects, sustainability, complementarity and coordination), was completed in 2018 with the result that the exceed programme can, on the whole, be assessed positively and it was therefore renewed.

The results, objectives and effects envisaged with the programme were defined in a results framework programme (see Annex 3: The **long-term objective** of the programme (impact) is to provide a contribution to sustainable development in terms of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, thereby the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the development of efficient and open-minded higher education institutions in Germany and partner countries.

In order to achieve this, the programme should contribute to the internationalisation of the participating higher education institutions and also that the German higher education institutions insert themselves actively into development cooperation as partners. Furthermore, a contribution be provided for this by exceed, for which trained staff aid in the solution of development-relevant questions, and solution approaches for SDG relevant questions are to be provided and communicated effectively.

From these long-term, envisaged effects the following four **main programme objectives** (outcomes) have derived:

- German higher education institutions have acquired expertise in the development cooperation
- Development-relevant networking is established through the involvement of extramural actors.
- Research focuses regarding subjects of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development are established at the participating higher education institutions
- Alumni are integrated into the labour market according to their education.

These four main programme objectives are achieved when the following seven **programme objectives** are aimed for on the outcome level:

- Collaboratively defined procedures and processes are developed for control of the network.
- Strategies for knowledge transfer, as well as sustainability of the networks are developed.

- International cooperations and multi-actor partnerships are strengthened regarding the subjects of the 2030 Agenda.
- Research projects regarding the subjects of the 2030 Agenda are implemented.
- Masters students/doctoral students have completed development-relevant courses of study/doctoral projects.
- Participating higher education institutions offer application-oriented and state-of-the-art appropriate Masters/doctoral programmes.
- The teaching/support to the participating higher education institutions is strengthened through the inclusion of ICT-based methods.

In order to achieve this, in the individual projects of the exceed programme on an **output** level the staff of the partner higher education institutions are taught skills in third-party funding, public relations, project and network management, as well as knowledge transfer, and the teaching staff are also qualified in ICT-based methods and problem-oriented teaching and learning. Furthermore, within the project there is a simple exchange regarding the subjects of the 2030 Agenda, in which the project partners and exceed alumni, as well as actors from science, politics, economics, civil society, and development and international cooperation.

With an eye on establishing the research focal points, it is continually important that the participating higher education institutions have developed a communal research agenda regarding the 2030 Agenda subjects, and that competent Masters students, doctoral students and post-docs are selected professionally and methodically. From a structural point of view, it is significant that practice-oriented curricula/teaching modules, which conform to the state of the art and exhibit reference to the 2030 Agenda, are (further) developed within the framework of the projects.

As the exceed network can exhibit a diverse range of structures and focal points (research, teaching, capacity building), the projects must not fulfil all of the programme objectives equally. Rather, focus should be on the selected programme objectives according to their concept. The individual project can therefore have different focal points within the programme's objective system. The project partners have leeway in the formulation of their objectives and in the way in which they achieve them, insofar as the project objectives are consistent with the programme objectives. Accordingly, the higher education institutions are requested to **formulate their own measurable objectives and indicators** on the basis of the results framework and the indicators provided by the DAAD, as well as the programme objective presented here. They are to be presented in the application. A handout on the formulation of project-specific indicators can be found in Annex 3.

So long as the professional orientation permits it, it is preferable that the new centres to be funded collaborate with the networks of the first funding phase in order to establish their experiences, expertise and contacts.

The exceed programme is supported through monitoring, which is based on indicators and aimed at effects; this is in coordination with the sponsors. It is expected that the participating higher education institutions orient their annual reporting to the requirements of this monitoring. The indicators listed in Annex 3 and the project-specific indicators are the subject of the annual reporting. Higher education institutions with a funding commitment receive all of the relevant documentation for this with delivery of the funding contract.

The following actions/activities can be supported for the **newly established exceed networks**:

- Mediums for research projects by academics and young academics of the network (e.g. for laboratory equipment, samples, budgets for field research operations)

Eligible Measures

- E-learning platforms and databases
- Actions for the development of curricula for individual modules or new degree courses
- Study and research residencies of individual academics from academic groups, communal field research operations
- Communal specialist events, events for alumni, where applicable with the inclusion of external partners
- Student group exchanges
- Guest professorships with high-level academics from developing countries
- Guest lectureships in Germany and in the southern partner higher education institutions
- Scholarships for doctoral and Masters students on site, in the South-South exchange and in Germany
- Advanced training and training measures for the network members
- Studies (e.g. for the elevation of training needs) and publications

Project personnel can be hired and financed for management and coordination purposes in appropriate scope.

When selecting people to support within the framework of the named actions, the following provisions must be considered:

The measure must be announced; the target group must be aware of the announcement and access must be made available to them.

A commission/committee must be formed for the selection, in which higher education institution teachers must be represented. Additionally, the higher education institutions from the partner countries must be appropriately involved. The meetings and decisions must be recorded, the records remain at the higher education institution.

