



PROJECT  
FUNDING

## PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

### „FÖRDERRAHMEN“

## Centre of Excellence for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems and Applied Agricultural and Food Data Science (South Africa)

### Line A (Capacity Building and Transfer) (2025 - 2029)

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The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – DAAD) distributes funding provided by the Federal Foreign Office (AA) to promote the programme ‘Centre of Excellence for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems and Applied Agricultural and Food Data Science (programme location South Africa) - Line A (Capacity Building and Transfer)’ as part of the programme ‘Centres of African Excellence’ ([African Excellence – Centres of African Excellence – DAAD](#)) that has been funded since 2008.

The Centres of African Excellence programme generally funds the development and establishment of (degree) programmes in selected fields of study relating to the training and professional development of specialists and managers for participation in academia, society and business, creating research capacities and promoting networking among African and German research institutions.

Future decision-makers, specialists and university lecturers should be given the opportunity to receive an up-to-date and internationally competitive education and skills at the centres. At the same time, an environment should be created that is sustainably conducive to research and offers favourable conditions for international cooperation and the involvement of relevant stakeholders. Each Centre should ideally develop its own supra-regional impact.

As part of the above-mentioned multi-institutional, practice-oriented and trans-disciplinary project, **Line A** aims to **establish the structure of the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems and Applied Agricultural and Food Data Science**. Teaching and capacity building, the development of flexible (training) modules and "micro degrees" as well as networking and transfer activities are the focus of the education and training of specialists and future decision-makers (for detailed information on the programme and concept, see **Annexes 1** and **2**).

The objectives of the funding programme in **line A** are:

- 1: Master students, (junior) scientists and university lecturers are (further) educated and trained in subject-specific, interdisciplinary and methodological skills.
- 2: The (digital) teaching and supervision offer, especially in master's, doctoral and post-doctoral education, has been improved at the participating partner universities and other universities in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 3: Innovative and strategic approaches to ensure financial, staff-related and structural sustainability of the centre have been developed.

- 4: The centre works (digitally supported) in networks with relevant African, German and international stakeholders from politics, business, academia and science and civil society.

With regard to the funding logic, the results (outputs), the programme objectives (outcomes) and the longer-term effects (impacts) of the funding programme, see the results framework in the guide to RoM (see **Annex 3**).

Project objectives must also be defined for all programme objectives.

For results-orientated project planning, see **Annex 3**.

### **Ecological sustainability**

The DAAD has set itself the goal of further reducing its ecological 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. Further information on the implementation of climate-sensitive DAAD-funded projects can be found in the [handout](#).

### **Diversity**

In its diversity agenda, the DAAD defines diversity, equal opportunities, and inclusion as important goals for international academic exchange. Talented people should be given the opportunity to contribute their diversity and different perspectives as part of project funding. Projects must be planned and realised with this cross-cutting objective in mind. People with disabilities and chronic illnesses can be funded separately (see information sheet "Information on mobility with disabilities and chronic illnesses"). Further information on diversity in DAAD-funded projects can be found in the [handout](#).

## **ELIGIBLE MEASURES FOR FUNDING**

### **2**

Measures eligible for funding are:

- Study, research, learning and/or teaching stays in Germany and Southern Africa/Sub-Saharan Africa
  - › for African students, university lecturers and (junior) researchers
  - › for German Master's students
- (Further) development of a concept for the digital support of teaching, research and knowledge transfer
- (Further) development of (digital) teaching, learning and qualification materials
  - › Development of **flexible modules** that can be implemented in already established degree programmes in South Africa and in at least one other partner country and, in the case of digital offerings, throughout Africa (including the development of "micro degrees")

- › Development of accompanying capacity building programmes, i.e. **holistic practice-oriented training modules** (promotion of academic and non-academic skills) for graduates and lecturers (including train-the-trainer measures)
- Establishment and expansion of existing IT structures
- Implementation of (digital) events, including further and advanced training (e.g. training and short-term programmes such as summer schools as well as events/measures relating to transfer and the involvement of civil society) for Master's students, university lecturers, researchers and alumni of the Centre of Excellence as well as relevant stakeholders (keyword: transfer cycles)

## EXPENDITURE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

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All expenditures necessary for the realisation of the project (implementation of the measures) are eligible for funding. This includes in particular:

### Personnel resources for project implementation and support

#### PERSONNEL IN GERMANY

- scientific employee (project coordination, administration)

Note:

When filling the coordination position, sufficient experience in project management and project administration should be taken into account.

- scientific assistant
- student assistant
- Other personnel

Personnel expenses include the gross salary of the employer. Collectively agreed annual special payments are only eligible for funding for the approval period and only insofar as the payment date falls within this period. Other individual and collectively agreed one-off payments are only eligible for funding if the DAAD has made a provision to this effect and provides information about it.

