International Study and Training Partnerships (ISAP) starting in WS 2020/2021 (until 2023/2024 max.)

The programme “International Study and Training Partnerships (ISAP)” is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with financing from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The goal of this funding programme is to sustainably promote the exchange of university instructors and learners, and establish international structures at German universities.

This programme is targeted at German universities which plan to establish or continue international academic and training partnerships between individual departments/faculties and foreign universities. On the basis of cooperative university agreements, the programme finances groups of highly qualified German and international students who wish to complete part of their degree programme at the partner university and receive full recognition of their academic achievement abroad. The agreements pertaining to credit transfer, attractive study programmes, joint curricular development and preparatory and supervisory measures should form the basis for a long-term reciprocal exchange.

The main purpose of the programme is to promote the mobility of German students (foreign study and work placements). The German universities obtain funding to manage and implement the degree programmes, carry out preparatory and follow-up measures, supervise students (also with the aid of digital formats; see FAQs for examples), as well as arrange contact trips and guest lectureships. This programme finances scholarships for a one- or two-semester foreign study visit, arranged through a university cooperative agreement. Research projects and dissertations are not eligible for funding through ISAP.

Funding can be granted to cover all expenditures which are necessary and appropriate for carrying out the project (implementation of measures). These specifically include:

**Fundable expenditures (numbering corresponds to the Financing Plan):**

1. **Personnel expenses for project implementation and management**
   1.1. Personnel expenses (domestic)
   - research staff, student tutors or student assistants at the German university: for managing and implementing the study programme, preparing the German students (also with the aid of digital formats; see FAQs for examples), supervising guest students, supporting ISAP alumni (see FAQs for examples)

   Personnel expenses comprise gross remuneration paid by the employer. Special annual payments are only fundable within the approved funding period and only when expended during this period.

2. **Material resources**
   2.2. Mobility expenses for project personnel
   - travel expenses of German project personnel for establishing contact with the international partner university (vehicle/air travel expenses in accordance with the Federal Travel Expense Law (BRKG); second-class railway travel, economy-class flights; business-class flights only in justified, exceptional cases)
   - travel expenses for short-term guest lectureships (normally 2 weeks – max. 3 months) at the international partner university for German university instructors (vehicle/air travel expenses in accordance with the Federal Travel Expense Law (BRKG); second-class railway travel, economy-class flights; business-class flights only in justified, exceptional cases)
2.3. Accommodation expenses for project staff
- grants for short-term guest lectureships (normally 2 weeks – max. 3 months) at the German university; flat-rate subsistence allowance for instructors from the partner university

2.4. Material resources (domestic)
- grants for language courses in Germany for the German and foreign students
- funding for alumni support measures (see FAQs for examples)
- digital elements for preparation and follow-up measures, and support services for foreign study visits (see FAQs for examples)

3. Supported persons
Scholarship funding for students at the German university (see Funding requirements) for the duration of their foreign study visit:

3.1. Recipients of mobility funding
- one-time country-specific mobility scholarship

3.2. Recipients of scholarship funding
- a country-specific full scholarship paid out in monthly instalments, as well as a fixed insurance cover of 35 euros/month
- reduction of tuition fees, if applicable, of up to 50% of the regular rate for non-domestic students (does not include administrative expenses, semester fees, bench fees etc.)

Special rules apply to BAföG recipients (see Funding requirements).

Grants for students from partner universities in developing and emerging countries (see list of developing and emerging countries)

3.1. Recipients of mobility funding
- one-time country-specific travel expense allowance

3.2. Recipients of scholarship funding
- 400 euros per month/person

Funding for domestic personnel and material resources (language courses, alumni activities and digital elements) is limited to 7,500 euros/funding year for personnel expenses, fees and domestic material resources.

In order to initiate new ISAP projects, applicants may apply for a special grant to hold preparatory meetings at the partner university prior to receiving project funding (www.daad.de/isap > Preparatory meetings funded through the ISAP programme).

This programme allocates funding as full-financing measures.

The funding period for first-time applications is limited to two academic years (2020/2021 and 2021/2022), which can be extended by another two years (pending approval of the subsequent application). After the successful completion of 2+2 funding years, the programme can grant follow-up funding for another four academic years and every four years thereafter (2020/2021 – 2023/2024, i.e. 2+2+4+4 etc.). The funding period begins on 1 August 2020 at the earliest and ends after two (or four) funding years at the latest, i.e. 31 August 2022 or 31 August 2024 respectively.

The programme is open to all disciplines and subject areas.

Bachelor’s and master’s students, academics and professors

Disciplines

Target group

Funding period

Type of financing
Eligibility

All state-accredited public and private universities in Germany, their respective departments or institutes in all disciplines are eligible to apply for funding. The respective cooperative agreement with the partner university must always be subject-specific. The applying institutes or departments should have relevant international experience and, if possible, long-standing contact with suitable partner universities.

The ISAP programme does not fund partnerships with universities in countries which participate in the Erasmus programme (as other EU mobility programmes work to achieve similar goals), and dual-degree projects (which are exclusively funded through the DAAD programme “Integrated International Degree Programmes with Double Degrees”) – www.daad.de/doppelabschluss.

The responsible coordinator for the proposed ISAP project must be a professor at the applying institution. For degree programmes with projects by multiple partner universities, separate applications must be submitted for each partner. A maximum of three projects per degree programme may receive funding at any one time.

Application details

Project funding applications must be submitted in full and on time via the DAAD online portal (https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal).

