



**THE GERMAN VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHALL BE LEGALLY BINDING**

**FUNDING FRAMEWORK**

**Partnerships with higher education institutions in Central, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, as well as the South Caucasus and Central Asia (Eastern Partnerships) 2027-2029**

**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

**1**

The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst - DAAD) supports the funding programme "Eastern Partnerships" with funds from the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

Funding is provided for the mobility of Outgoings to partner HEI in the target region and for the mobility and stays of Incomings at German HEI for study, research, and teaching stays (including internships) within the framework of existing HEI partnerships with HEI in the target region. In addition, it supports initiating trips for new partnerships and the development and implementation of digital measures to complement physical exchanges.

The target region includes the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The objectives of the funding programme are:

- 1: Students and (early-career) researchers have acquired subject-specific, linguistic, and/or methodological skills.
- 2: Broad-based cooperation between partner HEI in teaching and research is consolidated/expanded.
- 3: The network of partnerships is strengthened or expanded and serves as a starting point for further cooperation.

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

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

**Ecological sustainability**

The DAAD has set itself the goal of further reducing its ecological footprint as an organization 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 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 the climate-sensitive implementation of international university 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. Thus, talented people should 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:

- For Outgoings
  - › Mobility for study, research and teaching stays (including internships) at a foreign partner HEI
  - › Mobility for participation in bi- and multinational events (e.g. conferences, summer courses or symposia)
- For Incomings from DAC countries relevant to the programme (see **Annex 1**)
  - › Mobility for study, research and teaching stays (including internships) at the applicant HEI within the framework of a cooperation agreement
  - › Mobility to and 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 Incomings
  - › Study, research and teaching stays (including internships) at the applicant HEI within the framework of a cooperation agreement
    - for students, doctoral candidates (up to six months/calendar year)
    - for postdoctoral researchers, experienced scientists, HEI lecturers, and senior HEI staff (up to three months/calendar year)
  - › Stays for participation in bi- and multinational events (e.g. conferences, summer courses or symposia); the activity does not necessarily have to be carried out at the applicant HEI.
- Development and implementation of accompanying virtual exchange formats to complement physical exchanges

**ELIGIBLE  
EXPENDITURE**

**3**

**Personnel resources for project implementation and support**

- Research assistants
- Student assistants
- Other personnel

Personnel funds are appropriate up to a maximum of 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.

**Material resources**

**HONORARIES** (not for own staff)

Fees for the development and implementation of digital measures that supplement physical stays (see **Annex 4** – column "Standard remuneration in euros")

Expenditure for mobility and, if applicable, accommodation can also be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economy and efficiency and frugality. These expenses, which do not relate to the fee itself, must be included in the fee agreement.

**MATERIAL RESOURCES INLAND/ABROAD**

- External services (e.g. IT services)
- Other expenditure (e.g. software licenses)

**Funded persons**

**MOBILITY OF FUNDED PERSONS**

**OUTGOINGS** (Germany ↔ partner country)

- Mobility allowance
  - › For **students and doctoral candidates** participating in study and research stays (including internships) as well as bi- and multinational events a mobility allowance (see **Appendix 1**) can be applied and claimed for travel/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 upon 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 travel/flights to and from the partner HEI for **postdoctoral researchers, experienced scientists, HEI lecturers, and senior HEI staff** of the applicant HEI can be applied for and claimed within the framework of research and teaching stays as well as for bi- and multinational events in accordance with BRKG/LRKG; However, train travel is limited to 2nd class and flights to economy class.
- Expenses for return travel/flights as part of **an initiating trip** for **members** of the applicant HEI can be applied for and claimed in accordance with BRKG/LRKG; however, train travel is limited to 2nd class and flights to economy class.

#### INCOMINGS FROM DAC COUNTRIES RELEVANT TO THE PROGRAMME

- Mobility allowance (partner country ↔ Germany)
  - › For **students, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, experienced scientists, HEI lecturers, and senior HEI staff** in the context of study, research, and teaching stays (including internships) as well as bi- and multinational events, a mobility allowance (see **Annex 1**) can be applied for and claimed for travel/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 upon 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.).
- **Mobility within the framework of bi- and multinational events for participants from universities in DAC countries relevant to the programme**  
Expenses for mobility within the framework of bi- and multinational events at a foreign partner HEI (including events in third countries) can be applied for and claimed for participants (from HEI in DAC countries relevant to the programme) whose main place of residence is not at the event location, 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 may also be considered.

