

SDG Partnerships (2022–2025)

Programme objectives

The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – DAAD) supports the programme ‘SDG Partnerships’ using funds provided by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Funding is available for establishing partnerships between German higher education institutions and higher education institutions in developing and emerging countries (DEC). The programme focusses on planning, developing and realising higher education partnerships that give rise to a sustainable promotion of structures at partner institutions in DEC in teaching as well as research, and in the areas of higher education and research management.

The overall long-term programme objectives are to contribute to sustainable development according to the 2030 Agenda, to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to establishing high-performing internationally networked higher education institutions in the partner countries.

More specifically, the programme shall achieve the following long-term **development effects (impacts)**:

Impact 1: The programme helps to develop and consolidate cooperation structures between the participating higher education institutions and other institutions.

Impact 2: German higher education institutions have gained expertise regarding global circumstances and challenges, and with regard to developing and emerging countries.

Impact 3: The programme contributes to the internationalisation of the higher education institutions involved.

Impact 4: The programme helps to structurally reinforce teaching and research at the partner institutions.

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

Area of activity: teaching

Project objective (outcome) 1: Graduate training structures have been improved at the partner institutions (BA and in particular MA or equivalent).

Project objective (outcome) 2: Students from developing and emerging countries are qualified to take up professional activities in these partner countries.

Project objective (outcome) 3: The partner institutions offer study and qualification programmes related to SDGs that are appropriate to the local context and reflect the state of the art in science.

Project objective (outcome) 4: Established methods are in place for transferring course offerings to other higher education institutions.

Area of activity: research

Project objective (outcome) 5: Research results regarding topics related to global circumstances and challenges are part of the content taught at the institutions involved.

Project objective (outcome) 6: Topics related to global circumstances and challenges are established research focusses at the institutions involved.

Project objective (outcome) 7: Methods for the distribution and transfer of knowledge and research findings are in place.

Area of activity: higher education management

Project objective (outcome) 8: The organisational structures at the partner institutions have been reinforced, expanded or developed.

Project objective (outcome) 9: Central governance and management structures have been improved at the partner institution.

Project objective (outcome) 10: Methods for realising the third mission have been created for the area of higher education management at the partner institution.

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

Area of activity: teaching

Result (output) 1: Curricula/teaching modules that relate to the SDGs and suit the local context while reflecting the latest developments in science have been jointly developed/advanced.

Result (output) 2: Lecturers at the partner institutions have obtained further discipline-specific and didactic qualifications.

Result (output) 3: Structural prerequisites for courses of study have been established.

Result (output) 4: Non-university players are actively involved in education development and teaching.

Result (output) 5: Further (non-)university players are involved in the partnership.

Result (output) 6: Methods for making study opportunities more widely available have been created.

Area of activity: research

Result (output) 7: Researchers have taken part in training regarding research methods.

Result (output) 8: Researchers have realised research endeavours in subject areas related to global circumstances and challenges.

Result (output) 9: Non-university players are involved in the research activities.

Result (output) 10: The structural conditions for research have been improved at the partner institutions.

Result (output) 11: Further (non-)university players are involved in the partnership.

Result (output) 12: Methods for spreading knowledge and communicating research results have been created.

Area of activity: higher education management

Result (output) 13: The administrative staff at the partner institutions have obtained (further) qualifications.

Result (output) 14: Processes and structures for improved university management are in place.

Result (output) 15: There are established processes and structures for communication with and knowledge transfer to the general public.

The focus areas defined can vary from project to project. A project does not necessarily need to contribute to all programme objectives. However, it is essential that at least one programme objective from the activity fields teaching or higher education management is addressed. While there is some room for flexibility when it comes to wording project objectives and to the ways to achieve these, the project objectives must be in line with the programme objectives. The project objectives must be specified based on the programme's results framework. 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 results-oriented project planning, the results framework and the list of indicators, please refer to **Attachment 1** 'Guide to Results-oriented Monitoring'.

The option to combine different areas of activity allows for a flexible strategy, depending on the respective project's demands and framework conditions. Smaller projects that relate, for example, to a specific course of study in the developing country can be eligible for funding, as well as larger endeavours that can also be an expansion of existing partnerships. Smaller projects should

explicitly not be cooperations that are still being established. The DAAD programme Fact Finding Missions is available for this goal.

Administrators/disseminators that are relevant to higher education management and/or other participants (such as political decision-makers) can be involved, depending on the objective of the project and the combination of areas of activity.

In line with the impacts listed above, it must also be taken into account that cooperation between German higher education institutions and partners in developing and emerging countries should be a key medium and long-term objective of any project. In the sense of the 2030 Agenda, such cooperations should contribute substantially to sustainable development of higher education institutions as well as society. This also means that partnerships that allow for a longer-term connection between the institutions and a stabilisation of South-South contacts, as well as promoting dialogue and communication, are considered particularly worthy of funding. The use of further funding instruments for higher education cooperation with developing countries is advisable and desirable in this context to create synergies (e.g. Alumni and Material Support Programme).

The focus areas addressed can vary from project to project, due to the option to combine different areas of activity. Projects do not have to contribute to all programme objectives.

Eligible measures/activities

The following measures/activities are eligible for funding, in line with the results framework:

- Development and revision of study/teaching materials that are relevant to project implementation
- Organisation of events
- Organisation of further and advanced training measures
- Project-related stays (research, specialist course/workshop, internship, studies, teaching)
- Realisation of target-group oriented public relations work
- Implementation of research related to the SDGs

When choosing the form in which individual measures/activities are realised, it should be checked, whether a digital format might be suitable and possible in pursuit of sustainability.

