PROJECT FUNDING

THE GERMAN VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHALL BE LEGALLY BINDING

FUNDING FRAMEWORK

African Center of Excellence for Sustainable Infrastructure (Ghana)

Capacity Building and Transfer (2027–2031)

1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst - DAAD) supports the funding programme "African Center of Excellence for Sustainable Infrastructure (Ghana)" with funds from the Federal Foreign Office (AA) as part of the "African Centers of Excellence" initiative (African Excellence – African Centers of Excellence – DAAD), which has been supported since 2008.

Within the framework of the African Centers of Excellence, the program supports the education and training of specialists and leaders in science, society, and business in selected fields; the creation of research capacities; the networking of research institutions on both the African and German sides; and the development and establishment of (degree) programs.

As part of the funding program "African Center of Excellence for Sustainable Infrastructure (Ghana)" (covering fields such as civil engineering, architecture, and spatial and urban planning), the program supports teaching and capacity building, the development of flexible (training) modules, as well as networking and knowledge transfer activities. The focus is on the education and training of skilled professionals as well as future decision-makers.

The objectives of the funding programme are:

1: Master's students, doctoral candidates, university faculty, and (early-career) researchers receive further training in their specific fields, interdisciplinary areas, and methodology.
2: The (digital) teaching and supervision offerings for master's students and doctoral candidates are improved at the participating partner universities and other higher education institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa.
3: Innovative and strategic approaches to ensuring the financial, personnel, and structural sustainability of the Center are developed.
4: The Center collaborates (with digital support) in networks with relevant African and German stakeholders from politics, business, civil society, and academia.

With regard to the funding logic outputs, programme outcomes and impacts of the funding programme, see the results Framework (**Appendix 1**).

Project outcome must also be defined for all programme outcome.

For results-oriented project planning, see **Important Information.**

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 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 into account. 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.

2 ELIGIBLE MEASURES

Eligible measures are:

- Internships, study, and research stays in Ghana for master's students and doctoral candidates (outgoing) from German universities
- Internships, study, teaching, and/or research stays in Germany for master's students, doctoral candidates, university faculty, and (early-career) researchers (incoming) from the Ghanaian partner university
- Study and research stays for master's students and doctoral candidates from the Ghanaian partner university in Ghana (sur place) (typically for 12 months; upon the scholarship recipient's request, the stay may be extended by 6 or 12 months up to a maximum of 24 months)
- Study and research stays by master's and doctoral students from ECOWAS countries and the Alliance of Sahel States at the Ghanaian partner university (third country) (usually for 12 months; upon the scholarship recipient's request, the stay may be extended by 6 or 12 months up to a maximum of 24 months)
- (Further) development of concepts for the financial, personnel, and structural sustainability of the center of excellence, as well as for digital support of teaching, research, and knowledge transfer

- (Further) development of (digital) teaching, learning, and training materials
  - › Development of **flexible modules** that can be implemented in already established degree programs in Ghana and, in the case of digital offerings, across Africa
  - › Development of accompanying capacity-building programs, i.e., **holistic, practice-oriented training modules** (promoting academic and non-academic competencies) for graduates and faculty (including train-the-trainer initiatives)
- Establishment and expansion of existing IT infrastructure
- Organizing and participating in (digital) events, including continuing education and professional development programs (e.g., training sessions and short-term programs such as summer schools, as well as events and initiatives related to knowledge transfer and the involvement of civil society) for master's students, doctoral candidates, university faculty, (early-career) researchers, administrative staff, and alumni of the Center, as well as relevant stakeholders (Keyword: Transfer cycles)

3 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

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

Personnel resources for project implementation and support

- Research associate (project coordination, administration)
- Research assistants
- Student assistants
- Other personell

Note:
When filling the coordination position, sufficient experience in project management and project administration should be ensured.

- 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.
- Personnel expenses for staff of the foreign project partner under a secondment arrangement are eligible for funding in the amount of the local standard remuneration (gross employer's contribution).

Material resources

HONORARIES (not for own staff)
Honoraries for external experts/trainers (e.g., supervision of publications) (see **Appendix 3**)

Expenditure for mobility and, if applicable, 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

- Expenses for travel/flight for the applicant's own personnel, as well as for the staff of the German project partner in the context of a transfer, can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the BRKG/LRKG; however, train travel is limited to second class and flights to economy class.
- Expenses for travel/ flights for staff of the foreign project partner may be requested and claimed through a reimbursement process in accordance with the principles of efficiency and economy.

