In the Alumni Special Projects programme professionals from developing countries who have been trained in Germany have the opportunity to come into contact with German representatives from academia and business at important trade fairs and conferences.

**Background**

As decision-makers in their home countries with close ties to Germany, they are important contacts: academics and executives from developing and newly industrialised countries who have studied or done research in Germany, the so-called Germany alumni.

The DAAD supports these experts with the Alumni Special Projects programme where they receive further training at a German university and then get in touch with companies when they visit a trade fair or an industry convention.

Their new contacts and enhanced expertise enable the alumni to contribute to the economic development in their own countries.

**Programme objectives**

The programme aims to extend the skills of alumni to resolve development-related issues. It also helps alumni engage with other alumni in academic networks both in their own country and internationally. At the same time, alumni often play an active role as disseminators for knowledge transfer. Ideally, they maintain long-term ties to Germany and cooperate with higher education institutions and companies in Germany.

Finally, the programme is designed to further strengthen the expertise of the host universities in Germany in matters of development cooperation.

**Funded projects / measures and partners involved**

As part of the programme, specialist seminars for alumni are sponsored on various topics. The thematic focus is based on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, in particular:
After the seminar, the alumni visit an international fair or conference in line with these topics. Here, the participants familiarise themselves with new product developments and technologies and get to know exhibitors, companies, and other experts. This enables both sides to establish important contacts and initiate collaboration.

Projects are advertised, for example, during the following events:

- Hanover Trade Fair
- Tropentag
- Intersolar Europe
- Agritechnica
- MEDICA
- IFAT (Munich, Johannesburg and Mumbai)

### Planned and already implemented Alumni Special Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alumni Special Projects 2020</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Current Calls</th>
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**Application deadline:**  
17th June 2019 |
**Application deadline:**  
30th August 2019 |
**Application deadline:**  
30th August 2019 |

### Alumni Special Projects 2019

<table>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Event</td>
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| Hannover Trade Fair [http://www.hannovermesse.de/home], 1st - 5th April 2019 | Renewable energies             | University of Kassel  
|                                                                      |                                | BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg  
|                                                                      |                                | **Application deadline:** Expired                                                                   |
| re:publica 2019 [https://re-publica.com/de], 6th - 8th May 2019      | Education / digitisation       | TU Bergakademie Freiberg  
|                                                                      |                                | WHZ Zwickau                                                                                      |
|                                                                      |                                | **Application deadline:** Expired                                                                   |
| TROPENTAG, [http://www.tropentag.de/] Kassel 18th - 20th September 2019 | Call for Germany alumni:      | U Goettingen  
|                                                                      |                                | U Kassel                                                                                         |
|                                                                      |                                | **Application deadline:** Expired                                                                   |
| IFAT India 2019 [http://ifat-india.com/], 16th - 18th October 2019   | Water / water management / waste water / waste / recycling | Call for Germany alumni:  
|                                                                      |                                | U Siegen                                                                                         |
|                                                                      |                                | **Application deadline:** Expired                                                                   |
| Alumni Special Projects 2018                                         | Topic                          | Participating German universities                                                                 |
| Anuga FoodTec [http://www.anugafoodtec.com/aft/index-4.php], 20th - 23rd March 2018 | Food security                  | U Kassel  
|                                                                      |                                | LU Hannover                                                                                      |
| IFAT Munich [https://www.ifat.de/index-2.html], 14th - 18th May 2018 | Water / water management / waste water / waste / recycling | U Duisburg-Essen  
|                                                                      |                                | U Siegen                                                                                         |
| Intersolar Europe [https://www.intersolar.de/en/home.html], 20th - 22nd June 2018 | Renewable energies         | BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg  
|                                                                      |                                | U Halle-Wittenberg  
|                                                                      |                                | TU Bergakademie Freiberg                                                                         |
| MEDICA [https://www.medica-tradefair.com/], 12th - 15th November 2018 | Medicine / public health       | U Heidelberg  
<p>|                                                                      |                                | U Jena                                                                                           |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Alumni Special Projects 2017</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>3rd International Congress Hidden Hunger, Stuttgart</td>
<td>Food security</td>
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<td>11th re:publica, Berlin</td>
<td>Education / digitisation</td>
<td>UP Transfer GmbH at the University of Potsdam, HS Neu-Ulm</td>
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<td>IFAT Africa 2017, Johannesburg</td>
<td>Water management / water waste / waste / recycling</td>
<td>U Siegen</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGRITECHNICA, Hanover</td>
<td>Food security</td>
<td>U Göttingen, U Kassel</td>
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</tbody>
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**Results**

In 2017, 145 alumni from developing and newly industrialised countries participated in further education seminars and trade fairs as well as in specialist conferences and conventions; in 2016, 204 alumni participated. The target-group participants come from a broad range of regions and professions. In order to review whether the objectives of the Alumni Special Projects have been reached, the participants are asked for feedback immediately after each event. Questions are asked about procedures at the trade fairs and conventions and the quality of the preceding specialist seminar. Overall, the response to the events is very positive.

For example, 30 out of 50 alumni attending the AGRITECHNICA 2017 in Hanover reported they had made business contacts.

Further, after participating at HANNOVER MESSE 2016, 36 out of 50 alumni reported that they had established contacts with 151 business representatives and other academics. All 29 participants at #re:publica 2017 in Berlin, the largest and most exciting conference about digital culture in the world, stated that they had expanded their knowledge by attending the conference.

According to the respondents, a large number of alumni stay in touch with other participants, the German higher education institutions, and business partners. In other words, the Alumni Special Projects programme is successful in helping alumni continue their education, exchange ideas, and establish contacts in the academic and professional community.

Gilda Monjane (Participant at HANNOVER MESSE 2016)
Gender Adviser and Solar Entrepreneur, Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mozambique.

_I appreciate the link between the DAAD training seminar and the trade fair. This gives Alumni a great opportunity to share research and work experiences on an international level, to learn from experienced German and global operating companies and to identify potential partners._

In order to achieve the intended programme objectives even more efficiently, the DAAD targets the needs of developing and newly industrialised countries with its funding instruments and evaluates the impact of its funding programmes. In 2014, the DAAD introduced a comprehensive result-oriented monitoring system in order to further improve the quality and transparency of its work.
Contact

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Department P32, Development Cooperation: Partnership Programmes, Alumni Projects and Higher Education Management

Team leader for alumni projects
Arngard Leifert
Tel.: +49 228 882-794
Fax.: +49 228 882-9794
Email: leifert@daad.de

Key thematic areas: water, medicine and education
Kitimapron Padpronpradit
Tel.: +49 228 882-8607
Fax.: +49 228 882-98607
Email: padpronpradit@daad.de

Key thematic areas: biodiversity, renewable energy and nutrition
Eva Seifert
Tel.: +49 228 882-291
Fax.: +49 228 882-9291
Email: seifert@daad.de

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Programme flyer: Science Meets Business Networking with Experts from Developing Countries – Alumni Special Projects (PDF, 0.2 MB) [medien/hochschulen/betreuung/alumni-sonderprojekte/flyer_alumni-sonderprojekte_en_gesamt_21.09.16.pdf]

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