The following measures are **not** eligible for funding:

- Applications focussing on research funding only;
- Activities for which funding is already provided by other organisations (e.g. DFG, BMZ, GIZ);
- Representational trips without academic interests and excursions;
- Applications for a funding volume of less than EUR 10,000 per year;
- Extended (i.e. more than five months) research stays of researchers and students (please refer to the general scholarship and research funding programmes for this type of endeavour);
- Trips for the purpose of contract initiation. The Fact Finding Missions programme with its own call for applications is available for those seeking to initiate cooperation.

Expenditure eligible for funding

See **Attachment 2**

Type of financing

Funding takes the form of **deficit financing**.

Funding period	<p>The funding period begins at the earliest on 01/01/2022 and ends at the latest on 31/12/2025.</p> <p>A follow-up application for another four years can be submitted if there are plans to expand the project. Please note that extensions are usually only eligible for funding, if planning provides for the original project to be expanded substantially. This can mean, for example, that further areas of activity are included.</p>
Amount of funding	<p>The maximum amount of DAAD funding for a partnership between a German and a foreign higher education institution is EUR 300,000, split into budget years as follows:</p> <p>2022: EUR 75,000 2023: EUR 75,000 2024: EUR 75,000 2025: EUR 75,000</p> <p>For multilateral cooperation (one German and two or more foreign higher education institutions that are usually located in different partner countries), the DAAD grant can be increased by up to EUR 25,000 for activities related to South-South exchange.</p>
Discipline(s)	<p>Regarding the disciplines, the programme comprises two funding lines:</p> <p>Funding line I is open to all disciplines with a clear relationship to the SDGs, except applications dedicated to the “One Health” approach. Interdisciplinary applications are also welcome.</p> <p>Funding line II This dedicated funding line is available for applications from the areas of medicine, biodiversity, environmental and social science and related disciplines. Interdisciplinary applications are also welcome. In the current call for applications, particular emphasis is placed on the One Health approach covered by the SDGs 3, 13, 14 and 15 (good health and well-being, climate action, life below water, life on land).</p> <p>When submitting an application, it must be assigned to one of the two funding lines.</p>
Target group	<p>Academics, students, graduates, doctoral candidates and administrative staff of higher education institutions.</p>
Eligible applicants	<p>Eligible applicants are officially recognised German higher education institutions, university hospitals and non-university research facilities.</p>
Application	<p>The application for project funding must be submitted in full and on time exclusively via the DAAD portal (www.mydaad.de).</p>
Application requirements	<p><u>Application documents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project application (please indicate a conclusive project title, in the DAAD portal) • Finance plan (in the DAAD portal) • Project description, see form template (attachment type: project description) • Project planning summary, see form template (attachment type: project description) • Clear statement by the foreign partner institution, detailing its own interest in the project (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)

- Partnership agreement (cooperation agreement) – if signed already (attachment type: contracts/agreements)
- Endorsement by the university management (attachment type: programme-specific attachments).

The application documents must be named according to the guidelines and submitted under the specified attachment type by the application deadline.

The DAAD will not request any missing documents after the application deadline and no documents submitted later on or changes (including to the financing plan) will be considered after the application deadline (please refer to the list of documents that may be submitted later on for exceptions). Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection process.

Application documents that may be submitted later on

- Partnership agreement (cooperation agreement) between the German and foreign higher education institutions involved, signed by the respective institution management or their authorised signatories (attachment type: contracts/agreements).

These documents must be made available by the time the contract is concluded.

Note:

In addition to bilateral partnerships, funding is also available for projects involving multiple partners/countries, provided that the objective of the endeavour is in line with the programme criteria and that its developmental benefit is clearly recognisable.

Application deadline

The application deadline is 17 September 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

- **Relationship of the project to the programme objectives (as per the results framework) and results-oriented planning using indicators that meet the SMART criteria (20%)**
- **Specific contribution to realising the Sustainable Development Goals (20%)**
- **Discipline-specific relevance and quality of the project (20%)**
 - o Demand for the project and its benefits are clearly recognisable
 - o Discipline-specific expertise of the applicants
 - o Experience of the project coordinator gained from past projects in or with target groups from developing or emerging countries
 - o Experience of the German project coordinator in managing international projects
 - o Balanced project concept that adequately addresses the fields of activity listed above in line with the respective focus areas
 - o Appropriate and balanced calculation (see **Attachment 2**)
- **The project's relevance to development policy (15%)**
 - o Contribution to realising the Sustainable Development Goals
 - o Consideration of the principles of development cooperation: Planning, conceptualisation and implementation are based on the requirements of the partner institution(s) and are performed jointly

- o Plausible explanation, how the project's discipline-specific and regional focus contributes to the development of the partner institution and/or partner country in general
- **Suitable balance of cooperation measures (15%)**
 - o Coordination and cooperation among the cooperation partners involved
 - o Contribution made by the German and foreign higher education institutions/partners
 - o Integration and exchange of students and academics on both sides
- **Sustainability of the intended effects (10%)**
 - o Networking with further higher education institutions/partners and stakeholders in the region, South-South partnerships
 - o Creation of sustainable cooperation structures that will outlast the funding period.

Contact

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Attachments to the funding framework

1. Guide to Results-oriented Monitoring
2. Expenditure eligible for funding
3. Country-specific residence allowances

Important information and form templates

- Mobility information for those with a disability or chronic illness
- Project description
- Project planning overview
- DAC list by the OECD
- Endorsement by the German university management
- Completion aids for financing plan

Funded by:



Bundesministerium für
 wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
 und Entwicklung