

German-Afghan Higher Education Cooperation (2022–2023)

Programme objectives

The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst - DAAD) supports the programme 'German-Afghan Higher Education Cooperation' using funds provided by the German Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt – AA).

An 18-year DAAD funding phase ended in 2019, as the Stability Pact for Afghanistan expired. Many Afghan nationals obtained further qualifications through training courses as well as BA, MA and PhD scholarships in the context of the projects that had been taking place since 2002. Almost all alumni are based in Afghanistan and are acting as disseminators for their disciplines. The DAAD is going to provide funding for two-year higher education cooperation partnerships with the aim of stabilising what has been achieved to date with regard to academic development, to expand research cooperation to include further disciplines and higher education institutions in Germany, to promote the quality of teaching and research and a modernisation of Afghan higher education institutions. Germany alumni should be involved as partners in Afghanistan, in order to intensify their ties to Germany, as well as highlighting perspectives in the academic sector and supporting young academics in Afghanistan.

The programme provides for a long-term (impact) contribution to expanding professional and academic perspectives for academic professionals from Afghanistan, as well as to encourage these academic professionals to use their expertise to actively stimulate social and/or economic development in their country. In addition, the programme contributes to a structural strengthening of research and education in Afghanistan and to the stabilisation of cooperation structures between the universities and institutions involved.

The following programme objectives (outcomes) are derived from these impacts:

Project objective 1 (outcome 1): Young academics in Afghanistan have obtained further qualifications.

Project objective 2 (outcome 2): Qualified education disseminators ensure the transfer of knowledge in Afghanistan.

Project objective 3 (outcome 3): The partner higher education institutions offer degree course components (including digital elements) that suit the local context and reflect the latest developments in science.

Project objective 4 (outcome 4): Specialist networks between the higher education institutions are reinforced with the involvement of Afghan alumni.

These programme objectives should be achieved by means of the following direct results of measures/activities (outputs):

- Studies have been created/research projects have been carried out.
- Teaching and research staff at the partner higher education institutions have obtained discipline-specific and/or didactic qualifications.
- Discipline-specific and qualifying training events (such as conferences, seminars, exhibitions, workshops) were held.
- Teaching materials have been developed (further) and/or a digital laboratory has been set up.
- Contacts between the participating higher education institutions and other institutions have been expanded and consolidated.

Individual projects can focus on different aspects within the programme. A project does not necessarily have to contribute to all programme objectives. The wording of project objectives and ways to achieve objectives allow for some

flexibility, but the project objectives must be in line with the programme objectives. The project objectives must be specified based on the programme's impact model. Measurable project objectives and results and related indicators must be specified. These must be outlined in the application and in the project planning summary. Regarding the instructions for impact-oriented project planning, the impact model and the list of indicators, please refer to **Attachment 1 'Guide to Impact-oriented Monitoring'**.

Eligible measures/activities

Funding will be provided primarily for measures designed to help young academics obtain further qualifications and to open up prospects in the academic sector. Eligible measures include:

- Study and research stays (these can include sur place scholarships for postdocs and doctoral candidates in Afghanistan for carrying out research programmes lasting up to three months)
- Further and continuing education courses for young academics (these include training events (e.g. soft skills, third-party fund raising, project management) on the German and Afghan side, held in Germany, India and other safe third states in the region)
- Events (such as conferences, seminars, exhibitions, workshops)
- Further development and/or creation of (teaching) materials for implementing teaching modules (including online courses) or for setting up a digital laboratory
- Project-related stays (including for example, work meetings for project coordination between the German and Afghan side in Germany, India and other safe third states in the region, and research stays)

The following measures are not eligible for funding:

- Projects focussing on research cooperation only
- Activities for which funding is already provided by other organisations (e.g. DFG, BMZ, GIZ) and/or the DAAD
- Representational trips without academic interests
- Trips to Afghanistan

Expenditure eligible for funding

Any expenditure that is necessary and appropriate for project implementation (implementation of the measures/activities) is eligible for funding. This includes in particular:

Personnel resources for project implementation and support

- Research associate
- Academic assistant
- Student assistant
- Other personnel

Personnel costs include the gross salary paid by the employer. Annual bonus payments are only eligible for funding during the appropriation period and only insofar as the payment date is within this period.