STAY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL

- Expenses for the stay (accommodation and meals) for the applicant's own personnel, as well as for the staff of the German project partner through a cost-reimbursement arrangement, can applied for and claimed in accordance in accordance with the federal travel expenses act (BRKG) state travel expenses act (LRKG)
- Expenses for accommodation (lodging and meals) for staff of the foreign project partner may be requested and claimed as part of a cost-reimbursement arrangement in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and efficiency.

MATERIAL RESOURCES

- Consumables (e.g., pens, conference folders, paper, seeds, test tubes, chemicals)
- Assets (e.g., laboratory equipment, computers, projectors, tables and chairs, software licenses, online licenses)
- Rent (e.g., rental of conference rooms)
- Printing/publications/advertising and public relations activities (e.g., flyers, brochures, posters, scientific publications, online ads)
- External services (e.g., catering, bus trips, repair services, translation services, IT services, external audits)

  Note on catering at events
  For catering at events, the maximum limit of 32 euros/gross (including beverages) per meal and person must be observed.
  If catering expenses are already covered by a per diem allowance for participants, no additional catering expenses may be requested or claimed.

- Miscellaneous (e.g., money transfer fees/bank charges, visas, insurance, vaccinations)

Funded persons

MOBILITY OF FUNDED PERSONS

- Mobility scholarships (Germany ↔ Ghana; Ghana ↔ Germany)
  - Master's students and doctoral candidates (outgoing students) from German universities may be awarded a mobility grant of **1,188 euros** to cover travel expenses (train/flight) from Germany to Ghana and back as part of internships, study, or research stays.
  - For master's students, doctoral candidates, (early-career) researchers, and university faculty members (incoming) from the Ghanaian partner university, a mobility grant of **1,188 euros** may be awarded to cover travel expenses (train/flight) from Ghana to Germany and back as part of internships, study, research, and teaching stays.

  The mobility grant must be included as a benefit in the scholarship agreement.

- Mobility Allowance (Germany ↔ Ghana; Ghana ↔ Germany)
  - For master's students and doctoral candidates (outgoing) from German universities, a mobility allowance of **1,188 euros** may be applied for and claimed to cover travel (by land or air) from Germany to Ghana and back as part of short-term activities (such as participation in relevant (transfer and research-related) events and training sessions)
  - For master's students, doctoral candidates, (early-career) researchers, and university faculty members (incoming) from the Ghanaian partner university, a mobility allowance of 1,188 euros can be applied for and claimed for travel (by land or air) from Ghana to Germany and back as part of short-term activities (such as participation in relevant (transfer and research-related) events and training sessions), a mobility allowance of **1,188 euros** may be applied for and claimed to cover travel (by road or air) from Ghana 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 with the interim report/ evidence of use. 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 Ghana and from a third country to Ghana
  - Expenses related to the mobility of master's students and doctoral candidates from Ghanaian and German partner universities, as well as for (early-career) researchers and university faculty members from the Ghanaian partner university within Ghana, may be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of cost-effectiveness and economy.
  - Expenses related to the mobility of students and doctoral candidates from ECOWAS and Sahel Alliance countries to Ghana and within Ghana may be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economy and efficiency.

RESIDENCE OF FUNDED PERSONS

- Residence scholarships
  - For master's students and doctoral candidates from the Ghanaian partner university (incoming students), a residency grant (see **Table 1**) may be awarded for internship, study, and research stays in Germany.
  - For master's and doctoral students from the German university (outgoing students), a residency grant may be awarded for internship, study, and research stays in Ghana (see **Table 2**).
    - Tuition fee subsidy (Outgoings) in the amount of the country-specific DAAD standard rates. The recipient of the funds should seek a tuition waiver for students at the specialized centers.

  The residence scholarship and the tuition fee subsidy must be included as a benefit in the scholarship agreement.

- Sur-Place/Third-Country Scholarships
  - Master's and doctoral students from the Ghanaian partner university may be awarded an on-site scholarship (see **Table 3**) for internships, study, and research stays in Ghana.
  - For students and doctoral candidates from ECOWAS countries and the Alliance of Sahelian States, a third-country scholarship (see **Table 3**) may be awarded for internships, study, and research stays at the Ghanaian partner institution

  Scholarship benefits
    - A housing allowance of 30 euros per month to offset higher rent costs for students and doctoral candidates who cannot live on campus or in dormitories.
    - Health insurance subsidy in the amount of the standard national health insurance rates.
    - Tuition fee subsidy in the amount of the country-specific DAAD standard rates. The recipient of the funds should endeavor to secure a tuition waiver for students at the specialized centers.

  The Sur-Place/third-country scholarship, as well as the rent subsidy, health insurance subsidy, and tuition fee subsidy (if applicable), must be included as benefits in the scholarship agreement.

