German–Afghan Higher Education Cooperation (2021)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) supports the German–Afghan Higher Education Cooperation programme using funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (AA).

With the expiry of the Stability Pact for Afghanistan in 2019, an 18-year phase of DAAD funding came to end. From 2002 onwards, projects conducted as part of the Stability Pact enabled many Afghans to improve their skills and qualifications through further education and also through BA, MA and PhD scholarships. Almost all of the alumni are located in Afghanistan, where they act as multipliers in their specialist fields. The DAAD will fund higher education cooperation partnerships, initially for one year. These are intended to stabilise what has been achieved so far in terms of academic development, to expand academic cooperation to other subject areas and higher education institutions in Germany, to promote the quality of teaching and research, and to support the modernisation of Afghan higher education institutions. The aim is to involve German alumni as partners. This will reinforce their ties to Germany and open up prospects for them in the academic sector, as well as strengthen the position of young academics in Afghanistan.

The programme’s long-term objectives (impacts) are to contribute towards expanding academic and career prospects for Afghan academic professionals, to help academic professionals be able to contribute their expertise and actively stimulate social and/or economic development in the country. In addition, these objectives include making a contribution to the structural reinforcement of research and teaching in Afghanistan and consolidating cooperation structures between the participating higher education institutions and other institutions.

The following programme objectives (outcomes) are derived from these long-term objectives (impacts):
- Programme objective 1 (outcome 1): Young academics in Afghanistan gain further skills and qualifications.
- Programme objective 2 (outcome 2): Trained educational multipliers ensure the transfer of knowledge in Afghanistan.
- Programme objective 3 (outcome 3): Partner higher education institutions offer degree programme components that involve digital elements and that correspond to the local context and the state of scientific knowledge.
- Programme objective 4 (outcome 4): Specialist networks between the higher education institutions, with the participation of Afghan alumni, are reinforced.

The programme objectives are to be achieved by means of the following direct results of measures/activities (outputs):
- Studies are created/research projects are carried out;
- Teachers and academic staff at the partner higher education institutions are qualified in terms of subject matter and/or didactics;
- Specialist and developmental events (including conferences, seminars, exhibitions, workshops) are held;
- Teaching materials are (further) developed and/or a digital laboratory is set up;
- Contacts between the participating universities and other institutions are extended and consolidated.

The individual projects can focus on different areas within the programme. It is not necessary for each project to contribute to all programme objectives. The projects also have flexibility in how they formulate their objectives and how they achieve them, but the project objectives must be consistent with the pro-
gramme objectives. Accordingly, the higher education institutions are encouraged to develop their projects based on the programme results framework and the programme indicators, and to thereby formulate measurable project objectives and associated indicators. These must be presented in the application and the project planning overview (see Appendix 2 for a detailed guide on results-oriented project planning and monitoring).

Priority will be given to measures that improve the qualifications of young academics and open up prospects for them in the academic sector. Measures eligible for funding include:

- The participation in and delivery of specialist academic events (conferences, seminars and workshops) and further training courses (e.g. soft skills, acquisition of third-party funding, project management) by the German and Afghan parties in India and other safe third countries in the region;
- The creation of teaching materials;
- The implementation of online courses or digital laboratories;
- In-country scholarships for postdocs and doctoral candidates in Afghanistan for the purpose of conducting research projects of up to three months;
- Work meetings on project coordination between the German and Afghan sides in India and other safe third countries in the region.

The following cannot be funded:

- Projects aimed exclusively at research cooperation;
- Projects already receiving funding from other sources (e.g. DFG, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, GIZ) and/or the DAAD;
- Representational trips without relevance to the particular subject;
- Travel to Afghanistan or Germany.

All expenditure that is necessary and appropriate for conducting the project (implementing measures/activities) is eligible for funding. This includes in particular:

**Personnel resources for conducting and supervising the project**

- Research associates
- Academic assistants
- Student assistants
- Other employees

Personnel expenditure covers gross employer remuneration. Special annual payments are only eligible for funding in the approval period and only if the date of payment is within this period.

If there are problems employing student assistants for project-related administrative activities, an expenditure application may be made for TV-L employees (E8) instead.

**Material resources**

- Fees based on the DAAD’s table of fees

**Fees for Afghan academics and local staff:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job/position</th>
<th>Euros/hour</th>
<th>Euros/month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creation of studies/analyses/policy papers (academics with German MA degree)</td>
<td>up to 6.25</td>
<td>up to 1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled staff with managerial responsibility</td>
<td>0.95–3.75</td>
<td>up to 600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturers, advisors, etc. (exception: when applying local standard charges for course units)</td>
<td>0.65–1.90</td>
<td>up to 400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field assistants</td>
<td>up to 1.25</td>
<td>up to 200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutors</td>
<td>0.35–0.95</td>
<td>up to 150.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Mobility of project staff
  Expenditure for journeys and flights may be claimed in accordance with the German Federal Travel Expenses Act (BRKG) and the State Travel Expenses Act (LRKG). Only second-class train journeys and economy-class flights can be claimed.
- Stays by project staff
  Expenditure relating to stays (meals and accommodation) may be claimed in accordance with the BRKG/LRKG.
- Material resources in Germany/abroad
- Consumer goods (test tubes, paper, etc.)
- Economic goods (computers, data projectors, laboratory items, etc.)
- Room hire (hiring costs of conference rooms, office space, etc.)
- Printing/publications/advertising and public relations (flyers, brochures, posters, academic publications, etc.)
- Outsourced services (companies contracted to provide goods or services, e.g. catering, bus company, repairs, IT support, etc.)
- Other (teaching materials, etc.)