Insofar as there are difficulties in employing student assistants to undertake project-related administrative activities, applications can instead be submitted for expenditure on TV-L employees (salary group 8) if required.

Equipment funding

- Fees for seminar leaders, teaching and freelance experts, based on the DAAD's table of fees

Fees for Afghan researchers and local staff:

Activity/position	EUR/hour	EUR/month
Creation of studies/analyses/policy papers (academics with a German MA degree)	up to 6.25	up to 1,000.00
Qualified staff with managerial responsibility	0.95–3.75	up to 600.00
Lecturers, consultants, etc. (except when the usual local fees are applied for course units)	0.65–1.90	up to 400.00
Field assistants	up to 1.25	up to 200.00
Tutors	0.35–0.95	up to 150.00

Note:

Fees for employees of the grant recipient are not eligible for funding.

- Travel expenses for project personnel
Compensation for travel and flight expenses can be claimed according to the relevant laws (BRKG/LRKG). Compensation is only available for 2nd class train travel and economy class flights.
- Stays of project personnel
Expenses for residence (accommodation and meals) can be claimed according to the relevant laws (BRKG/LRKG).
- Equipment funding in Germany/outside Germany
 - Consumables
(test tubes, paper, etc.)
 - Assets (computers, beamers, laboratory equipment, etc.)
 - Room rental
(rent for meeting rooms, offices, etc.)
 - Printing/publications/advertising and public relations
(flyers, brochures, posters, scientific publications, etc.)
 - External services
(companies that are commissioned to provide services or procurement services, such as catering, coach companies, repair work, IT support, etc.)
 - Other costs
(teaching materials, etc.)

Funded individuals

(individuals who are not in an employment relationship with the grant recipient)

- Mobility expenses for funded individuals (Germany – India, Afghanistan – Germany)
 - A mobility allowance can be applied for participants from the **German and Afghan side**, who are for participating in and holding discipline-specific academic events **in India**:
 - German and Afghan students, graduates and doctoral candidates: **EUR 1,050**
 - German academics holding a PhD, lecturers and assistants: **EUR 1,300** (for stays of up to 3 months)
 - For the **Afghan side**, a mobility allowance of **EUR 1,175** can be applied for for participating in and holding discipline-specific academic events **in Germany**.

Information about mobility allowances for other safe third states in the region is provided by the DAAD on request. The mobility allowance arises with the first day of the trip. Evidence must be provided in the form of a signed participant list. The mobility allowance covers the inbound and outbound journey, as well as any ancillary costs in the context of the trip

(e.g. visa fees, health certificates, vaccinations, luggage fees, luggage insurance).

▪ Stays of funded individuals

Residence allowances

- Depending on their status, a daily or monthly residence allowance for participants from the **German and Afghan side**, who are participating in and holding discipline-specific academic events **in India**, can be applied for.

Status	Daily (up to 22 days)	Monthly (from day 23)	Daily rate in the following month
Students and graduates	EUR 52	EUR 1,150	EUR 38
Doctoral candidates, researchers, lecturers, assistants, etc. (holding an MA or equivalent degree)	EUR 72	EUR 1,600	EUR 53

- In line with principles of economic efficiency and frugality, compensation for accommodation and meals is available for **German academics holding a PhD**.
- For **participants from the Afghan side** visiting **Germany** for teaching and research stays, as well as for taking part in summer schools, seminars, workshops, discipline-specific events and specialist courses

Status	Residence allowance		
	Daily rate (up to 22 days) (EUR)	Monthly rate (from day 23) (EUR)	Daily rate in the following month (EUR)
Students and graduates with a BA degree	39	861	29
Doctoral candidates, researchers, lecturers, assistants (holding an MA or equivalent degree)	54	1,200	40
Postdocs (similar to research associates in Germany)	89	2,000	67
Experienced researchers (similar to university lecturers/private lecturers in Germany)	96	2,150	72
Professors and researchers holding a similar position (similar to a university professor (W2/W3) in Germany)	103	2,300	77

Information about residence allowances for other safe third states in the region is provided by the DAAD on request.

