PROJECT FUNDING

THE GERMAN VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHALL BE LEGALLY BINDING

FUNDING FRAMEWORK

Higher Education Dialogue with the Muslim World – University partnerships 2027-2028

1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst - DAAD) supports the funding programme "Higher Education Dialogue with the Muslim World –University partnerships" with funds from the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

> Potential partner countries include all non-European member states, based on the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Funding is provided for the academic and intercultural exchange between German higher education institutions and partner institutions (and non-university stakeholders, where applicable) in the Muslim world through study, research and teaching stays, joint academic, networking and dialogue events, and the collaborative (further) development of (knowledge-) products.

In addition, since 2026, Higher Education Dialogue Short Term Measures have been offered through a separate call for applications, within which new collaborations can be initiated or existing partnerships strengthened.

The objectives of the funding programme are:
1: (Knowledge-)products for teaching, research and/or university management are offered or utilised.
2: Students, (early-career) researchers and/or university management staff have acquired intercultural, subject specific, interdisciplinary, methodological and/or administrative skills.
3: Regional teaching and research networks with higher education institutions from one or more partner countries have been established (with the involvement of non-university stakeholders).

With regard to the funding logic, as well as the results, objectives and longer-term effects of the funding programme, see the Results framework (**Appendix 1**).

Project objectives do not have to be defined for all programme objectives.

For results-oriented project planning, see the guide "Results-oriented Project Planning and Monitoring" (RoM).

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 and implementation of (virtual) events for networking, training and/or further education, and/or intercultural, subject specific, interdisciplinary, methodological and/or administrative cooperation (e.g. workshops/seminars; conference/meeting/symposium; excursion; specialist course; summer/winter school; planning/steering meeting) in Germany and in the partner countries
- Participation of students (Bachelor's/Master's), (early-career) researchers, university management staff and/or external participants in (virtual) events for networking, training and/or further education and/or intercultural, subject specific, interdisciplinary, methodological and/or administrative cooperation (e.g. workshops/seminars; conference/meeting/symposium; excursion; specialist course; summer/winter school) in Germany and in the partner countries
- Study stays for students (Bachelor's/Master's) (incoming) in Germany and for students (Bachelor's/Master's) (outgoing) in the partner country
- Research and teaching stays for (early-career) researchers (incoming) in Germany and for (early-career) researchers (outgoing) in the partner country
- (Further) development of (knowledge-) products for **teaching** (curricula/teaching modules/courses, study programmes), **research** (publications, procedures, handbooks/guidelines) and/or the field of **higher education management** (teaching, research, higher education management (internationalisation), innovation and/or transfer)

- Marketing and public relations

Not eligible for funding are:
- Measures that are exclusively focused on a research cooperation
- Representative visits not related to a project
- Stays (e.g. research, teaching, and study stays) that serve exclusively for individual funding and are not granted as part of a partnership project.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

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Personnel resources for project implementation and support

- Research associates (wiss. Mitarbeiter)
- Research assistants (wiss. Hilfskraft)
- Student assistants (stud. Hilfskraft)
- Other personnel (e.g. administrative staff of the International Office) (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.

Personnel expenses for staff abroad within the framework of forwarding of funds comprise the gross salary paid by the employer at the level of a local salary.

Material resources

HONORARIES (not for own staff)

For external specialists in Germany and the target region (e.g. lecturing, consulting, moderation, workshop implementation, translators/interpreters) see **Annex 4** (in Germany: standard rates; abroad: rates I & II). With regard to the appropriateness of fees for foreign experts working abroad and in third countries, the fees should be based on local rates for comparable work.

Expenses for travel and accommodation for external specialists (experts and trainers) can also be claimed in addition to the honorary in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality. Train trips (irrespective of their duration) only 2nd class, flights only economy class. These expenses, which do not relate to the fee itself, must be included in the fee agreement.

MOBILITY OF PROJECT PERSONNEL

- Expenses for travel/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, train journeys only 2nd class and flights in the economy class.

