PROJECT FUNDING

THE GERMAN VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHALL BE LEGALLY BINDING

FUNDING FRAMEWORK

East-West Dialogue. Academic exchange and research cooperation for security, collaboration and civil society development in Europe 2027

1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst - DAAD) supports the funding programme "East-West Dialogue. Academic exchange and research cooperation for security, collaboration and civil society development in Europe" with funds from the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

Scientific dialogue, academic exchange, and networking among higher education institutions in Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, the states of the South Caucasus, Central Asia, and Germany are funded.

Partnerships can be formed with higher education institutions in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, as well as in the South Caucasus region and Central Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).

The objectives of the funding programme are:

1. Scientific findings on issues such as conflict research and prevention, democratisation processes, the rule of law, good governance, the protection of minorities, and civil society development in relation to the partner countries have been generated and/or taught.
2. Cross-border academic dialogue and/or networks among the cooperation partners have been established with the involvement of junior scientists and/or students.
3. Civil society actors are involved.
4. In the context of science communication, the knowledge gained has been made available to the public beyond the higher education sector.

The programme contributes to the long-term strengthening of civil society, the promotion of democratic development, and the mitigation of ethnic conflicts in the listed regions.

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:

- Organisation of and participation in events (e.g. workshops, symposia, seminars, study trips, summer schools, or conferences) in the partner countries and/or Germany (usually lasting up to 14 days) for participants from higher education institutions and civil society

- **Incomings (Max. 3 scholarships per project funding application)**
  - **Study stays** (from 1 to 3 months) of students/graduates from the partner university abroad in Germany
  - **Research stays** (from 1 to 3 months) of doctoral candidates, post-doctoral researchers, experienced academics and professors from the partner university abroad in Germany

- **Outgoings (Max. 3 scholarships per project funding application)**
  - **Study stays** (from 1 to 3 months) of students/graduates from the German university at the partner university abroad
  - **Research stays** (from 1 to 3 months) of doctoral candidates, post-doctoral researchers, experienced academics and professors from the German university at the partner university abroad

Note: Scholarships can only be applied for in connection with the topic of the event.

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 associates (wiss. Mitarbeiter) (only eligible in justified exceptional cases)
- research assistants (wiss. Hilfskraft)
- student assistants (stud. Hilfskraft)
- other personnel (sonstiges Personal)

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)

- In justified cases, fees for external lecturers, speakers, and experts (usually from Germany and/or the partner countries) for lectures, workshops, including preparation and follow-up work, of up to EUR 40 (gross) per hour or EUR 250 (gross) per day
- For auxiliary work (e.g. for events, conferences, workshops)
- For external services (e.g. interpreters, web developers)

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 remuneration itself, must be included in the fee agreement.

MOBILITY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL

Expenses for traveling (train/flights) can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the federal travel expenses act (BRKG)/state travel expenses act (LRKG).

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).

MATERIAL RESOURCES INLAND/ABROAD

- Consumables (e.g. paper, pens, and office supplies)
- Durables (e.g. teaching materials, software, licenses)
- Rent (e.g. rental of external conference rooms and audiovisual equipment)
- Printing/publications/advertising and public relations activities (e.g. Printing and photocopying expenses, flyers, brochures, posters, academic publications)
- External services (e.g. catering, bus travel, IT services)

- Other expenditure (expenses for study excursions, communication expenses)

Funded persons

MOBILITY OF FUNDED PERSONS

- Mobility scholarships
  - Travel (train/flight) costs (partner country ↔Germany) for students/graduates, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, experienced academics and professors of the respective partner universities **in the context of study and research stays in Germany** (see **Table 1**).
  - The mobility grant must be included as a benefit in the scholarship agreement.

- Mobility allowance
  Travel (train/flight) costs (Germany ↔ partner country) for students/graduates, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, experienced academics and professors, a mobility allowance (see **Table 1**) can be applied and claimed for.
  - 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.).