The residence allowance arises with the first day of the stay. Evidence must be provided in the form of a signed participant list. The residence allowance

	<p>covers the expenditure for accommodation and meals as well as for health, accident and indemnity insurance.</p> <p>Residence scholarships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Afghan participants who perform research in the context of the projects, are eligible for a sur place scholarship of EUR 300 per month for up to three months. - The sur place scholarship starts on the first day of research. The completed study must be presented as evidence of the work carried out. <p>Types of expense that are not eligible for funding include, for example, gifts for guests</p>
Type of financing	Funding takes the form of full financing.
Funding period	The funding period begins at the earliest on 01/01/2022 and ends at the latest on 31/12/2023
Amount of funding	<p>The DAAD grant is generally limited to a maximum of EUR 200,000, split into budget years as follows:</p> <p>2022: EUR 100,000 2023: EUR 100,000</p>
Discipline(s)	The programme is open to all disciplines.
Target group	Bachelor's and/or master's students, doctoral candidates, postdocs, habilitation candidates, researchers and professors, etc.
Eligible applicants	Eligible applicants are officially recognised German higher education state institutions and non-university research institutions based in Germany which are recognised as non-profit organisations and conduct their own research.
Application	The application for project funding must be submitted in full and on time exclusively via the DAAD portal (www.mydaad.de).
Application requirements	<p><u>Application documents relevant to selection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project application (in the DAAD portal) • Financing plan (in the DAAD portal) • Project description (attachment type: project description) • Project planning summary (attachment type: project description) <p>The application documents relevant to selection must be named according to the guidelines and submitted under the specified attachment type by the application deadline.</p> <p>Further documents and amendments (including to the finance plan) submitted after the application deadline will not be considered. Applications that are lacking any documents that are relevant to selection will be excluded from the selection process.</p> <p><u>Application documents that may be submitted later on</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement by German university management (see form template) (attachment type: programme-specific attachments) • Cooperation agreement signed by the higher education institutions involved (memorandum of understanding, 'MoU') (attachment type: contracts/agreements)

These documents must be submitted by the time the contract is concluded.

At least a written explanation by the project leader must be submitted by the application deadline, if any of the documents regarding the cooperation that may be submitted later on (e.g. cooperation agreement, letter of intent, memorandum of understanding) are not available on time.

Application deadline

The application deadline is 31 August 2021.

Selection procedure

Selection of applications for project funding

An expert assessment of the applications will be carried out by a selection committee. This assessment serves as a decision-making basis for the DAAD.

Selection criteria

1. Relationship of the project to the programme objectives (according to the impact model) and impact-oriented planning using indicators that meet the SMART criteria (20%)
2. High academic quality of the project (in particular with regard to methods) (20%)
3. Contribution to the promotion of young academics at the partner university/universities in Afghanistan (20%)
4. (Further) qualification of Afghan university lecturers in teaching and research (15%)
5. Feasibility and social relevance of the project in terms of structural improvements for the partner universities (15%)
6. Professional competence of the individuals involved (10%)

Scholarship selection process

Selection of funded individuals

A selection committee appointed by the grant recipient will decide upon the scholarship applications.

The selection procedure must be described 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 the best candidates, subject-specific or personal aptitude, etc.)
- Awarding of the scholarship
 - by scholarship contract (e.g. 'scholarship confirmation' and 'declaration of acceptance')
 - delivery of a scholarship certificate (here: naming of the DAAD and the funding body and specific description of the scholarship services and their amount (e.g. residence and mobility allowances, tuition fees, etc.))

Contact

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Attachments to the call for applications/funding framework

1. Guide to Impact-oriented Monitoring
2. Fees for projects abroad, based on the DAAD table of fees

Important information and form templates

- Mobility information for those with a disability or chronic illness
- Project description template
- Project planning summary
- Endorsement by German university management template

Funded by:



Auswärtiges Amt