- Expenses for travel/flights for the staff of foreign partners can be applied for and claimed within the framework of forwarding of funds according to the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

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).
- Expenses for the stay (accommodation and meals) for the staff of foreign partners in Germany, in the partner countries or in third countries can be applied for and claimed within the framework of forwarding of funds according to principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

MATERIAL RESOURCES INLAND/ABROAD

- Consumables (e.g. office supplies for workshops, conferences, events)
- Assets (e.g. equipment, books for partner institutes in target countries (only for forwarding recipient(s) 2nd level)
- Room rent (e.g. rent for external conference rooms)
- Printing/publications/advertising and public relations (e.g. flyers, brochures, posters, scientific publications)
- External services (e.g. bus travel, IT services)
- Other:
  - Expenses for planning, implementation and follow-up of events (e.g. telephone, printing/copying)
  - **Meal allowance** (20 euros/person/event day, at the event venue (not for the day of arrival/departure), for **participants** whose meal expenses are not covered by an accommodation allowance or in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality. The meal allowance applies starting on the first day of the event and must be documented by a list of participants signed by the participants (this must be submitted along with the evidence of use). The meal allowance covers all meal-related expenses.

<u>Not eligible for funding are:</u>

- Catering
- Basic infrastructure/equipment of the German university
- Tips
- Gifts for guests/Giveaways

Funded persons

MOBILITY OF FUNDED PERSONS

- **Mobility Allowance**
  - ➢ For students (Bachelor/Master), doctoral candidates, and researchers with a doctorate (outgoing), a mobility allowance can be applied for and claimed for travel from Germany to the partner country and back, as well as from the partner country to Germany and back (see **Annex 3, Table 1**).
  - ➢ The mobility allowance arises from the first day of travel and must be evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants (this list

must be submitted with the evidence of use). The mobility allowance covers all expenses related to the journey (including travel and flight as well as expenses for visas, vaccinations, excess baggage, baggage insurance, etc.).

- Expenses for travel/flights (2nd class train travel, economy-class flights) for funded persons in Germany, in partner countries, or in third countries may be applied for and claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

- Expenses for travel and flights (2nd class train travel, economy-class flights) for non-university stakeholders - from Germany to the partner country and back, from the partner country to Germany and back, as well as within Germany or within the partner country/third country - must be specifically justified. They may be applied for and claimed in cases of particular relevance to the project, in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

RESIDENCE OF FUNDED PERSONS

- **Accommodation Allowance**
  - For students (Bachelor's/Master's), doctoral candidates from Germany (outgoing), an accommodation allowance can be applied for and claimed for the stay in the partner country (see **Annex 3, Table 2**).
  - For students (Bachelor's/Master's), doctoral candidates, and researchers with a doctorate from abroad (incoming), an accommodation allowance can be applied for and claimed for their stay in Germany (see **Annex 3, Table 3**).
  - The accommodation allowance arises on the day of the stay and must be evidenced by a list of participants signed by the participants (this must be submitted with the evidence of use). The accommodation allowance covers the costs for accommodation and meals, as well as health, accident, and liability insurance. Arrival and departure days each count as one day.

Note:
Foreign participants should be urgently advised of the necessity of adequate insurance cover. If an international health insurance cannot be obtained in the home country, the foreign participants should be insured by the German host or arrangements should be made to ensure that they are insured immediately upon arrival in Germany.

- Expenses for the stay in the context of short-term activities of German researchers with a doctorate as well as for funded persons from partner countries, in the partner countries or in third countries may be claimed in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

- Expenses for the stay of **non-university stakeholders** in Germany or in the partner country/third country must be specifically justified and can be

applied for and claimed, in cases of particular relevance to the project, in accordance with the principles of economic efficiency and frugality.

FORWARDING

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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 that the recipient has his own auditing institution and the necessary expertise for forwarding a grant as well as proper implementation is ensured at all times.

The **project description** should cover the whole project. This means that the measures and related objectives of the forwarding recipient(s) (2nd level) must be clearly shown in addition to the own measures and objectives.

In the **financing plan**, the expenditure items of the whole project must be shown including the expenditure items of the forwarding recipient(s) (2nd level"); these expenditure items must be labelled separately (e.g. with "FR X (2nd level") or “FR Name (2nd level)").

Notes:
The project description and the financing plan of the forwarding recipient(s) (2nd level) must be submitted to the DAAD.