- Accomodation Allowance
  - For (early-career) researchers and university faculty members from the Ghanaian partner university (incoming scholars), an accommodation allowance may be applied for and claimed in the context of research and teaching stays in Germany (see **Table 1**).
  - For master's students, doctoral candidates, (early-career) researchers, and faculty members from the Ghanaian partner university (incoming students), an accomodation allowance may be applied for and claimed in Germany as part of short-term programs (such as participation in

(transfer and research-related) events and summer schools) (see **Table 1**)

› For master's students and doctoral candidates from the German university (outgoing students), an accomodation allowance may be applied for and claimed for stays in Ghana as part of study, research, and internship stays or short-term activities (such as participation in (transfer and research-related) events as well as summer schools) (see **Table 2**).

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 with the interim report/evidence of use. The accommodation allowance covers the costs of accommodation and meals as well as health, accident, and liability insurance.

Table 1

Accommodation Allowances / Residence scholarships (Incoming Students)	Monthly rate (from the 23rd day) (Euro)	Daily rate (Total stay up to 22 days) (Euro)	Daily rate (in the last, incomplete month of a stay lasting several months) (Euro)
Master's students	992	45	33
Doctoral students	1,400	63	46
(Early-career) researchers with an independent research profile (comparable to those with a habilitation in Germany)	2,000	89	67
Professors or researchers in comparable positions (comparable to a university professor , Germany)	2,300	103	77

Table 2

Accommodation Allowances / Residence scholarships (Outgoing)	Monthly rate (from the 23rd day) (Euro)	Daily rate (Total stay up to 22 days) (Euro)	Daily rate (in the last, incomplete month of a stay lasting several months) (Euro)

Master's students	1,400	63	47
Doctoral students	1,975	89	66

Table 3

Country	**Doctoral students**		**Master's**	
	No change (Euro)	Third country (Euro)	Surplace (Euro)	Third country (Euro)
Benin, Ghana, Nigeria	500	600	400	500
Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Togo	400	500	300	400

4 FORWARDING

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

The transfer of the grant requires that the recipient have its own auditing capabilities and the necessary expertise to manage the transfer, and that proper implementation is ensured at all times.

In addition to the project activities and objectives of the grant recipient, the **project description** must include the activities and related objectives of the beneficiary/ies of the forwarding agreement. This means that the whole project must be addressed (including the forwarding level).

In the **financing plan,** the expenditure items of the forwarding recipient(s) must be labelled separately from the recipient's own expenditure items (e.g. with "FR"). This means that the expenditure of the whole project (including the forwarding level) must be shown in the financing plan.

Notes:
The project description and the budget of the sub-recipient(s) (2nd level) must be available but need **only** be submitted to the DAAD **upon request**.

If the specific details of forwarding (recipient, specific content, etc.) are not yet known at the time the application for project funding is submitted (before the grant agreement is concluded), expenditure, that would be incurred by a possible forwarding recipient, must be shown as own expenditure in the financing plan for the time being. The project description must explain their relevance. As soon as the actual forwarding of the grant is known (after conclusion of the grant agreement), 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 progress report must provide a transparent overview of the implementation of the entire project, thus addressing not only the applicant's own project but also the project portion of the sub-recipient(s) (Level 2).

In **the audit report,** the expenditure items of the sub-recipient(s) (2nd level) must be identified separately (e.g., "Expenditure WE *X* (2nd level)" or "WE *Name* (2nd level)").

In addition, both the audit note regarding the interim/final report and the interim/final report (factual report and financial statement, including list of supporting documents) of the sub-recipient(s) (2nd level) must be attached to your own interim/final report submitted to the DAAD.
Upon request by the DAAD, all documents related to the transfer must be submitted.

5 TYPE OF FINANCING

Funding is provided in the form of a fixed-sum funding.

The grant is subject to the condition that own funds, third-party funds and other funds are contributed 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.

6 FUNDING PERIOD

The funding period begins at the earliest on 01 January 2027 and ends at the no latest on 31.December 2031.

Following a successful evaluation of the first funding phase in 2029, subject in particular to the DAAD receiving the corresponding funds from the funding body, an application for follow-up funding ( ) for a further five-year consolidation phase may be submitted in the second quarter of 2030.

7 GRANT AMOUNT

A grant of up to 2,250,000 euros may be applied for, distributed between the financial years in the approval period as follows:

2027: 450,000 euros
2028: 450,000 euros
2029: 450,000 euros
2030: 450,000 euros
2031: 450,000 euros

8 DISCIPLINES

The programme is open to all engineering disciplines , including civil engineering, architecture, and urban and regional planning .

