

## LEAFLET

# Procedures and guidelines for supporting DIES-Partnerships with Higher Education Institutions in Developing Countries\*



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

**Application deadline: 30/06/2020  
Funding period: 01/01/2021–31/12/2024**

**Note:**

These guidelines are published in German and English. Only the German version is legally binding; the English version is for information only.

With financial support from the



## Support of “DIES Partnerships with Higher Education Institutions in Developing Countries” 2021–2024

### Goals of the program

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) receives funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support the programme “DIES Partnerships with Higher Education Institutions in Developing Countries”

#### Description of the goal:

There is a growing demand for higher education in developing countries and a general trend towards globalisation in the education sector; the subsequent need for the internationalisation and quality assurance of higher education institutions and study programmes worldwide poses a major challenge. Not only in developing countries but also in Germany, this calls for additional skills and places much more challenging demands on the directors and administrators of higher education institutions, faculties, institutes and special university training and research institutes. DIES university management partnerships, i.e. the “Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies” programme (in short, DIES partnerships) are intended to help well trained leaders use limited resources more efficiently and to create incentives for improving quality.

The long-term objective of DIES partnerships with higher education institutions in developing countries is to contribute to the sustainable development and creation of high-quality, cosmopolitan higher education institutions in Germany and partner countries. The programme is also intended to help German higher education institutions become involved as partners in development cooperation and to support their internationalisation strategies as well as establishing structures to promote equality between women and men at these higher education institutions.

The **following programme objectives** (outcomes) for the DIES partnerships are derived from these long-term development policy aims (see Appendix 2):

**Programme objective 1:** The quality and relevance of courses offered at partner higher education institutions is improved.

**Programme objective 2:** Institutional university management is improved.

**Programme objective 3:** German higher education institutions have acquired expertise in development cooperation.

**Programme objective 4:** Subject-related, development-related networks are set up between the participating higher education institutions and other institutions.

#### Description of the purpose:

Based on the formulated programme objectives, the following results (outputs) should be achieved within the scope of a project lasting no more than four years between higher education institutions in Germany and developing countries:

- Training and professional development programmes in university management are newly or further developed jointly
- Qualification of staff at partner higher education institutions is subject-specific and interdisciplinary
- Processes and structures for better university management are created
- Individual contacts between participating higher education institutions and other institutions are extended and consolidated

**Particularly deserving of funding are partnerships** that address topics such as the following:

- Establishment and expansion of cross-sectional university institutions (international offices, quality assurance offices, careers advice centres, technology transfer centres, graduate schools, equal opportunities centres, etc.), implementation of innovative change processes in central university management (personnel, infrastructure, budget, organisation, etc.), use of instruments for strategic or operative management at higher education or faculty levels (e.g. target agreements, balanced scorecard, network management, quality and process management, etc.)
- Involvement of external stakeholders in higher education or faculty development (graduate studies, alumni networks, fundraising, etc.),
- Establishment and further development of tertiary training and professional development programmes on topics relevant to university management
- Support to introduce innovation in university management by using university alliances.
- Establishment and further development of tertiary training and professional development programmes on topics relevant to university management, support to introduce innovation in university management by using university alliances.

Furthermore, partnerships that allow long-term institutional ties and lasting South–South contacts enabling dialogue and understanding are particularly deserving of funding. In this connection, it is desirable and useful to make use of additional funding instruments for cooperating with higher education institutions in developing countries (e.g. alumni and material support programmes) in order to create synergies. Applications on topics primarily at study programme or institute level (e.g. quality assurance or curriculum development in study programmes, or the interdisciplinary establishment of graduate schools at institute or faculty level) should be made in the “Subject-Related Partnerships with Institutions of Higher Education in Developing Countries” programme.

Individual partnerships can focus on different areas within the programme goals. It is not necessary for every partnership to contribute to all the programme objectives; however, they must contribute to improving institutional university management at the partner higher education institutions. The partnerships have flexibility in how they formulate their objectives and how they achieve them; however, the project objectives should be consistent with the programme objectives. Accordingly, higher education institutions are encouraged to develop their partnership projects based on the results framework programme and the programme indicators and to formulate measurable project objectives and related indicators. These must be presented in the application and the project planning overview (see Important information and templates for details of the procedure).

The “DIES-Partnerships with Higher Education Institutions in Developing Countries” programme is accompanied by results-oriented monitoring in coordination with the funding bodies. It is expected that the annual reporting by the participating higher education institutions will be in compliance with the requirements of this monitoring. The annual reporting should address the programme indicators listed in Appendix 2 as well as the project-specific indicators. Higher education institutions with funding commitments will receive all the documents required for this purpose when they submit the funding agreement.