#### PERSONNEL ABROAD (only in the context of a forwarding)

- scientific employee (project coordination, administration)

Note:

When filling the coordination position, sufficient experience in project management and project administration should be taken into account.

- scientific assistant Assistant (Coordination, 0.5 FTE)
- student assistant
- Other personnel

Personnel expenses are eligible for funding in the amount of the customary local remuneration.

### Material resources

**HONORARIES** (not for own personnel, not for personnel of the forwarding recipient)

Fees for external experts/trainers (e.g. supervision of publications) (see **Annex 4**)

Expenses for mobility (travelling) and accommodation can also be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality. These expenses, which do not relate to the fee itself, must be included in the fee agreement:

#### MOBILITY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL (grant recipient)

Expenses for travel/flights can be applied for and claimed in accordance with BRKG/LRKG; however, rail travel only in 2nd class and flights only in economy class.

#### STAY PROJECT STAFF (grant recipient)

Expenses for the stay (accommodation and meals) can be applied for and claimed in accordance with BRKG/LRKG.

#### MOBILITY OF PROJECT STAFF (forwarding recipients)

Expenses for travel/flights can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

#### STAY PROJECT PERSONNEL (forwarding recipients)

Expenses for the stay (accommodation and meals) can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

#### MATERIAL RESOURCES INLAND/ABROAD

- Consumables (e.g. pens, conference folders, paper, seeds, test tubes, chemicals)
- Assets (e.g. laboratory equipment, computers, projectors, tables and chairs, software licences, online licences)
- Room hire (e.g. hire for conference rooms)
- Printing/publications/advertising and public relations (e.g. flyers, brochures, posters, scientific publications, online adverts)
- External services (e.g. catering, coach travel, repair services, translation services, IT services, external audits)
- Other (e.g. fees for money transfer/bank charges, visa, insurance, vaccinations)

#### Note on the organisation of events

(e.g. conferences, workshops, alumni measures, training measures and short-term programmes such as summer schools and events relating to the transfer and involvement of civil society)

Meals at events should be covered by catering services. the maximum amount of 32 euros (including drinks) per meal and person observed. Catering is only permitted if the expenses are not already covered by a lump sum for stay (see **Annex 5**).

#### **Funded individuals**



### MOBILITY OF FUNDED INDIVIDUALS

- Mobility lump sum (Southern/Sub-Saharan Africa ↔ Germany, Germany ↔ Southern/Sub-Saharan Africa)
  - › For African and German students (Master's students) as well as African experienced researchers and university lecturers, a mobility lump sum (see Annex 5) can be applied for and claimed for mobility (travel/flight) as part of short-term measures (e.g. participation in relevant (transfer and research-related) events as well as academic and non-academic training courses).
  - › The mobility lump sum is payable from the first day of the trip and must be evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants. The mobility lump sum covers all expenses associated with the trip (including travel and flights as well as expenses for visas, vaccinations, excess baggage, baggage insurance, etc.).
  
- Expenditure for mobility within Southern Africa/Sub-Saharan Africa can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

### RESIDENCE OF FUNDED INDIVIDUALS

- Lump sum for stay
  - › German students (Master's students) in Africa at the African partner institute can apply for and claim a lump sum for their stay as part of short-term measures (e.g. participation in relevant (transfer and research-related) events as well as academic and non-academic training courses and summer schools) (see **Annex 5**).
  - › African students (Master's students), academics and university lecturers in Germany or at the German partner institute can apply for and claim a lump sum for their stay as part of short-term measures (e.g. participation in relevant (transfer and research-related) events as well as academic and non-academic training courses and summer schools) or as part of research and teaching stays (see table).
  - › The lump sum for stay is payable on the first day of the stay and must be evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants. The lump sum for stay covers the costs of accommodation and meals as well as health, accident and liability insurance.

Lump sum for stay	Monthly instalment (from day 23)  (Euro)	Daily rate (total stay up to 22 days)  (Euro)	Daily rate (in the last, incomplete month of a stay of several months)  (Euro)
Master students	934	42	31



Experienced scientists with an independent research profile (comparable to postdoctoral researchers in Germany)	2.150	96	72
Professors or academics in a comparable position (comparable to a university professor in Germany)	2.300	103	77

- Expenses for stays within Southern Africa/Sub-Saharan Africa can be applied for and claimed by African students (Master's students) and researchers at the African partner institute as part of short-term measures (e.g. participation in relevant (transfer and research-related) events as well as academic and non-academic training courses and summer schools) or as part of research and teaching stays in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and economy.
- Sur Place/Third Country Scholarships
  - › For African students (Master's students) at African partner institutions within Southern Africa or Sub-Saharan Africa