Funded individuals (individuals who do not have an employment relationship with the grant recipient)
- Mobility of funded individuals (Germany–India)
- Participants from the German and Afghan sides taking part in/conducting subject-related academic events in India may claim a mobility lump sum.
  - Students, graduates and doctoral candidates: 1,150 euros
- A mobility lump sum of 1,275 euros may be claimed for a stay of up to three months for German academics, lecturers and assistants with a PhD who are taking part in/conducting subject-related academic events in India.
- The mobility lump sum takes effect from the first day of travel and must be verified by a participant list signed by the participants. The mobility lump sum not only covers travel costs for the outbound and return journeys, but also all costs connected with the trip (e.g. visa fees, health certificate, vaccinations, luggage charges, luggage insurance).
- Information on mobility lump sums for other safe third countries in the region will be provided by the DAAD upon request.
- Stays by funded individuals
- Participants from the German side taking part in/conducting subject-related academic events in India may claim daily or monthly living allowances per participant based on their status.
The living allowance takes effect from the first day of the stay and must be verified by a participant list signed by the participants. The living allowance covers meals and accommodation costs, as well as expenditure on health, accident and liability insurance. For German academics holding a PhD, expenses for accommodation and meals may be claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

Information on living allowances for other safe third countries in the region will be provided by the DAAD upon request.

- In-country scholarships:
  - In-country scholarships of 300 euros are available for Afghan participants conducting research for up to three months as part of the project(s).
  - The in-country scholarship takes effect from the first day of research and will be verified by the completed study.

Expenditure for gifts, among other things, is not eligible for funding.

Funding will be provided as full financing.

The funding period begins on 01/01/2021 at the earliest and ends on 31/12/2021 at the latest.

The DAAD grant is generally limited to a maximum of 100,000 euros.

The programme is open to all subject areas.

Bachelor’s and/or master’s students, doctoral candidates, postdocs, habilitation candidates, academics/researchers, professors, etc.

State and state-approved higher education institutions in Germany and recognised non-profit, non-university research institutions that carry out their own research and are based in Germany are eligible to apply.

The application for project funding must be completed in full and submitted by the stipulated deadline exclusively via the DAAD portal (www.mydaad.de).

Application documents relevant for selection
- Project application (in DAAD portal)
- Financing plan (in DAAD portal)
- Project description (appendix type: project description)
• Project planning overview

The application documents relevant for selection must be named in accordance with the guidelines and submitted by the deadline in the form of the specified appendix type.

No account will be taken of any documents submitted after the application deadline, nor any changes, including changes to the financing plan. Applications that are missing any documents relevant for selection will be excluded from the selection procedure.

Application documents that may be submitted later

• Endorsement from the administration of the German university (see form template) (appendix type: programme-specific appendices)
• Cooperation agreement (memorandum of understanding – MoU) signed by the participating higher education institutions (appendix type: contracts/agreements)

These documents must be provided by the time the contract is concluded at the latest.

If any of the documents that may be submitted later (e.g. cooperation agreement, letter of intent, memorandum of understanding) are not available by the deadline, the project manager should submit at least a written justification by the application deadline.

Application deadline

The application deadline is 31 August 2020.

Selection procedure

Selection of applications for project funding

Funding decisions are made by the DAAD based on an assessment of the application by a selection committee.

Selection criteria

1. The project’s relevance to the programme objectives (according to the results framework) and results-oriented project planning with indicators meeting the SMART criteria;
2. The high academic quality of the project (in particular, the clarity of project objectives and methods);
3. The project’s contribution to targeted support for young academics at the partner higher education institution(s) in Afghanistan;
4. The (further) qualification of Afghan university lecturers in teaching and research;
5. The practical feasibility and social relevance of the project with regard to making structural improvements at the partner higher education institutions;
6. The professional competence of the individuals involved.

Selection of funded individuals

A selection committee appointed by the grant recipient decides on the scholarship applications.

The selection procedure has to be presented in the project description.

• Public announcement of the scholarship offer
• Composition of the selection committee (e.g. DAAD, grant recipient, number of committee members)
• Selection criteria (e.g. selection of best applicants, academic or personal aptitude, etc.)
• Awarding of scholarship
  ➢ via scholarship agreement (e.g. “letter of award” and “declaration of acceptance”)
  ➢ provision of a scholarship certificate (including: specification of the DAAD and funding body and a precise description of the scholarship benefits and their amount (e.g. living allowance and mobility lump sums, tuition fees, etc.))

Contact

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service
Department P24 – Cooperation Projects in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America
Kennedyallee 50
53175 Bonn, Germany

Sabrina Frahm
Email: frahm@daad.de
Telephone: +49 228 882 8634

Appendices to the call for applications/“Förderrahmen”

1. Fees for projects abroad based on the DAAD’s table of fees

Important information and form templates

• Information on mobility in the case of disability or chronic illness
• Template for project description
• Template for project planning overview
• Guide to results-oriented monitoring
• Template for endorsement by the German university administration

Funded by:

Auswärtiges Amt