#### Eligible measures

Measures eligible for funding are:

- Costs for travel and visits undertaken by German and international university teachers, academic scholars, students, graduates, PhD students and alumni
- Organisation of events (workshops and conferences or similar) with a maximum of 20 participants (see Annex 1 "Eligible expenditure").
- Teaching
- Funding of staff to implement the project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field trips</li> <li>• Measures to develop digital teaching and learning materials, including the corresponding technical infrastructure</li> <li>• Further education and training</li> <li>• Development/revision and/or procurement of teaching/learning materials</li> <li>• Procurement of consumables and economic goods</li> </ul>
Grant expenditure eligible	See Appendix "Grant expenditure eligible"
Type of financing	Funding will be provided as deficit financing.
Funding period	The funding period begins on 01/01/2021 at the earliest and ends on 31/12/2024 at the latest.
Grant level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum DAAD grant for four years is € 200,000, or <b>€ 50,000</b> per budget year for a partnership between a German and one or more international higher education institutions.</li> <li>• In the case of multilateral cooperations (one partner in the North, two or more partners in the South, generally in different partner countries), the funding volume for South–South exchange may be increased to a total of € 280,000, or <b>€ 70,000 per budget year</b>.</li> </ul>
Subject area(s)	The programme is open to all subject areas.
Target group	Academic scholars/university teachers and administrators/disseminators with relevance to the selected university management area.
Eligible applicants	<b>German higher education institutions</b> represented by active university teachers with the agreement of the director of the institute or department, the international office, careers advice centres, technology transfer centres, graduate schools, faculty management, etc.
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="http://www.mydaad.de">www.mydaad.de</a> ).
Application requirements	<p><b><u>Application documents relevant for the selection process</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project application (please enter an informative project title) in DAAD portal</li> <li>• Financing plan (in DAAD portal)</li> <li>• Project description drawn up and signed by potential cooperation partners) (maximum of 10 DIN A4 pages, in German or English) (appendix type: project description)</li> </ul> <p>In addition to a concrete description of the project and measures, this should include the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial situation</li> <li>- The problem and justification in terms of development policy, including a description of the situation to date, where appropriate, and the current status of the partnership (in the case of follow-up DAAD applications, <i>Details of the previous project</i> should be given here)</li> <li>- Direct and indirect target groups, if applicable</li> <li>- Project objectives: Short description of the intended direct effects (outcomes) of the project</li> <li>- Project concept: The description should explain how the project contributes to achieving the objectives of the Programme. This should also include an explanation of which project-specific outputs are designed to lead to which outcomes. An explanation of who is to realise which</li> </ul>

project activities and when, in order to achieve the outputs. The outcomes, outputs and activities must be transferred to the project planning overview (see Important information and templates). There, one or two informative indicators suitable for specifying and measuring project outcomes and outputs must be given (see Appendix 2)

- Involvement of German and international academic scholars: Description of the collaboration between participating German and international academic scholars
- Risks to project success: description of framework conditions that support and hinder the project as well as risks that could have an influence on the success of the project
- Project planning overview (appendix type: programme-specific appendices)
- Specific justification of own interest in the project by the international partner institution (appendix type: programme-specific appendices); if already signed, the partnership agreement relevant to the contract should be submitted prior to selection, and otherwise before conclusion of the contract
- Short descriptions of the participating partner higher education institutions (appendix type: programme-specific appendices)
- Endorsement by the university management (appendix type: programme-specific appendices)
- Project description (short version), (see see Important information and templates) (appendix type project description)
- calculation/estimate of non-accountable revenue and expenditure (appendix type: additional financial information)

The above-mentioned application documents relevant for selection (mandatory documents) are to be named in accordance with the specifications and submitted by the deadline in the form of the specified appendix type.

After the application deadline, the DAAD will neither request any documents nor take into account any additionally supplied documents or changes, including in the financing plan. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.

**Application documents relevant to the contract** (to be submitted prior to conclusion of the contract at the latest)

Partnership agreement (cooperation agreement) between the participating German and international higher education institutions (appendix type: contracts/agreements)

**Note:**

Funding is possible not only for bilateral partnerships but also for projects involving several partners/countries, if the goal of the project meets the programme criteria and the benefits of the project are clear in terms of development policy.

Application deadline

**The application deadline is 30 June 2020.**

## Selection procedure

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

### Selection criteria

Applications are assessed according to form- and content-related criteria, with special consideration of relevance to development policy and outcome-orientation of the project concept and planning. **Content-related criteria are derived from the programme goals and indicators described in the results framework.**

The following selection criteria are used:

- **Quality of project**
  - Subject-specific expertise of the higher education institutions involved
  - Previous experience of German project managers regarding projects in, or target groups from, developing countries
  - Experience of German project managers in managing international projects
  - Realisability of project objectives with planned measures within the scheduled period
  - Balanced project concept covering various areas
  - Suitable and balanced calculation
- **Project relevance to development policy**
  - Consideration of principles of development cooperation: planning, design and execution are oriented to the needs of the partner higher education institution(s) and conducted together
  - Plausible justification of how the project can generally contribute to development of the partner institution and/or partner country through its subject-specific and regional orientation
- **Relation to results framework of programme and results-oriented project planning:**
  - Clear relation of the design or effect logic of the project to the results framework of the programme and objectives specified therein
  - Formulation of suitable indicators permitting results-oriented monitoring of the project
- **Balance of cooperation measures**
  - Agreement and collaboration of participating cooperation partners
  - Own contribution of German and international higher education institutions
  - Integration and exchange of students and academic scholars on both sides
- **Sustainability**
  - Networking with other higher education institutions and stakeholders in the region, South–South partnerships
  - Establishment of sustainable cooperation structures that remain beyond the funding period

## Contact

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**Appendices**

1. Grant expenditure eligible
2. Guide to results-oriented monitoring
3. Per diems and overnight allowances abroad according to ARVVwV/BRKG

**Important information and forms**

- Project planning overview
- OECD DAC list
- Endorsement of application by German university management
- Project description (short version)
- Information concerning mobility with handicap and chronic disease
- Aid for completing the financial plan

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