Selection must be a selection of quality, this means that the respectively best candidate is selected. Selection criteria should ensure that, in particular, accessibility options are guaranteed for women with the presence of professional prerequisites. The scholarships should primarily be announced to the partner higher education institutions within the network. Quality assurance during the selection process and the selection decision remain the responsibility of the project management.

After the selection, a scholarship agreement is concluded with the person to be funded. This means a contractual agreement in the form of a Letter of Award by the awarding institution and a Declaration of Acceptance by the subsidised individual. The Declaration of Acceptance must exclude double funding. The document must also hold the DAAD and BMZ logos.

Furthermore, transfer projects can be implemented, which are either applied exceed-internally or integrate relevant external actors (see separate tender for Funding of Transfer and Assessment Actions).

The selection procedures are to be presented in the project description.

Eligible expenses

Within the appropriation period, services are generally eligible to the value of the DAAD's funding rates, which are listed in **Annex 1**.

Type of finance	The DAAD's funding occurs as deficit financing with within evidential own funds and covers all project-specific, eligible expenses that cannot be covered by either one's own or foreign medium.
Funding period	The funding period begins, at the earliest , on 01/01/2020 and ends, at the latest , on 31/12/2024.
Support amount	It can amount, within the 1 st funding year up to 600,000 euros, in the 2 nd funding year up to 700,000 euros, in the 3 rd funding year up to 800,000 euros, and in the 4 th and 5 th funding years up to 850,000 euros, per financial year. Dependent on the resource allocation by the donor, these sums can be topped up, upon application, up to 1 million euros per financial year and project. The intended period runs over 5 years from 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2024.
Specialisation(s)	The programme is open to all specialisations.
Target group	Students of Bachelor and/or Masters programmes, doctoral students, post-docs, habilitation candidates, academics, professors, etc.
Eligible applicants	German higher education institutions with their partners in developing countries are entitled to apply and eligible. Developing countries are the countries of the DAC list of OECD 2018-2020.
Application	The application for project funding must be submitted complete and by the deadline exclusively through the DAAD portal (https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal).
Application prerequisites	<p><u>Selection-relevant application documents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project application (on the DAAD portal) • Finance plan (on the DAAD portal) • Project description (attachment type: project description) • Project plan overview (attachment type: programme-specific attachments) • Cooperation agreement for participating higher education institutions • Approval of the higher education institution management <p>Should selection-relevant documents regarding cooperation (e.g. Cooperation agreement, Letter of Intent, Memorandum of Understanding) not be present punctually, a written reason should at the minimum be submitted by the project management by the application deadline.</p> <p>The aforementioned selection-relevant application documents (obligatory attachments) are to designated according to the provisions and submitted under the provided attachment type by the application deadline.</p> <p>Should contract-relevant documents not be present by the application deadline, they must be submitted, at the latest, upon request by the DAAD (with the funding commitment) prior to conclusion of the contract.</p>
Application deadline	The application deadline is 15/09/2019.
Selection procedure	<p>A selection commission appointed by the DAAD decides upon the applications for project funding.</p> <p><u>Selection criteria</u></p> <p>The decision regarding which applications to fund and the scope of funding is made by a selection commission appointed by the DAAD; it is made up of experts, who assess the application with consideration for the criteria listed below.</p> <p>The application must include an extensive presentation of the concept.</p>

The **criteria** for funding of the exceed network arise from the aforementioned programme's objective. Criteria are, among others:

- The degree of **professional orientation** to the sectoral focuses of the German development cooperation and the goals of the 2030 Agenda/SDGs and/or other global development challenges; the inclusion of trans and interdisciplinary approaches is hereby desirable.
- The project's contribution to the **support of research and teaching** at the higher education institutions in developing countries.
- Cooperation with **actors of development** cooperation which is relevant for the projects of the participating higher education institutions (in particular organisations of the bi and multi-lateral development cooperation (e.g. GIZ, KfW, World Bank Group, UN organisations, etc.), extramural research facilities, ministries, economy, associations, other NGOs.
- The founded **selection of partner higher education institutions abroad**, acting as partners.
- The quality and applicability of the concept for securing the **sustainability** of the exceed network after expiration of the funding with particular focus on a reinforced integration and qualification of the South partners going there. This requires an appropriate **participation of the partner in both the developing countries** and the collective teaching, research, and knowledge and technology transfer, as well as inclusion into project management.
- The **appropriateness of the budget** in relation to the planned actions.
- Important cross-sectional criterion is also the consideration of the **gender equality** within the projects.
- Clear **reference to the project conception regarding the programme's results framework** and the goals named therein.
- Formulation of suitable **indicators**, which enable a results-oriented monitoring of the project.

Contact partner

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
(German Academic Exchange Service)
Referat P31 – Hochschulstrukturförderung in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit
(Section P31 - Development Cooperation – Institution Building in Higher Education)

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Attachments

1. Eligible expenses
2. Project description form
3. Results-oriented monitoring handout
4. Project plan overview form
5. German higher education institution management application support
6. [OECD 2018-2020 DAC list](#)

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