



‘FÖRDERRAHMEN’

Higher Education Cooperation with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in South Africa (2025-2029)

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

1

The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – DAAD) finances the programme ‘Higher Education Cooperation with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)’ with funding provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

The Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung (AvH) has been funding the establishment of research chairs at the AIMS Centres since 2012. The DAAD promotes these AIMS Centres and chairs via cooperation with German higher education institutions.

This type of cooperation has already been promoted in South Africa, Rwanda, Cameroon, Ghana and Senegal.

One higher education cooperation at AIMS South Africa is funded per chair. The research chair is held by Dr Ryan Sweke (contact: rsweke@gmail.com). The higher education cooperation is intended to focus on at least one of the following research topics:

- 1) *Quantum computing*
- 2) *Quantum information*
- 3) *Quantum-many body physics and machine learning*

The programme is designed to make a long-term contribution (**impact**) in terms of:

- 1: Promoting visibility and strengthening higher education and research in mathematics within the partner countries
- 2: Internationalisation of the partner institutions
- 3: Consolidation of the cooperation structures between the partners (and the business sphere where applicable)
- 4: Commercial and social development in the partner countries
- 5: Developing the international potential of HEIs and institutions.

With regard to the funding logic as well as the results (outputs), program objectives (outcomes) and long-term effects (impacts) of the funding program, see the impact structure in the RoM handout (see Attachment 1).

A project does not necessarily need to address all programme objectives. However, at least one project objective must be defined for each of the program objectives 1, 2 and 3.

For impact-oriented project planning, see (Attachment 1)

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.)

Diversity

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

MEASURES/ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

2

The measures / activities eligible for funding that are to be planned and realised in close coordination with the German chair holder (GRC – German Research Chair) are:

- **The award of PhD, postdoc and student scholarships**
 - › At least two **PhD scholarships** for **doctoral candidates** (scholarship period generally 3 years with an option of a one-year extension) that must be enrolled at the AIMS Centre's local partner higher education institution. The German research chair holder at AIMS Senegal is to provide academic supervision.
 - › At least two **postdoctoral scholarships** for **postdocs** (scholarship period generally 2 years); the German research chair holder at AIMS Senegal is to provide academic supervision.

During the **PhD and postdoctoral scholarship period**, each year research stays lasting up to five months can be spent **in Germany** as long as supervision is provided by professors from the German partner higher education institutions.

- › **Scholarships for study and research stays** relating to **students, doctoral candidates, academics holding a PhD, postdocs or lecturers** at the respective partner institution or other AIMS Centres, including among the AIMS Centres themselves (South-South exchange) (at least 1 month, a maximum of 5 months).

- **Teaching stints** by **doctoral candidates, academics holding a PhD, lecturers and experienced researchers** at the respective partner institution or other AIMS Centres, including among the AIMS Centres themselves (South-South exchange) (up to 1 month).
- Participation in / implementation of **continuing and further education events** (including workshops, seminars, symposia, conferences, summer schools, field trips)
- **Public Relations**

EXPENDITURE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

3

All expenditure that is necessary for project implementation (in other words realisation of the measures / activities) is eligible for funding. This includes in particular:

Personnel resources for project implementation and support

- Research associate (for project coordination, up to 0.5, PG13)
- Further staff (0.25, PG8)

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.

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.

Material expenditures

FEES FOR EXTERNAL EXPERTS (not for own staff)

Expenditures relating to travel, flights and accommodation can be submitted and claimed in addition to the fees and in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

Fees relating to teaching, moderation or evaluation activities by externals abroad see **Attachment 2**.

MOBILITY TRIPS BY PROJECT PERSONNEL (grant recipient's employees)

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

PROJECT PERSONNEL (grant recipient's employees)

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

MATERIAL EXPENDITURES IN GERMANY/ABROAD

- Consumables (such as test tubes, paper)
- Assets (such as computers, projectors, tables and chairs, laboratory items)

- Rent (e.g. for conference venues)
- Printing/ publications/ advertising and public relations (including flyers, brochures, posters, academic publications)
- External services (such as coach travel, repair services, IT services)
- Miscellaneous costs (such as teaching materials, software, licences)

Notes:

The development and use of digital formats is to be widely supported (including cross-locational digital teaching / learning scenarios, virtual events, new formats for exchanging information about cooperation and in the context of public relations activities).