<b>Region/Country</b>	<b>Incountry (Sur Place) (Euro)</b>	<b>Third country (Euro)</b>
South Africa	650	650
Malawi	220	280
Mauritius	350	450
Namibia, Botswana	400	450
<i>for Zambia, Angola, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Lesotho, Mozambique, Eswatini the scholarship rates must be agreed with the DAAD</i>		
Western Africa	300	450
Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda	240	380
Ethiopia	180	200
Sudan	180	210
West and Central Africa	300	450

- › Rent subsidy of 30 euros/month to compensate for higher rents for students who cannot live on campus or in halls of residence.
- › Subsidy for health insurance at the usual national health insurance rates. This also applies to stays in Germany.

- › Subsidy towards tuition fees in the amount of the country-specific DAAD standard rates. The grant recipient should endeavour to obtain a fee waiver for national and international students at the centre. The Sur Place/Third Country Scholarship, the rent subsidy, the subsidy for health insurance and the subsidy for tuition fees must be provided for as benefits in the scholarship agreement.

## FORWARDING

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Forwarding of the project funding grant (in whole or in part) is possible if this is necessary to achieve the purpose of the grant.

The **project description** must list the measures and associated objectives of the forwarding recipient(s) in addition to the project's own measures and objectives. This means that the entire project must be addressed (including the forwarding level).

In the **financing plan**, the expenditure items of the forwarding recipient(s) must be labelled separately (e.g. with "WL") in addition to the recipient's own expenditure items. This means that the expenditure of the entire project (incl. forwarding level) must be shown in the financing plan.

If the intended forwarding (recipient name, specific content, etc.) is not yet known at the time of the application for project funding (before the contract is concluded), the expenses that would be incurred by a possible forwarding recipient must first be shown in the financing plan as own expenses and their necessity must be justified in the project description. As soon as the actual forwarding of the grant becomes known (after conclusion of the contract), a change application for project funding (adaptation of the project description and financing plan) must be submitted to the DAAD.

Forwarding takes place on the basis of a forwarding agreement.

The audit certificate for the evidence of use by the forwarding recipient must be attached to the evidence of use by the grant recipient, which must be submitted to the DAAD.

## TYPE OF FINANCING

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Funding takes the form of fixed-sum financing.

The grant is subject to the proviso that own funds, third-party funds and other funds are brought in to finance the project. If own funds, third-party funds and other funds are contributed to the form of income/expenditure that cannot be documented, these must be plausibly presented in the financing plan and project description.

## FUNDING PERIOD

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The funding period begins on 1 January 2025 at the earliest and ends on 31 December 2029 at the latest.

Following a successful evaluation of the first main phase or build-up phase in 2028, follow-up funding for a further five-year consolidation phase can be applied for in the second quarter of 2029, subject to the current budget situation at that time.

## GRANT AMOUNT

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A grant of up to EUR 2,250,000 can be applied for, divided over the financial years in the approval period as follows:

2025: 450,000 euros  
2026: 450,000 euros  
2027: 450,000 euros  
2028: 450,000 euros  
2029: 450,000 euros

## DISCIPLINES

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The programme is open to all thematic fields of agricultural and food sciences that deal with the thematic focus of the planned centre in an inter- and trans-disciplinary manner, i.e. in the broadest sense with the holistic view and transformation of agricultural and food systems in Southern Africa.

## TARGET GROUP

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Master's students, scientists and academics, university lecturers

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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Eligible applicants are state and state-recognised German universities as well as non-university research institutions based in Germany that are recognised as non-profit organisations and conduct their own research.

A prerequisite for applying is a partnership with one or more partner higher education institutions in South Africa, including at least one of the following institutions: 'Historically Disadvantaged Institutions' (HDIs), i.e. previously disadvantaged higher education institutions, Universities of Technology (UoTs), 'emerging' universities, "newly emerging" institutions (see **Annex 6**) or an existing network of partners (also) from among these institutions. A university from another sub-Saharan African country must also be included. The size of the university network should be limited to four (with possible associated partners up to a maximum of five) institutions.

Collaboration with already established Centres of African Excellence, DAAD projects (e.g. Global Centres, etc.), research institutions, projects of the participating departments and relevant departmental research institutes as well as political decision-makers is expressly desired. Appropriate stakeholder involvement,



also within the framework of the transfer cycle approach, is essential and must be part of the concept of the applying higher education institutions.