Table 1:

Partner country	Mobility scholarships/allowances for **outgoing/incoming** participants (all status groups) (EUR)
Armenia	395
Azerbaijan	580
Georgia	395
Kazakhstan	1.188
Kyrgyzstan	1.188
Republic of Moldova	309
Tajikistan	1.188
Turkmenistan	580
Ukraine	309
Uzbekistan	1.188

Travel/flight expenses (partner country ↔ Germany; Germany ↔ partner country) for participants from civil society within the framework of events can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

RESIDENCE OF FUNDED PERSONS

› Expenses for the stay (accommodation and meals) **in Germany and/or in the partner country** for students, graduates, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, experienced academics, and professors can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

- Residence scholarships
  › For students/graduates, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, experienced academics and professors, accommodation and meals **during study and research stays in Germany** can be applied and claimed for (see **Table 2**).
  › The residence scholarship must be included as a benefit in the scholarship agreement.

Table 2:

Status	**Monthly rate** (EUR)	**Daily rate** for the final (partial) month of a multi-month stay (EUR)
Students/graduates	992	33
Doctoral candidates	1.400	46
Postdoctoral researchers	2.000	67
Experienced academics	2.150	72
Professors	2.300	77

› For students/graduates and doctoral candidates, accommodation and meals **during study and research stays in the partner country** can be applied and claimed for (see **Table 3**).
› The residence scholarship must be included as a benefit in the scholarship agreement.

Table 3:

Partner country	**Monthly rate** Students/ graduates (EUR)	**Daily rate** for the final (partial) month of a multi-month stay (EUR)	**Monthly rate** Doctoral candidates (EUR)	**Daily rate** for the final (partial) month of a multi-month stay (EUR)
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova,	1.325	44	1.875	63

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan				

- Expenses for the stay (accommodation and meals) for postdoctoral researchers, experienced academics and professors (not for own staff), **during research stays in the partner country** can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.
- Expenses for the stay (accommodation and meals) for participants from civil society within the framework of events can be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

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 forwarding of the grant requires an internal audit function and the necessary expertise for forwarding of the grant and must ensure appropriate implementation 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.

> Note: The project description and the financing plan of the forwarding recipient(s) (second level) must be submitted to the DAAD.

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 **narrative report** must present the implementation of the entire project in a transparent manner and must therefore address not only the applicant's own project, but also the project component of the forwarding recipient(s) (second level).
In the **financial report**, the expenditure items of the forwarding recipient(s) (second level) must be identified separately (e.g. "Expenditure FR X (second level)" or "FR Name (second level)").

In addition, both the audit report on the interim/final proof of funds and the interim/final proof of funds of the forwarding recipient(s) (second level) (narrative report and financial report, including supporting document list) must be enclosed with the applicant's own interim/final proof of funds submitted to the DAAD.
Upon request by the DAAD, all further documents related to the forwarding arrangement must be submitted.

5 TYPE OF FINANCING

Funding is provided by way of full funding.

6 FUNDING PERIOD

The funding period begins at the earliest on 01. January 2027 and ends at the latest on 31. December 2027.

7 GRANT AMOUNT

A grant of up to 40,000 euros can be applied for. If scholarships are applied for, the grant will be increased accordingly.

8 DISCIPLINES

The programme is open to all disciplines.

9 TARGET GROUP

Bachelor's students, Master's students, doctoral candidates, post-doctoral candidates, post-doctoral researchers, postdoctoral researchers, experienced academics, and professors

10 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are state and state-recognised German higher education institutions and/or non-university research institutions based in Germany which are recognised as non-profit organisations and conduct their own research.

11 SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

The application for project funding must be submitted 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, see **form template** (attachment type: project description/Projektbeschreibung)
- Evidence of consultations carried out with key partners (e.g. partner universities in the region, DAAD information centre, German Embassy) (type of attachment: programme-specific annexes).
- Endorsement by the university management, see **form template** (attachment type: programme-specific attachments/programmspezifische Anlagen) (subsequent submission with justification possible until conclusion of grant agreement)

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

12 Application deadline is the 01. September 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.

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
- Composition of the selection committee
- Selection criteria (e.g. professional or personal suitability)
- Award of the scholarship
  - per scholarship contract (e.g. "Scholarship commitment" and "Declaration of acceptance")
  - Handing over of a scholarship certificate (here: Naming of the DAAD, the sponsor, concrete description of the scholarship benefits and their amount, e.g. residence and mobility scholarship)

The selection procedure must be described in the project description.

FORM TEMPLATES

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- Project description
- Endorsement by university management
- Narrative report

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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- 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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Supported by:

Federal Foreign Office