TARGET GROUP

9 Master's students, doctoral candidates, (early-career) researchers, university faculty

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

10 Eligible applicants include state-run and state-recognized German universities, as well as non-profit, self-conducting non-university research institutions based in Germany that have a partnership with one or more partner higher education institutions in Ghana, or an existing network of partners (including) from among these institutions.

Cooperation with already established subject-specific Africa centers, DAAD projects (e.g., Global Centers), research institutions, projects of the participating ministries, relevant ministry research institutes, and political decision-makers is expressly encouraged. Appropriate stakeholder involvement, including within the framework of the transfer cycle approach, is essential and must be part of the concept submitted by the applicant universities.

SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

11 The application for project funding must be submitted in full and in complete form and in due time exclusively via the DAAD portal (www.mydaad.de). In addition, the following documents must be uploaded in the "Attachments" tab:

- Project description (German and English), see **form template** (Attachment type: Project description/Projektbeschreibung)
- Cooperation agreement of the participating university/universities (attachment type: Contracts/Agreements/ Verträge Vereinbarungen)
- endorsement endorsement by the university management, (German and English), see **form template** (Attachment type: Program-specific attachments/ programmspezifische Anlagen)

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

The application should be no longer than 40 pages.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

12 Application Deadline is 30. June 2026.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

13 **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 application to the selection committee is required.

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: 70%)
(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%)

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCEDURE

14 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 call for applications for master's and doctoral scholarships must be published, specifying the scholarship benefits, application requirements, and with a reference to the funding body (Federal Foreign Office) (at a minimum on the website of the respective center; it is recommended to also use additional channels, such as DIGIFACE or the relevant DAAD branch offices and information centers). The guidelines for public communication regarding financial support from the Federal Foreign Office and the DAAD must be adhered to. The necessary files will be sent via email to at the start of the project. At the time of application, the master's students' and doctoral candidates' most recent academic degree should generally not have been awarded more than six years prior. Any deviations from this must be agreed upon in advance with the DAAD.

  Composition of the Selection Committee: The selection of applicants is carried out by the project partners. An agreement to this effect should be included in the project-specific cooperation agreements. The contracting parties undertake to ensure a transparent selection process in accordance with DAAD guidelines, taking into account both academic and personal criteria. An appropriate proportion of women must also be taken into account in the selection process. A committee consisting of at least two professors (ideally three) from the respective partner universities must be formed for the selection. External experts (other stakeholders relevant to the subject center) may participate in an advisory (non-decision-making) capacity. A representative of the DAAD may be consulted in an advisory capacity. Selection dates should, if possible, follow a fixed annual schedule and be communicated to the DAAD at least 3 months in advance. The list of applicants selected for

interviews (ranked “short list”) should be provided to the DAAD, along with information on the applicant’s most recent degree and date of birth, as well as other necessary documents (score sheets, composition of the selection committee, etc.), no later than two weeks before the selection process.

- Selection criteria: The selection must be based on merit, taking into account social and regional aspects as well as the personal suitability of the applicants.
- Awarding of the scholarship:
  - › via scholarship agreement

    The scholarship for master’s students and doctoral candidates is awarded by the project partners using the scholarship certificate/award letter (Letter of Award) and Declaration of Acceptance provided by the DAAD. An extension of the scholarship period is not possible. The duration of scholarships for master’s students and doctoral candidates is determined by the university at the time of application and coordinated with the DAAD. In the event of premature termination of the scholarship for reasons attributable to the scholarship recipient, the scholarship funds received to date must be reclaimed. The Center may suspend or terminate its financial support to scholarship recipients if and as long as the obligations under the scholarship agreement are not fulfilled by the recipients. The DAAD must be notified immediately of these developments.

  - › Issuance of a Scholarship Certificate

    The following information must be included when preparing the scholarship certificate: mention of the DAAD, the funding body with the corresponding logo, specific description of the scholarship benefits, and their amount.

The selection procedure must be described in the project description.

14 ATTACHMENTS

1. Results Framework
2. Catalog of indicators
3. Honoraries for Projects Abroad

15 FORM TEMPLATES

- Project description (German and English)
- Endorsement by university Management German and English)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

16

- Guide to Results-Oriented Project Planning and Monitoring
- Information sheet "Information on mobility with disability or chronic illness"
- Handout „Klimasensible Umsetzung von internationalen Hochschulkooperationen in der Projektförderung des DAAD“ (as yet only available in German)
- Handout „ Strengthening equal opportunities and diversity in DAAD projects “

CONTACT

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