Expenditure relating to the grant recipient’s infrastructure is ineligible for funding.

Funded individuals

TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR FUNDED INDIVIDUALS

• **Mobility allowances**

A one-off per person mobility allowance can be submitted and claimed relating to students, graduates, doctoral candidates, postdocs, experienced researchers and professors for their **mobility between Germany ↔ AIMS Centres and respectively AIMS Centres ↔ Germany:**

Ghana:	EUR 1,475
Cameroon:	EUR 1,525
Rwanda:	EUR 1,275
Senegal:	EUR 1,425
South Africa:	EUR 2,000

- › This mobility allowance arises on the first day of the trip and is to be evidenced by means of a participant list signed by the participants accompanied by the interim / Evidence of Use (EoU) report. 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).

• Expenditure relating to travel between **AIMS Senegal and their place of residence in Africa** (at the start and end of the scholarship period) can be submitted and claimed in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

• Expenditure relating to **travel within Africa (South-South exchange)** can be claimed in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

STAYS OF FUNDED INDIVIDUALS

- **Stays at AIMS Senegal and relating to research stays in Germany (at least 1 month to a maximum of 5 months)**

- › **Residence grant** for **doctoral candidates** at the AIMS research chair in Senegal amounting to EUR 1,800 per month, or respectively EUR 1,300 per month for a stay in Germany.
- › **Residence grant** for **postdocs** at the AIMS research chair in Senegal amounting to EUR 2,300 per month, or respectively EUR 2,000 per month for a stay in Germany.
- › **Study fees**, insofar as they are demonstrably incurred

The residence grant and potential study fees are to be stipulated as performance in the context of a scholarship agreement or scholarship decision.

- **Stays at other AIMS Centres or in Germany (for research purposes or participation at events), a maximum of 1 month**

- › Expenditure relating to stays by the **above mentioned doctoral and postdoctoral candidates** can be submitted and claimed for overnight accommodation (no catering) in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality, given **simultaneous continued payment of the residence grant**.
- › Expenditure relating to **health insurance** can be submitted and claimed in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

Note:

Group insurance is available via the DAAD for a stay in Germany.

- **Research stays (a maximum of 5 months) and teaching stints (a maximum of 1 month) in Germany**

An accommodation **allowance** (see **Table 1**) can be submitted and claimed relating to stays (overnight accommodation and catering) by students, graduates, doctoral candidates, postdocs, experienced researchers and professors.

Table 1 Status	Accommodation allowance		
	Daily rate (up to 22 days) (EUR)	Monthly rate (EUR)	Daily rate (in the last month of a stay lasting several months) (EUR)
Students / Graduates	42	934	31
Doctoral candidates	59	1300	44
Academics holding a PhD, postdocs, lecturers and experienced researchers	103	2300	76

This accommodation allowance arises with the first day of the trip and is to be evidenced by means of a participant list signed by the participants and be accompanied by the interim / Evidence of Use (EoU) report. The accommodation allowance covers the expenditure for accommodation and meals as well as for health, accident and indemnity insurance.

Note:

Group insurance is available via the DAAD for a stay in Germany.

- **Research stays and teaching stints in South Africa**
 - › An accommodation **allowance** (see **Table 2**) can be submitted and claimed relating to stays (overnight accommodation and catering) by students, graduates, doctoral candidates, postdocs, experienced researchers and professors.

Table 2	Accommodation allowance		
Status	Daily rate (up to 22 days) (EUR)	Monthly rate (EUR)	Daily rate (in the final month of a stay lasting several months) (EUR)
Students / Graduates	54	1200	40
Doctoral candidates	81	1800	60
Academics holding a PhD, postdocs, lecturers, experienced researchers	Stay-related expenditure can be submitted and claimed in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality (according to BRKG/LRKG in relation to the grant recipient's employees).		

This accommodation allowance arises with the first day of the trip and is to be evidenced by means of a participant list signed by the participants and be accompanied by the interim / Evidence of Use (EoU) report. The accommodation allowance covers the expenditure for accommodation and meals as well as for health, accident and indemnity insurance.

