



FUNDING FRAMEWORK

East-West Dialogue: Higher Education Dialogue with Western Balkan Countries 2024

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

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The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst - DAAD) is distributing funds provided by the German Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt – AA) for the programme ‘East-West Dialogue: Higher Education Dialogue with Western Balkan Countries’.

Funding is available for dialogue formats with involvement of individuals from the area of higher education in Western Balkan countries and German higher education institutions. The programme focusses on events for establishing academic dialogue across borders and academic cooperation in the region.

Partnerships can be formed with higher education institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia (partner countries). In addition, higher education institutions and students from Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine and Hungary can be involved in the activities. However, the activities may not take place in those countries.

The programme objectives are:

- 1: Academic findings regarding issues that are relevant to the West Balkan region have been generated and/or taught.
- 2: Cross-border academic dialogue and/or networks have been established among the cooperation partners or in the region, with involvement of junior scientists and/or students.
- 3: Civil-society protagonists are involved.
- 4: In the context of academic communication, academic findings have been made available to the public beyond the area of higher education.

The programme is making a long-term contribution to strengthening civil society, to the development of democracy and to a reduction of ethical conflicts in the target region.

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:

- Implementation of **events**: workshops, meetings, seminars, study trips, summer schools and conferences in the partner countries and/or in Germany (usually lasting up to 14 days) for participants from the area of higher education and civil society
- Awarding of a **total of up to 2 scholarships** (between 1 and 3 months)
 - › for **teaching and research stays** of academics in Germany or at the partner institutions abroad
 - › for **teaching and research stays** of students and graduates in Germany or at the partner institutions abroad

Note:

Scholarships can only be applied for in connection to the topic of the event.

EXPENDITURE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

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All expenditure that is necessary for project implementation (i.e. realisation of the activities) is eligible for funding. This includes in particular:

Personnel resources for project implementation and support

- scientific research assistants (in justified exceptional cases only)
- academic assistants
- student assistants
- other personnel

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

If there are difficulties in employing student assistants to undertake project-related administrative activities, applications can instead be submitted for funding for expenditure on TV-L employees (up to salary group E8).

Note:

Expenditure relating to staff at a higher education institution in the partner country can only be submitted and claimed in the context of professional development.

Material resources

FEES (not for internal staff)

- In justified cases for external lecturers, senior desk officers and experts (usually from Germany and/or the partner countries) for lectures, workshops incl. preparations and follow-up work at up to EUR 40 (gross) per hour or EUR 250 (gross) per day
- For auxiliary work (e.g. for events, conferences, workshops)
- For external services (e.g. interpreters, webmasters)

Expenditure for travel and accommodation can be claimed in addition to the fee, in line with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR PROJECT PERSONNEL

Expenses for travel/flights can be submitted and claimed according to the applicable laws (BRKG/LRKG).

STAYS BY PROJECT STAFF

Expenditure relating to the stay (accommodation and meals) can be submitted and claimed according to BRKG/ LRKG.

EQUIPMENT FUNDING IN GERMANY/ABROAD

- Consumables (e.g. paper, pens, office supplies)
- Assets (e.g. teaching materials, software, licences)
- Room rent (e.g. rent for conference rooms and conference technology)
- Printing/publications/advertising and public relations (e.g. flyers, brochures, posters, academic publications)
- External services (e.g. catering, coach travel, IT services)
- Other expenditure (e.g. expenditure for field trips, communication)

Funded individuals

MOBILITY OF FUNDED INDIVIDUALS

- **Mobility allowance**
 - › A mobility allowance (see **Table 1**) for travel/flights (Germany ↔ partner country) can be applied for and claimed.
 - › This mobility allowance arises with the first day of the trip and must be evidenced by means of a participant list signed by the participants. The mobility allowance covers all costs in the context of the trip (including travel and flights as well as expenditure relating to visas, vaccinations, excess luggage, luggage insurance, and so on).
- **Mobility scholarships**
 - › For students/graduates, doctoral candidates, postdocs and researchers **in the context of study, research and teaching stays** (see **Table 1**)
 - › The mobility scholarship should be specified in the scholarship agreement.

Table 1

Partner country	Mobility allowance/ mobility grant	
	German/ foreign students/ graduates/ doctoral candidates; foreign academics holding a PhD (EUR)	German academics holding a PhD (EUR)
Albania	525	650
Bosnia and Herzegovina	475	575
Kosovo	475	575
Montenegro	525	650
Northern Macedonia	500	600
Serbia	300	375
Further countries		
Bulgaria	400	
Greece	425	
Croatia	375	
Republic of Moldova	400	
Romania	350	
Slovenia	375	
Turkey	425	
Ukraine	350	
Hungary	225	

- Expenditure for travel/flights **within Germany or a partner country or between different partner countries** can be submitted and claimed in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

STAYS OF FUNDED INDIVIDUALS

- Expenditure for stays (accommodation and meals) **in the partner countries and/or in Germany** can be submitted and claimed in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality.
- **Residence scholarships**
In the context of **study, research and teaching stays in Germany** (see **Table 2**)

Table 2

Status	Residence scholarship	
	Monthly rate	Daily rate

	(EUR)	in the following month (EUR)
Students before graduation/graduates	934	31
Doctoral candidates and individuals holding a PhD	1,200	40
Postdocs	2,000	89
Experienced researchers	2,150	96
Professors	2,300	103

- In the context of **study, research and teaching stays in the partner country** (see **Table 3**)

Table 3

Partner country	Monthly rate/students, graduates (EUR)	Daily rate in subsequent month (EUR)	Monthly rate/doctoral candidates, researchers (EUR)	Daily rate in subsequent month (EUR)
Albania	1,225	41	1,700	57
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,150	38	1,625	54
Kosovo	1,225	41	1,700	57
Montenegro	1,150	38	1,625	54
Northern Macedonia	1,200	40	1,700	57
Serbia	1,200	40	1,700	57

- › The residence scholarship should be specified in the scholarship agreement

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

5

Funding takes the form of full financing.

FUNDING PERIOD

6

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

GRANT AMOUNT

7

A grant of up to EUR 40,000 can be applied for. Applications relating to residence scholarships correspondingly increase the grant.

DISCIPLINES

8

The programme is open to all fields of study.

TARGET GROUP

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Bachelor's students, master's students, doctoral candidates, academics, professors.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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Eligible applicants are officially recognised German higher education state institutions and/or non-university research institutions based in Germany which are recognised as non-profit organisations and conduct their own research.

SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

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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)
- Provisional event programme, up to 1 page (attachment type: programme-specific attachment)
- Curriculum vitae of the project coordinator at the German higher education institution, up to 1 page (attachment type: programme-specific attachment)
- In the case of forwarding: the 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)
- Approval of the university management or explanation in the case of delayed submission before conclusion of the contract see form template (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)

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.

In deviation from this rule, approval by the German university management may be submitted later on up to the point a contract is concluded, however, this is an exception and must be explained in the application that must be submitted before the deadline.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

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The application deadline is 4 September 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) The project's relevance to the programme objectives and assignment of measures to the project objectives
- (2) Scientific quality of the project and theoretical background (including qualifications of the individuals involved), innovative approaches and own preliminary work if applicable
- (3) Scope and relevance of the expected results
- (4) Involvement of students and young academics in the activities
- (5) Involvement of civil-society actors in the target region

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 (e.g. DAAD, grant recipients, number of committee members)
- Selection criteria (e.g. selection of the best candidates, subject-specific or personal aptitude)
- 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)

FORM TEMPLATES

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- Project description
- Endorsement by the university management
- Substantive report

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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Mobility information for those with a disability or chronic illness

CONTACT

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