#### INCOMINGS

- Mobility allowance
  - › For **members of the potential partner HEI**, a mobility allowance (see **Annex 1**) can be applied for and claimed for the outward and return journey/flight as part of an **initiating trip**.
  - › 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 upon request). The mobility allowance covers

all expenses related to the trip (including travel and flights as well as expenses for visas, vaccinations, excess baggage, baggage insurance, etc.).

## RESIDENCE OF FUNDED PERSONS

### OUTGOINGS

Within the framework of **initiating trips**, expenses for the stay (accommodation and meals) for **members** of the applicant HEI can be applied for and claimed in accordance with BRKG/LRKG.

### INCOMINGS

- Accommodation allowance
  - › For **students, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, experienced scientists, HEI lecturers, and senior HEI staff** from the foreign partner HEI who are visiting Germany for study, research and teaching purposes (including internships) as well as for bi- and multinational events, an accommodation allowance (see **Annex 1**) can be applied for and claimed for the stay (accommodation and meals) in Germany.
  - › For **members of the potential partner HEI**, an accommodation allowance (see **Appendix 1**) can be applied for and claimed for expenses incurred during an **initiating trip** to 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.
  
- **Stays within the framework of bi- and multinational events**  
Expenses incurred during stays at foreign partner HEI as part of bi- and multinational events can be applied and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality for participants whose main place of residence is not at the event location (including events in third countries). Participants from the target region who do not come from a partner HEI of the funded project may also be considered. (However, expenses for stays of participants who come from the applicant or another German HEI are not to be taken into account.)

#### Note:

Incoming participants must be informed of the need for adequate insurance coverage. If international health insurance cannot be taken out in their home country, care should be taken to ensure that incoming participants take out insurance immediately upon arrival in Germany.

**FUNDING PERIOD**

**5**

The funding period begins on January 1, 2027, and ends on December 31, 2029.

**GRANT AMOUNT**

**6**

**Initial application** (first-time funding in the programme)

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

2027: 20,000 euros

2028: 20,000 euros

2029: 20,000 euros

**Follow-up application** (for a project approved in the previous funding period)

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

2027: 100,000 euros

2028: 100,000 euros

2029: 100,000 euros

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

**DISCIPLINES**

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The programme is open to all disciplines.

**TARGET GROUP**

**8**

Students (BA, MA, or other degrees), doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, experienced scientists, HEI lecturers, senior HEI staff

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

**9**

State and state-recognized German HEI 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.

Only one application for project funding under the Eastern Partnership Programme can be considered per eligible university. The International Office or another central office coordinates the activities across departments and is

responsible for submitting the application. Before submitting an application, it must be checked whether the HEI is already receiving funding under the Eastern Partnership Programme.

Depending on the number of students at the German HEI, the proposed project should include partnerships with **at least 2** (mandatory) to **a maximum of 8** (recommended) partner HEI.

The application for project funding must be submitted in complete form and on due time exclusively via the DAAD portal ([www.mydaad.de](http://www.mydaad.de)). Follow-up applications must be submitted via the basic function "Submit follow-up application" in the project overview.

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: Project progress to date from 2024-2025, see **form template** (attachment type: Program-specific attachments)
- Partnership agreements (interdisciplinary between the applicant HEI and partner HEI) or cooperation agreements with research institutes (e.g. Academy of Sciences) or justification, if submitted after the contract has been concluded (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, the project description, and subsequently submitted or amended documents will no longer be considered.

In exceptional cases, partnership or cooperation agreements may be submitted after the contract has been concluded, but this must be justified in the application submitted by the deadline.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

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The application deadline is February 27, 2026.

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

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### Selection of applications for project funding

The DAAD decides on funding on the basis of the evaluation of 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 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 process 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. WoM result framework, indicator catalogue
3. OECD DAC List 2024-25
4. Fee table

## FORM TEMPLATES

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- Project description
- Form "Project progress to date 2024-2025" (only for follow-up applications)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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- Information sheet "Information on mobility with disabilities and chronic illnesses"
- Handout "Klimasensible Umsetzung von internationalen Hochschulkoooperationen in der Projektförderung des DAAD" (as yet only available in German)
- Handout "Strengthening equal opportunities and diversity in DAAD projects"
- FAQ Eastern Partnerships 2025

## CONTACT

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