

## German–Mexican University Collaboration to Promote Academic Exchange between Forensic Doctors in Mexico and Germany in 2021 and 2022

### Objectives of the programme

On behalf of the Foreign Office (AA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) is implementing the project "Strengthening the rule of law in Mexico". In Mexico, more than 70,000 people are classed as officially missing. At the same time, there are thousands of thus far unopened graves and over 37,000 unknown deceased persons. The aim is to provide relatives with certainty by identifying more of the unknown deceased and thus to contribute to the establishment of social peace in Mexico and to strengthening trust in the Mexican rule of law.

In this context, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) supports the **programme "German–Mexican University Collaboration to Promote Academic Exchange between Forensic Doctors in Mexico and Germany"**. Over a period of 13 months, a German–Mexican research collaboration in the field of forensic identification will be established within the framework of the DAAD–GIZ collaboration, thus improving the reputation of forensic medicine in Mexico and creating the prerequisite for the application of the results of the bilateral university collaborations in forensic medicine institutes in Mexico.

German and Mexican forensic doctors research and teach at a high level and work together to develop application-relevant results (identifying the unknown deceased in Mexico). To this end, mobility should be made possible between the participating collaborative partners, scholarships should be awarded, and the Mexican partner university should be given didactic support within the framework of curriculum workshops in order to make a valuable contribution to identifying the numerous unidentified deceased. The collaborative projects that are eligible for funding are carried out jointly by at least one German and at least one Mexican university in the field of forensic medicine or a forensic medicine institute. Partnerships consisting of several German and Mexican universities are possible.

DAAD is planning a matchmaking event (**Annex 1**) at the beginning of February 2021 to initiate contact with potential forensic medicine institutes. Network events or symposia are to be held in Germany and Mexico during the course of the funding period.

In addition to the academic exchange, the programme will also support the implementation of an extraordinary mechanism for identification (MEIF) in Mexico (presumably under the supervision of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR, and with the support of the German Federal Government).

At the **impact level**, the programme aims to strengthen the confidence that Mexican society has in the rule of law and to contribute to the establishment of social peace in the country by helping to strengthen the reputation of forensic medicine in Mexico and to prevent cases of violent forced disappearances in Mexico.

At the same time, the programme contributes to the development of efficient and cosmopolitan universities by contributing to the internationalisation of the universities and forensic medicine institutes involved.

In order to contribute to these long-term effects (impacts), the programme pursues **five programme objectives (outcomes)**:

**Programme objective/outcome 1:** Forensic medicine institutes in Mexico have been strengthened.

**Programme objective/outcome 2:** Application-oriented research results relating to "identifying the unknown deceased" are being documented and used in Mexico.

**Programme objective/outcome 3:** Data is available for processing cases of those who have died violently.

**Programme objective/outcome 4:** Collaborations have been established between universities in both countries.

**Programme objective/outcome 5:** The collaborative partners' international and national networking with each other and with other actors (NGOs, Mexican authorities) and the MEIF has been strengthened.

The following **results** (outputs) are to be achieved on the basis of these programme objectives within the framework of the **maximum-13-month project** between universities in Germany and Mexico:

- Curricula/teaching modules which reflect the local context and the latest academic developments are collaboratively (further) developed
- Mexican teachers, researchers and students have been trained (including on research standards).
- As part of the German collaborative work in Mexico, identifications of the unknown deceased are carried out, documented and communicated
- Contacts between the participating universities and institutions (including MEIF) have been expanded and consolidated.
- A professional association and expert "Identification" committee has been established.

The programme is supported by DAAD, and in coordination with GIZ, by means of indicator-based and impact-oriented monitoring.

The grant recipient must align its annual reporting with the requirements of this monitoring and cater to the programme and project-specific indicators listed in **Annex 2**.

