

FUNDING FRAMEWORK**Internationalisation of Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)****‘UAS.International’ (2024 – 2025)****PROGRAMME
OBJECTIVES****1**

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) finances the ‘UAS.International’ programme with funding provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Funding is available for establishing and expanding sustainable networks for study, teaching, research, practical application and transfer by the UAS with partners from academia and business in Germany and abroad, as well as for preparation and support measures for studying and practical application in Germany and abroad that are introduced at higher education institutions.

UAS will be supported in (further) developing and implementing an internationalisation strategy that covers all groups, ranging from students and teaching staff, through to administrative staff. This strategy should also be inter-linked with other strategies related to issues such as digitalisation or equal opportunities.

The UAS is establishing and developing internationally oriented, practice-oriented courses in close cooperation with partners from the areas of higher education and practical partners at home and abroad, and will prepare a joint or dual degree programme if possible. In doing so, the institutions should also include digital formats and processes for customising education and teaching and making it more flexible, for example by creating virtual communication formats with mobility slots, by using digital teaching and study materials and by implementing digital exam scenarios and e-portfolios. Cross-departmental partnerships are promoted, consolidated and expanded at the level of the higher education institution.

Funding is available in particular for projects that lead to structural changes and a lasting increase of the higher education institution’s level of internationalisation. Special importance is attached to the realisation of measures that will be continued beyond the end of the project and on establishing lasting networks.

With this programme, the DAAD wants to advance the internationalisation of universities of applied sciences (UAS) in a broad and structural way. The process of internationalisation should be strategically anchored and sustainably implemented at all university levels and across all groups: from students, via teaching staff and researchers, through to administrative staff.

The programme is designed to make the following long-term contributions **(impacts)**:

- Making students employable in the international job market of the future
- Increasing the educational, research and innovative strength of UAS in close cooperation with business and industry
- Strategic international positioning of UAS as partners
- Increasing the performance and cosmopolitan nature of UAS
- Strengthening the international competitiveness of UAS

To achieve these long-term effects (impacts), the programme pursues the following **programme objectives (outcomes)**:

- 1: The programme contributes to the internationalisation of the UAS.
- 2: Institutional and structural framework conditions at the UAS have been improved.
- 3: Networks between UAS and national and international partners from academia and business have been established and / or expanded.
- 4: German and foreign students have acquired intercultural, foreign language, practical and professional skills.
- 5: Internationalisation strategies are (further) developed and implemented at the UAS.
- 6: UAS offer international and practice-oriented courses (with digital formats and processes).
- 7: International and internationalisation skills are built up in administration, research and teaching at the UAS.

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

- Applicants to the UAS are aware of the funding opportunities for scholarships, and stays abroad are in demand and implemented.
- Preparatory and supervision measures for studying and practical training in Germany and abroad are implemented at the UAS.
- The strategic (further) development of internationalisation has been initiated.
- International and practice-oriented courses (with digital formats and processes) have been (further) developed at the UAS.
- Administration, research and teaching staff at the UAS have acquired international and internationalisation skills.
- Contacts between UAS and national and international cooperation partners in science and business have been expanded and / or consolidated.

The focus areas can vary from project to project.

A project does not necessarily need to contribute to all programme objectives. However, it is essential that programme objective 5 or 6 is addressed.

The higher education institutions are asked to develop their projects based on the programme's results framework and programme indicators. This enables them to formulate measurable project goals and associated indicators. These must be outlined in the application and in the project planning overview, and

the project goals must be consistent with the programme objectives (see **Attachment 1** 'Guide to Results-oriented Monitoring' with instructions for results-oriented project planning, the results framework and the catalogue of indicators).

Environmental sustainability

The DAAD has set itself the target of further reducing its environmental footprint as an organisation and funding provider. In the context of project funding, efforts should be made to plan and realise all projects in a way that preserves resources and protects the climate and the environment. This particularly applies to mobility/travel. Depending on the type and scope of the project, it may also affect procurement and contract tendering, event management, or marketing and public relations work. (Information about this aspect is provided voluntarily and is not relevant to the selection process.)

MEASURES/ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

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Measures/activities eligible for funding include:

- Coordination and work meetings in person and virtually, for example for:
 - › Strategy development
 - › Adjusting administrative processes for student mobility (e.g. coordinated digitised recognition procedures, transparent module catalogues, student data exchange, development of common standards in study and teaching, etc.), which should be interlinked across the university and in the network
 - › Conception and realisation of courses
- Discipline-specific and language-related preparation measures (e.g. language courses, preparatory programmes, intercultural training)
- Local support and integration measures for international students at the higher education institution
- Activities related to discipline-specific support and follow-up activities for student and lecturer exchange programmes
- Networking events with partners from business and academia in Germany and abroad, as well as for alumni support
- Processing and provision of information about internationalisation activities, e.g. in the form of
 - › Establishing and expanding (digital) information and advice formats, as well as internship placement for foreign and German students (e.g. databases, websites)
 - › Marketing measures (e.g. creating flyers, brochures, posters and keeping social media offerings up to date)
- Continuing and further education measures
 - › Organisation of internal continuing and further education events at the higher education institution
 - › Development and awarding of certificates

- › Mutual training and education among members of the higher education institution (e.g. train the trainer events, media didactics workshops)
- › Participation in further education courses offered by external providers
- Stays in Germany and the partner countries of:
 - › Students, doctoral students (e.g. summer schools, study trips)
 - › Teaching staff (e.g. initiation and delegation trips, teaching stints, research initiation)
 - › Practical partners (e.g. short stays for lectures, consultation, networking)
 - › Administrative staff (e.g. internships at partner universities abroad)
 - › Alumni
- Granting of scholarships for foreign and German students, doctoral students for study, practical and research stays

EXPENDITURE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

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See **Attachment 2**

FORWARDING

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Forwarding of the project funding grant (fully or in part) is possible, if it is necessary for realising the grant purpose.

