



THE GERMAN VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHALL BE LEGALLY BINDING.

FUNDING FRAMEWORK

Partnerships with higher education institutions in East Central, South Eastern and Eastern Europe as well as the South Caucasus and Central Asia (Eastern partnerships) 2026-2028

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

1

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) uses funds from the Federal Foreign Office (AA) to support the "Eastern Partnerships" funding programme.

Funding is available for trips to partner higher education institutions (HEI) and stays at German HEI for study, research and teaching purposes (including internships) as part of existing HEI partnerships with HEI in the target region.

The programme objectives are:

- 1: Students, (junior) academics and researchers have acquired specialised, linguistic and/or methodological skills.
- 2: Broad-based cooperation between the partner HEI in teaching and research has been consolidated/expanded.
- 3: Partnerships between the partner HEI have been strengthened and are the starting point for further collaborations.

With regard to the funding logic as well as the results (outputs), programme objectives (outcomes) and longer-term effects (impacts) of the funding programme, see the results framework in the WoM handout (see **Annex 2**).

Project objectives do not have to be defined for all programme objectives. However, at least one project objective must be defined for each of programme objectives 1 and 2.

For impact-orientated project planning, see **Annex 2**.

Ecological sustainability

The DAAD has set itself the goal of further reducing its ecological footprint as an organisation and funding body. In the context of project funding, efforts should be made to plan and implement projects in a way that preserves resources, the climate and the environment. This applies in particular to mobility/travelling and, depending on the type and scope of the project, can also relate to procurement and allocation, event management or marketing and public relations. Further information on climate-sensitive implementation of international HEI cooperation in DAAD project funding can be found in the [handout](#).

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 in the context of project funding. Projects must be planned and realised with this cross-cutting objective 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](#).

ELIGIBLE MEASURES

2

Eligible measures are

- Mobility of outgoings for study, research and teaching purposes (including internships) to a foreign partner HEI as part of a cooperation and for participation in bi- and multinational events (e.g. conferences, summer courses or symposia)
- Stays and (in the case of funding recipients from programme-relevant DAC countries) mobilities of incomings for study, research and teaching purposes (including internships) at the applicant HEI as part of a cooperation and for participation in bi- and multinational events (e.g. conferences, summer courses or symposia; the measure does not necessarily have to be carried out at the applicant HEI)
 - › for students/graduates and doctoral candidates (up to six months/calendar year)
 - › for postdoctoral researchers, experienced researchers, professors, assistants and senior HEI staff (up to three months/calendar year)

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

3

Personnel resources for project implementation and support

- research assistants
- student assistants
- Other personnel

Personnel funds are appropriate up to 20% of the total expenditure requested annually.

Personnel expenditure includes the gross salary paid by the employer. Annual bonus payments under collective agreements are only eligible for funding during 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 issued a regulation to this effect and communicated it.

MOBILITY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL

Expenses for travelling/flights can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the federal travel expenses act (BRKG)/state travel expenses act (LRKG); in deviation from this, rail travel only 2nd class and flights only in economy class.

STAY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL

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

Funded individuals

MOBILITY OF FUNDED INDIVIDUALS

OUTGOINGS (Germany ↔ partner country)

- Mobility allowance
 - › **Students/graduates and doctoral candidates** can apply for and claim a mobility allowance (see **Annex 1**) for travelling/flights from Germany to the partner HEI and back.
 - › The mobility allowance arises from the first day of the trip and must be evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants (this must be submitted to the DAAD on request). The mobility allowance covers all expenses associated with the trip (including travel and flights as well as expenses for visas, vaccinations, excess baggage, baggage insurance, etc.).
- Expenses for travelling/flights to the partner HEI and back for **doctoral researchers, professors, assistants and senior HEI staff** of the applicant university can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the federal travel expenses act (BRKG)/state travel expenses act (LRKG); in deviation from this, rail travel only 2nd class and flights only economy class.

INCOMINGS (exclusively from DAC countries, see **Annex 3**) (partner country ↔ Germany)

- Mobility allowance
 - › **Students/graduates, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, professors, assistants and senior university staff** can apply for and claim a mobility allowance (see **Annex 1**) for travelling/flights from the partner HEI to Germany and back.
 - › The mobility allowance arises from the first day of the trip and must be evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants (this must be submitted to the DAAD on request). The mobility allowance covers all expenses associated with the trip (including travel and flights as well as expenses for visas, vaccinations, excess baggage, baggage insurance, etc.).