#### Eligible for funding Measures/activities

- Guest trips/scholarship trips for researchers and academics (master, PhD, postdoc, professor) to stay at a German or Mexican partner university and/or institute. The purpose of the trips can be both research and teaching and further collaboration (e.g., within the framework of the extraordinary mechanism for identifications, MEIF)
- Research-oriented workshop series and events (meetings of project groups, discussion events with decision-makers from line ministries) and conference grants (as part of the call for proposals)
- Participation/implementation in/of events (symposia/network events) and workshops
- Planning/development/implementation of curriculum workshops to optimise teaching in Mexico
- Active participation in identifying the unknown deceased
- Presentation of the results of the exchange and participation at the annual meetings of the German Society for Forensic Medicine (DGRM).
- Kick-off and *research into use* workshops
- Communication via networks

## Expenses eligible for funding

All expenses that are necessary and appropriate for implementing the project (implementing the measures) are eligible for funding. This includes, in particular:

**Personnel resources for project implementation and support**

- Personnel in Germany
  - Res. associates up to max. 0.5 share, salary grade 13
  - Res. assistants
  - Student assistants
  - Other personnel
- Personnel abroad
  - Res. associates up to max. 0.5 share of a local customary full time position
  - Res. assistants
  - Student assistants
  - Other personnel

Personnel expenses include the gross wages from the employer. Annual special payments are only eligible for funding for the approval period and only insofar as the payment date falls within this period.

**Non-personnel costs**

- Fees for guest speakers, conference leaders, moderators, interpreters for providing translations, assistants and/or tutors
- Mobility for project personnel

Domestically

Expenses for travel and flight are to be claimed in accordance with the Federal Travel Expenses Act (BRKG).

Abroad

Expenses for travel and flight can be claimed for staff of the Mexican university following the principles of economy and frugality.

- Accommodation for project personnel

Domestically

Expenses for trips (accommodation and daily allowance) are to be claimed in accordance with the Federal Travel Expenses Act (BRKG).

Abroad

Expenses for trips (accommodation and meals) for staff of the Mexican university in Germany are to be claimed in accordance with the principles of economy and frugality.

- Non-monetary resources domestically/abroad up to a value of max. 30,000.00 euros per grant
  - Consumables (chemicals, test tubes, paper, etc.)
  - Assets (software, hardware, other laboratory items/equipment, etc.)
  - Rent for space (rent for meeting rooms, rent for office space, etc.)
  - Printing/publications/advertising and public relations (flyers, brochures, posters, scientific publications, etc.)
  - External services (companies that are commissioned to provide services and arrange procurement, e.g., catering, bus companies, repairs, IT support, etc.)
  - Other (teaching materials, conference fees, insurance expenses, etc.)

## Persons receiving the funding

- **Mobility of the persons receiving the funding**

### Mexico -> Germany -> Mexico

For researchers and academics (not PV) and graduates on the Mexican side for study and research purposes at the German partner university, and for events or workshops, the grant recipient can apply for and claim a **flat-rate mobility allowance of 1,800 euros**.

Necessary expenses for health insurance are covered by the mobility allowance.

Note: It is imperative to inform the foreign guests of the need for adequate insurance. The German university can book a more affordable group insurance through DAAD.

### Germany -> Mexico -> Germany

- For **graduates and doctoral candidates from the German side** who are not employees of the grant recipient for study and research purposes at the Mexican partner university, and for events or workshops, the grant recipient can apply for and claim a **flat-rate mobility allowance of 1,800 euros**.
- For **researchers and academics from Germany** who are not employees of the grant recipient for study and research purposes at the Mexican partner university, and for events or workshops, the grant recipient can claim expenses for mobility according to the principles of economy and frugality by submitting (individual) receipts.

### Within Germany or within Mexico

Expenses for mobility can be claimed for all persons receiving funding according to the principles of economy and frugality by submitting the (Individual) receipts.