- **Stays at other AIMS Centres (for research purposes or participation at events, a maximum of 1 month)**
 - › An accommodation **allowance** (see **Table 3**) can be submitted and claimed relating to stays (overnight accommodation and catering) by students, graduates, doctoral candidates, postdocs, experienced researchers and professors.

Table 3		Accommodation allowance		
Country	Status	Daily rate (up to 22 days) (EUR)	Monthly rate (EUR)	Daily rate (in the final month of a stay lasting several months) (EUR)
Senegal	Students / Graduates	61	1350	45
	Doctoral candidates	90	2000	67
	Academics holding a PhD, postdocs, lecturers, experienced researchers	Stay-related expenditure can be submitted and claimed in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality.		
Cameroun	Students / Graduates	57	1275	43
	Doctoral candidates	86	1900	63
	Academics holding a PhD, postdocs, lecturers, experienced researchers	Stay-related expenditure can be submitted and claimed in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality.		
Ghana	Students / Graduates	57	1275	43
	Doctoral candidates	81	1800	60
	Academics holding a PhD, postdocs, lecturers, experienced researchers	Stay-related expenditure can be submitted and claimed in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality.		
Rwanda	Students / Graduates	63	1400	47
	Doctoral candidates	93	2075	69
	Academics holding a PhD, postdocs, lecturers, experienced researchers	Stay-related expenditure can be submitted and claimed in line with the basic principles of economic efficiency and frugality.		

This accommodation allowance arises with the first day of the trip and is to be evidenced by means of a participant list signed by the participants and be accompanied by the interim / Evidence of Use (EoU) report. The accommodation allowance covers all expenditure relating to accommodation and catering as well as for health, accident and indemnity insurance.

FORWARDING

4

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

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. The entire project must therefore be addressed (including the forwarding level).

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 for grant forwarding emerge after the contract has been concluded, 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 2025 and ends at the latest on 31 December 2029.

GRANT AMOUNT

7

A grant of up to **EUR 730,000** may be proposed, to be distributed as follows across the budget year in the approval period:

2024: EUR 160,000 (around EUR 72,000 thereof for scholarships)
2025: EUR 160,000 (around EUR 72,000 thereof for scholarships)
2026: EUR 160,000 (around EUR 72,000 thereof for scholarships)
2027: EUR 160,000 (around EUR 72,000 thereof for scholarships)
2028: EUR 90,000

DISCIPLINES

8

The programme is open for the discipline of mathematics and its applications.

TARGET GROUP

9

Master's students, doctoral candidates, postdocs and experienced researchers.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

10

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 description, see **form template** (attachment type: Project description)
- Project planning overview, 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)
- Approval of the application signed by the research chair holder at the AIMS Centre, see **form template** (attachment type: Programme-specific attachment)

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 30th August 2024.

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) Technical and scientific quality of the project with regard to the achievement of the project and program objectives (weighting: 70%)
- (2) Quality and stringency of project planning (weighting: 15%)
- (3) Impact of the project on the individual target groups and areas addressed beyond the funding period of the project (weighting: 5%)
- (4) Consideration of diversity (weighting: 5 %)
- (5) Climate-sensitive project organization (weighting: 5 %)

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCEDURE

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Selection procedure for scholarships

A selection committee of three or more members appointed by the grant recipient decides on the scholarship applications.

The selection procedure must be described in the project description.

- Availability of the scholarships shall be publicised (such as on the AIMS Centres' website and the DAAD's global network).
- The selection committee comprises at least the following members:
 - › An academic from the grant recipient qualified in the relevant field,
 - › German research chair holder at AIMS Senegal
- Selection criteria
 - › Discipline-specific/academic aptitude and performance
 - › Personal aptitude
 - › Quality and feasibility of the research endeavour
- Awarding of the scholarship
 - › Per scholarship agreement (naming of the DAAD and funding bodies and specific description of the scholarship services and their amount, such as residence or mobility scholarship, tuition fees)

ATTACHMENTS

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1. Guide to RoM (including impact model and catalogue of indicators)
2. Fee table

FORM TEMPLATES

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- Project description
- Project planning overview
- Approval of the project application by the university management
- Endorsement by the German Research Chair

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

17

- Mobility information for those with a disability or chronic illness
- Handout "Climate-sensitive implementation of international university co-operation in DAAD project funding"
- Handout "Diversity and equal opportunities in DAAD-funded projects"

CONTACT

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