## APPLICATION

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The application for project funding must be submitted in English, in full and on time exclusively via the DAAD portal ([www.mydaad.de](http://www.mydaad.de)). In addition, the following documents must be uploaded in the "Attachments" tab:

- Project description, see **form template** (attachment type: project description)
- Project planning overview, see **form template** (attachment type: project description)
- Cooperation agreement of the participating university/universities (Annex type: Contracts/agreements)
- Endorsement by the university management, see **form template** (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)

After the application deadline, changes to the financing plan, the project description and subsequently submitted or amended documents will no longer be considered.

Each university or research institution eligible to apply must apply for each funding line (A, B and C).

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

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The application deadline is 20 June 2024.

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

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### Selection of applications for project funding

The DAAD decides on funding on the basis of the evaluation of the applications by a selection committee.

A personal or, if necessary, virtual presentation of the project outline to the selection committee is welcome. The funding institution is expected to attend the selection meeting.

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

- (1) Subject-specific and substantive quality of the project in relation to the achievement of the project and programme objectives (weighting: 60%)
- (2) Quality and stringency of project planning (weighting: 15 %)
- (3) Impact of the project on the individual target groups and addressed areas beyond the funding period of the project (weighting: 5 %)
- (4) Consideration of diversity (weighting: 5 %)
- (5) Climate-sensitive project organisation (weighting: 5 %)

- (6) Scope and quality of the planned connections to lines B and C and to the planned NRF-funded chair (weighting: 10 %)

## SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCEDURE

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#### Selection for scholarships

The grant recipient decides on the awarding of scholarships on the basis of a selection committee appointed by the grant recipient.

- Public announcement of the scholarship offer: The announcement of scholarships for Micro Degrees must be published (at least on the website of the respective centre; it is recommended to also use channels beyond this, such as DIGI-FACE or the relevant DAAD regional offices and information centres), stating the scholarship benefits, application requirements and reference to the donor (funded by the DAAD with funds from the Federal Foreign Office). In principle, scholarships for Micro Degrees should be awarded in the context of Master's degree programmes in particular. As a rule, the last academic degree should not have been awarded more than six years ago at the time of application.
- Composition of the selection committee: Applicants are selected by the project partners. An agreement on this should be made in the project-specific cooperation agreements. The contractual partners undertake to ensure a transparent selection procedure in accordance with DAAD guidelines, taking into account professional and personal criteria. The application documents should include a letter of motivation and a letter of reference. A committee consisting of at least two professors (ideally three) from the respective partner universities must be formed for the selection process. External experts (other stakeholders relevant to the centre of excellence) may act in an advisory (not decisive!) capacity. A representative of the DAAD must be involved in an advisory capacity. Exceptions are only possible after prior consultation with the DAAD.

If possible, selection dates should take place at fixed annual intervals and the DAAD should be informed at least 3 months in advance. The list of applicants selected for interview (ranked "short list") should be made available to the DAAD at least 2 weeks before the selection, including details of the most recent degree and date of birth as well as other necessary documents (score sheets, composition of the selection committee, etc.).

- Selection criteria: The selection must be made based on quality, social and regional aspects as well as on the personal suitability of the applicants.
- Award of the scholarship:
  - › per scholarship agreement

The scholarship for Micro Degrees is awarded by the project partners using the Letter of Award and Declaration of Acceptance provided by the DAAD. An extension of the scholarship period is not possible. The duration

of the scholarships for Micro Degrees is determined by the university at the time of application and agreed with the DAAD. If the scholarship is cancelled prematurely for reasons for which the scholarship holder is responsible, the scholarship received to date must be reclaimed. The centre of excellence may suspend or terminate its financial payments to scholarship holders if and for as long as the scholarship holders fail to fulfil their obligations under the scholarship agreement. The DAAD must be informed immediately of any such action.

- › handing-over of a scholarship certificate

The following information must be included in the scholarship certificate: Reference to the DAAD, the funding institution with appropriate use of logo, specific description of the scholarship benefits and their amount.

The selection procedure must be described in the project description.

## ATTACHMENTS

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1. Programme description
2. Concept "African-German Centre of Expertise for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems and Applied Agricultural and Food Data Science"
3. Guide to RoM – Line A (incl. Results framework, catalogue of indicators)
4. Honoraries fee table
5. Mobility and lump sum for stay for Funded Individuals
6. Listing of Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDIs), i.e. previously disadvantaged Universities of Technology (UoTs) and 'emerging' universities, "newly emerging" institutions

## FORM TEMPLATES

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- Project description
- Project description (english)
- Project planning overview
- Project planning overview (english)
- Endorsement of project application
- Endorsement of project application (English)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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- Leaflet "Information on mobility with disabilities and chronic illness"
- Handout "Implementation of climate-sensitive DAAD-funded projects"
- Handout "Diversity and equal opportunities in DAAD-funded projects"

## CONTACT US

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