The expenditure items that are to be forwarded must be marked accordingly in the financing plan that is part of the application for project funding submitted to the DAAD.

If the specific details of forwarding are not known yet at the time the application for project funding is submitted (before a contract is concluded), expenditure that may be forwarded can be designated as the institution's own expenditure in the financing plan for the time being. In the event that specific plans to forward funding emerge after the contract has been closed, the grant recipient must seek approval from the DAAD by means of an amendment agreement (adjustment of the project description and financing plan).

Any forwarding of funds must take place based on a forwarding agreement.

Evidence of use from the forwarding recipient must be submitted to the DAAD along with the related audit certificate.

TYPE OF FINANCING

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Funding takes the form of full financing.

FUNDING PERIOD

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The funding period begins at the earliest on 1 January 2024 and ends at the latest on 31 December 2025.

GRANT AMOUNT

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A grant of up to EUR 500,000 can be applied for.

The funds should ideally be used steadily over the entire funding period.

A substantial proportion of the funding is to be used for personnel resources.

DISCIPLINES

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The programme is open to all disciplines.

TARGET GROUP

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Bachelor's students, master's students, doctoral candidates, higher education teaching staff, staff members of the higher education institution, professors.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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State and state-recognised German Universities of Applied Sciences and Duale Hochschulen are eligible to apply.

SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

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Note:

Due to Russia's attack on Ukraine, the DAAD has suspended any institution-based forms of cooperation with partners in the Russian Federation and Belarus for the time being. Against this background, no applications are possible for project funding with partner institutions in the Russian Federation and Belarus.

The programme is open to all partner countries. In the course of funding, the network of cooperation partners can be expanded.

Only one application may be submitted per higher education institution. No application can be submitted, however, for a project that is to begin in a period for which funding has already been granted to the higher education institution for two other projects in the context of this programme.

The application for project funding may only be submitted in complete form and before the deadline via the DAAD portal (www.mydaad.de).

- Project application (in the DAAD portal)
- Financing plan (in the DAAD portal)
- Project description, see **form template** (attachment type: project description)
- Project planning summary, see form template (attachment type: project description)
- *In the case of forwarding:* Project description and financing plan of the forwarding recipient/s (if known at submission of the application, otherwise

to be submitted as soon as known) (attachment type: supplementary financial information)

- Evidence from the partner institution that tuition fees cannot be waived, if this is known at the time of application; otherwise this must be submitted later on (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)
- **optional:** Internationalisation strategy (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)
- **optional:** Cooperation agreement (MoU) or letter of intent (LoI) between the applicant and at least one foreign higher education or practical partner signed by both parties at the departmental level at least (attachment type: contracts/ agreements)
- **optional:** Impact analysis structure graphic (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)
- **optional:** Project planning graphic (e. g. GANTT diagram) (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)
- **optional:** Exemplary (media-didactical) teaching/study concept for study courses (up to 2 pages) (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)

No further submitted documents are taken into account in the selection procedure.

No changes to the financing plan, project description or any amended documents or documents submitted later are accepted after the application deadline. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

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The application deadline is 5 July 2023.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

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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 (as per the impact model) and results-oriented planning using indicators that meet the SMART criteria (see Guide to Results-oriented Monitoring) (weighting: 15%)
- (2) Realistic use of resources for realising the activities (weighting: 10%)
- (3) Structural anchoring of the project at the German higher education institution, contribution to establishing and developing international structures and expected strategic development of the higher education institution due to the project (weighting: 20%)
- (4) Intercultural, discipline-specific and multi-disciplinary value of the project and its professional orientation (weighting: 15%)

- (5) Added value of used / developed digitally supported formats and processes and linking to existing digital projects and networks (weighting: 15%)
- (6) Discipline-specific quality, reputation and commitment of the practical partners and foreign higher education institutions involved (weighting: 10%)
- (7) Sustainability of the measures with regard to the internationalisation efforts of the university and the stabilisation potential and dissemination of project results (weighting: 15%)

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCEDURE

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Selection procedure for scholarships

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
- Selection criteria
- Awarding of the scholarship
 - › by scholarship contract (e.g. ‘scholarship confirmation’ or ‘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 or mobility scholarship, tuition fees)

ATTACHMENTS

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1. Guide to RoM (including results framework and catalogue of indicators)
2. Eligible grant expenditure
3. ‘Mobility scholarships and mobility allowances’ table
4. ‘Residence scholarships and residence allowances’ table

FORM TEMPLATES

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- Project description
- Project planning overview

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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- Mobility information for those with a disability or chronic illness
- Completion aids for financing plan

CONTACT

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