RESIDENCE OF FUNDED INDIVIDUALS (INCOMINGS)

- Accommodation allowance
 - › **Students/graduates, doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers, experienced academics and professors, assistants and senior HEI staff** of the foreign partner HEI can apply for and claim an accommodation allowance (see **Annex 1**) for their stay (accommodation and meals) in Germany.
 - › The accommodation allowance arises on the first day of the stay and must be evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants (this must be submitted to the DAAD on request). The accommodation allowance covers the costs of accommodation and meals as well as health, accident and liability insurance.
- For participants in **bi- and multinational events** at a foreign partner HEI whose centre of life is not at the event location (including events in third countries), expenses for the stay can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality. Participants from the target region who do not come from a partner HEI of the funded project can also be taken into account. (However, expenses for visits by participants who come from the applicant HEI or another German HEI cannot be taken into account).

Note:

Foreign participants should be made aware of the necessity of adequate insurance cover. If it is not possible to take out international health insurance in their home country, care should be taken to ensure that the foreign participants are insured as soon as they arrive in Germany.

TYPE OF FINANCING

4

Funding is provided by way of full funding.

FUNDING PERIOD

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The funding period begins on 01 January 2026 at the earliest and ends on 31 December 2028 at the latest.

GRANT AMOUNT

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Initial applications (applications seeking funding under the "Eastern Partnerships" programme for the first time)

A grant of up to **60,000 euros** can be applied for, divided over the budget years as follows:

2026: 20,000 euros

2027: 20,000 euros

2028: 20,000 euros

Follow-up applications (applications that have already received DAAD funding in the previous funding period in the "Eastern Partnerships" programme)

A grant of up to **300,000 euros** can be applied for, divided over the budget years as follows:

2026: 100,000 euros

2027: 100,000 euros

2028: 100,000 euros

However, only a grant **in the amount of the funds approved in the previous funding period plus a maximum of EUR 10,000** can be applied for **per budget year**.

DISCIPLINES

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The programme is open to all disciplines.

TARGET GROUP

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Students, graduates, doctoral candidates, academics with a doctorate, HEI lecturers, assistants, senior HEI staff

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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State and state-recognised German higher education institutions are eligible to apply.

SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

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Note:

Due to Russia's attack on Ukraine, the DAAD has cancelled all institution-related forms of cooperation with partners in the Russian Federation and Belarus until further notice. According to this, no applications are possible for project funding with partner institutions in the Russian Federation and Belarus.

Depending on the number of students at the German HEI, projects with **a minimum of 2** (mandatory) and **a maximum of 8** (recommended) partner HEI can be funded.

The application for project funding must be submitted in complete form and in due time exclusively via the DAAD portal (www.mydaad.de). **The International Offices or other central offices of the HEI bundle the activities across all departments and submit an overall application for all partnerships of the HEI.**

In addition, the following documents must be uploaded in the "Attachments" tab:

- Project description, see **form template** (attachment type: project description)
- for follow-up applications: Previous project progress from 2023-2024 see **form template** (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)
- Project planning overview, see **form template** (attachment type: Project planning overview)
- Partnership agreements (interdisciplinary between HEI and partner HEI) (attachment type: contracts/agreements) or cooperation agreements with research institutes (e.g. Academy of Sciences) or justification, if submitted subsequently to the conclusion of the contract (attachment type: contracts/agreements)
- If applicable, confirmation of project assistance (attachment type: confirmation of project assistance)

After the application deadline, changes to the financing plan, project description and subsequently submitted or amended documents will no longer be considered. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection procedure.

In exceptional cases, partnership or cooperation agreements may be submitted at a later date until the contract is concluded, but this must be justified in the timely application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

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The application deadline is 28 February 2025.

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.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- (1) The subject-specific and overall quality of the project in terms of its ability to achieve the project and programme objectives (weighting: 60%)
- (2) Quality and rigour 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 organisation (weighting: 5 %)
- (6) Importance of partnerships in the context of internationalisation strategies and regional reach (weighting: 10 %):
 - › Importance of partnerships for the German and foreign HEI as part of their internationalisation strategies
 - › Inclusion of partnerships with regions and institutions that have received less attention to date

**SELECTION
PROCEDURE OF
THE FUNDED INDIVIDUALS**

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Selection of funded individuals

The selection procedure must be described in the project description.

- Public announcement of the programme offer
- Composition of the selection committee (e.g. grant recipient, number of committee members)
- Selection criteria (e.g. selection of the best, professional or personal suitability)

ATTACHMENTS

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1. Overview of funding rates
2. Handout WoM (incl. result framework, indicator catalogue)
3. OECD DAC List 2024-25

**FORM
TEMPLATES**

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- Project description
- Project planning overview
- Form "Previous Project progress 2023-2024" (only for follow-up applications)

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION**

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- Information sheet "Information on mobility with disabilities or chronic illness"
- Handout "Climate-sensitive implementation of international university cooperation in DAAD project funding"
- Handout "Strengthening equal opportunities and diversity in DAAD projects"

CONTACT

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