If, as an exception, it is not yet known at the time of the application for project funding, which forwarding recipient (2nd level) will carry out a part of the project, measures, objectives and expenditure for this part of the project must be must be shown as own measures, objectives and expenditure in the project description and as own expenditure in the financing plan for the time being.

As soon as a forwarding recipient (2nd level) and the part of the project to be carried out by the forwarding recipient (2nd level) is known, a change application for project funding (adaptation of the project description and financing plan) must be submitted to the DAAD.

Forwarding (2nd level) takes place on the basis of a forwarding agreement.

The **substantive report** must provide a transparent overview of the implementation of the whole project, thus addressing not only the own project but also the part of the project of the forwarding recipient(s) (2nd level).

In the **evidence of use**, the expenditure items of the forwarding recipient(s) (2nd level) must be identified separately (e.g. “Expenditure FR X (2nd level)” or “FR Name (2nd level)”).

In addition, both the audit report regarding the evidence of use and the evidence of use (substantive report and evidence of use including a list of

receipts) of the forwarding recipient(s) (2nd level) must be attached to the own evidence of use submitted to the DAAD.
Upon request by the DAAD, all other documents related to the forwarding of funds 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 **1 January 2027** and ends at the latest on **31 December 2028**.

7 GRANT AMOUNT

For new applications and follow-up applications a grant of up to **200,000 euros** can be applied for, divided between the financial years in the approval period as follows:

2027: 100,000 euros
2028: 100,000 euros

8 DISCIPLINES

The programme is open to all disciplines.

9 TARGET GROUP

Students (Bachelor's/Master's), doctoral candidates, (early-career) researchers, higher education teaching staff, higher education management staff; in addition, non-university stakeholders with particular relevance to the project

10 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are state and state-recognised German higher education institutions.

11 SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

Note:
Only **one application** may be submitted **per project manager** of a state and state-recognised German higher education institution.

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)

- Letter(s) of intent or memorandum of understanding (LoI/MoU) from the participating higher education institution(s)*, if already concluded; subsequent submission with justification possible until conclusion of grant agreement (Attachment type: contracts/agreements / Verträge/Vereinbarungen)
- Endorsement by the German university management/administration, see **form template**; (Attachment type: programme-specific attachments/programmspezifische Anlagen)
- Endorsement(s) by the foreign university management(s)/administration(s), see **form template**; subsequent submission with justification possible until conclusion of grant agreement (Attachment type: programme-specific attachments/programmspezifische Anlagen)
- If applicable, letter of confirmation from the non-university partners; subsequent submission with justification possible until conclusion of grant agreement (Attachment type: programme-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.

Follow-up application (Basic Functions: Submit a Follow-up application)
Higher education institutions with ongoing projects may submit a follow-up application for two additional funding years during the second funding year. The maximum funding period is 4 years in total.

Note:
* Israeli institutions may also be involved in the cooperation if institutions from Islamic countries are or remain the main partners in the project and agree to this expansion.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

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Application deadline is **9 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: 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) Dialogue orientation of the project and the promotion of intercultural understanding among the people involved (weighting: 10 %)

PARTICIPANT SELECTION PROCEDURE

14 **Selection of participants**

A selection committee appointed by the forwarding recipient decides on the selection of the participants.

The selection procedure must be described in the project description.

- Public announcement of the funding programme
- Composition of the selection committee (e.g. forwarding recipient, partner university, number of committee members)
- Selection criteria (e.g. selection of the best/most talented candidates, academic performance, personal suitability: social and cultural engagement, motivation; gender equity, aspects of diversity and equal opportunities)
- Selection decision based on a selection protocol

ATTACHMENTS

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1. Results framework
2. Catalogue of indicators
3. Funding rates
4. Fee table (Honorartabelle)

FORM TEMPLATES

16

- Project description
- Endorsement of the project proposal (by the German university management/administration)
- Endorsement of the project proposal (by the foreign university management/administration)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

17

- Guide ‘Results-oriented Project Planning and Monitoring’ (RoM)
- Link to the WoM video (only available in German)
- FAQ
- Information Sheet: ‘Information on mobility for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses’
- Handout „Klimasensible Umsetzung von internationalen Hochschulkooperationen in der Projektförderung des DAAD“ (only available in German)

- Handout „Strengthening equal opportunities and diversity in DAAD projects“

18 CONTACT

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