- **Accommodation of persons receiving funding**

For trips made by **Mexican funding recipients in Germany** for study and research purposes at the German partner university, as well as for events or workshops, the following flat-rate daily or monthly rates can be claimed:

Status	Daily rate in euros for trips up to 22 days	Monthly rate in euros for trips of 23 days or more	Daily rate in euros for trips for incomplete subsequent months
Students (BA and master's)	39	861	29
PhD students	54	1,200	40
Postdoctoral researchers	113	2000	83
Experienced researchers and academics	135	2150	100
Professors (see German university professors)	162	2300	120

For trips made by **German graduates and doctoral students in Mexico** for study and research purposes at the Mexican partner university, as well as for events or workshops, the following daily or monthly flat rates can be claimed:

Status	Daily rate in euros for trips up to 22 days	Monthly rate in euros for trips of 23 days or more	Daily rate in euros for trips for incomplete subsequent months
Graduates	52	1150	38
PhD students	72	1600	53

For trips of **German researchers and academics in Mexico** for study and research purposes at the Mexican partner university, as well as for events or workshops, expenses can be claimed for trips according to the principles of economy and frugality upon submission of (individual) receipts.

#### Funding type

Funding is provided in the form of shortfall funding

#### Funding period

The funding period begins at the earliest on 15th April 2021 and ends at the latest on 31st May 2022.

#### Grant amount

The **maximum amount of the DAAD grant** for a partnership for the entire funding period of 13 months is € **395,250.00**.

#### Discipline(s)

The programme is open to the discipline of forensic medicine and all of its sub-disciplines.

#### Target group

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

#### Eligible applicants

State and state-accredited German universities are eligible to apply.

#### Making an application

The application for project funding must be submitted in full and in due time exclusively via the DAAD portal ([www.mydaad.de](http://www.mydaad.de)).

#### Application requirements

##### **Application documents that are relevant for selection**

- Project application (via the DAAD portal)
- Financing plan (via the DAAD Portal)
- Project description, see form template (Attachment type: project description)
- Project description (short version), see form template (Attachment type: project description)
- Calculation of the incomes/expenses that cannot be documented (Attachment type: supplementary financial information)
- Approval from the university management
- Informal confirmation from the Mexican partner university that the establishment of a project account and the smooth transfer of funds can be guaranteed.
- Convenio/cooperation agreement between the Mexican partner university and the local forensic medical institute of the federal state.

The application documents that are relevant to the selection must be named in accordance with the specifications and submitted by the application deadline using the specified attachment type.

Once the application deadline has passed, no further subsequent submissions or changes will be considered, including to the financing plan. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.

Application documents that can be handed in later:

- Cooperation agreement between the participating universities

Note: The application for project funding should be prepared by the applicant German university together with the potential Mexican transfer university.

#### Application deadline

The application deadline is **15th March 2021**.

#### Selection process

##### **Selection of applications for project funding**

DAAD decides on the funding based on an evaluation of the applications by a selection committee.

##### Selection criteria

- **How the project relates to the programme objectives (according to the causal network) as well as results-oriented planning with indicators that meet the SMART criteria**
- **Quality of the project**
  - Quality of the subject-related content
  - Professional competence of the applicant and the partner university/universities
  - Previous experience the project manager has with projects in, or target groups from, developing countries
  - Experience the project manager has in the management of international projects
  - Feasibility of attaining the project objectives using the planned measures within the planned time
  - Scientific research findings in the field of identifying the unknown deceased.
- **Balance of the cooperative measures**
  - Coordination and cooperation of the collaborative partners involved
- **Sustainability**
  - Networking with other universities and stakeholders in the region
  - Creation of sustainable cooperative structures

#### Contact

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**Annexes to the call  
for proposals**

1. Conditions of participation for the matchmaking workshop
2. Guide to impact-oriented monitoring

**Important  
information and  
form templates**

- Information on mobility with a disability or chronic illness
- Project description
- Project description (short version)
- Project planning overview
- Approval of university management (English)

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