Application requirements

To be eligible for funding through the ISAP programme, applicants are obliged to meet the following requirements:

- valid (i.e. current – less than ten years old), programme- and subject-related ISAP cooperation agreement or for ISAP projects in the introductory phase, letter of intent issued by the German and foreign partner institution (official statement signed by both project partners) which must contain at least the following provisions:
  - agreement to reduce tuition fees (full waiver if possible, otherwise at least a 50% reduction). If tuition fees are generally not charged in the partner country, confirmation of this fact must be provided.
  - confirmation of the number of ISAP-funded exchange students (at least three students per group/cohort) for the corresponding funding period

- recognisable reciprocal subject-related measures to achieve a balanced number of exchange students at both institutions in the medium term. In the case of temporary disparity in student numbers, the applicant must describe how reciprocity can be ensured through other suitable measures (e.g. summer schools).

- confirmation by the examination committee that all academic achievement and examination results abroad will be recognised; agreement on credit transfer procedure

- course load of approx. 30 ECTS per semester or approx. 60 ECTS per academic year (justification must be given for course loads less than 30 ECTS)

- description of the (intended) effects on the international structure of the applying university

- partners are to draw up learning agreements

- students must be enrolled at the respective universities in both their home and host countries

- (subject-specific) language preparation and measures to ensure that students have sufficient knowledge of the language of instruction and basic knowledge of the native language (if different from the language of instruction)

- students must complete at least two semesters of undergraduate study prior to commencing their foreign study visit

- funding is granted to students with above-average academic qualification (top 25th percentile)
Selection-relevant application documents

- Project application (on DAAD portal)
- Financing plan (on DAAD portal)

Additional attachments (PDF):

1. Project description (attachment type: Project description)
2. Endorsement of the project application by the university executive board (attachment type: Programme-specific attachments)
3. Jointly signed cooperation agreement (current, i.e. less than 10 years old), or for ISAP projects in the introductory phase, signed letter of intent (attachment type: Contracts/agreements)
4. Signed confirmation by the examination committee (attachment type: Programme-specific attachments)
5. For subsequent applications: most recent progress report (attachment type: Programme-specific attachments)
6. For subsequent applications: transcripts of the German scholarship recipients and the students of the partner university (incoming) (attachment type: Programme-specific attachments)

The documents listed above are relevant for the selection process (i.e. required) and therefore must be submitted before the application deadline. Please name and number the required documents as indicated on the form.

Following the application deadline, the DAAD will neither request missing documents nor consider documents submitted or changes made at a later time, including revisions to the financing plan. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection process.

We ask you to refrain from submitting original or unsolicited documents to the DAAD, such as module handbooks, brochures, flyers, articles etc. Please do not submit read-only or password-protected documents in PDF format.

Before applying, please read the section on “Funding requirements” and the list of FAQs.

Please submit applications for follow-up funding of approved projects via the DAAD portal (base functions, “Submit subsequent application”)

Students may not apply directly to the DAAD for participation in ISAP programmes.

The application deadline is 15 October 2019.

Selection of project applications

The DAAD appoints a selection committee of external experts which is responsible for reviewing the funding applications.

In addition to fulfilling the above-mentioned goals of the programme and the application requirements, applications are evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- academic quality and reputation of the foreign partner university
- quality of the curriculum
- added academic, interdisciplinary and intercultural benefit of the degree programme and its professionally qualifying orientation
- suitable conditions for implementing the degree programme (language preparation, selection and supervision of students etc.)
- subject-related reciprocity of the student exchange
- programme’s contribution toward establishing and promoting international structures at the university
- for subsequent applications: recent status report substantiating the progress achieved to date
Scholarship selection procedure

Selection of scholarship recipients

The scholarship recipients are chosen by a selection committee appointed by the funding beneficiary. The selection process must be described in detail in the project description. The following details should be included (also see Funding requirements):

- announcement of the offered scholarship
- appointment of the selection committee (e.g. funding beneficiary, number of committee members)
- selection criteria (e.g. selection of best applicants, academic or personal aptitude, etc.)
- scholarship award procedure
  - by scholarship agreement (e.g. “notification of award” and “confirmation of acceptance”)
  - issue of a scholarship certificate (in this case: mention of the DAAD and funding provider and concrete designation of the scholarship benefits and their corresponding amounts (e.g. subsistence and mobility allowances, tuition fees, etc.))

Contact partner

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service
P41 – Internationalisation of Teaching
Kennedyallee 50
53175 Bonn

Head of section:
Tabea Kaiser
Senior desk officer/team leader (ISAP, double degree programmes, Bachelor Plus): Petra Bercik, Tel.: +49 228 882-457, e-mail: bercik<at>daad.de

Contact partner: (assigned in alphabetical order by the name of the German university city)

- **Universities A-B**
  Hannelore Labitoria, Tel.: +49 228 882-244, e-mail: labitoria<at>daad.de

- **University C-J**
  Michael Stammen, tel.: +49 228 882-279, e-mail: stammen<at>daad.de

- **Universities K-Z**
  Katharina Klein, tel.: +49 228 882-452, e-mail: k.klein<at>daad.de

[www.daad.de/isap](http://www.daad.de/isap)

Attachments:

1. Call for applications (in English)
2. Funding requirements
3. Project description
4. Endorsement of the application by the university executive board
5. Funding rates for lecturers and coordinators
6. Funding rates for German students
7. Funding rates for students from DAC countries + Russian Federation
8. List of developing and emerging countries
9. FAQs
10. Instructions for drawing up a financing plan

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