The aim of the Fact Finding Missions programme is to prepare a long-term, contractually regulated cooperative venture at the level of university faculties, institutes and departments. It involves scholarships for German academic staff delegations undertaking fact finding missions on which they meet potential cooperation partners in other countries. The maximum funding for such a mission (which can take up to 14 days) is EUR 15,000, while reciprocal missions as well as missions to several neighbouring countries may receive up to EUR 20,000 and can take up to 21 days.

The programme is open to all subject areas. German universities are eligible to apply.

Further details are available at https://www.daad.de/fact-finding-missions/
Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the programme aims to strengthen the structures of teaching and research on biodiversity within the partner institutions, thus supporting partner countries in conserving and sustainably using their biodiversity. The long-term objective of the programme is to contribute to sustainable development and the creation of efficient, cosmopolitan universities in Germany and the partner countries. It is intended as a contribution to sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda (SDGs 4, 14 and 15 in particular) and thus, ultimately, as a way of helping to conserve, restore and promote biodiversity in partner countries.

www.daad.de/biodiversitaet

The programme

Programme objectives

- Degree programmes and training courses on biodiversity issues will be offered by partner universities in a way that suits the local context and reflects current scientific knowledge.
- Biodiversity issues will be integrated into focal areas of research at the participating institutions.
- German universities will acquire expertise in development cooperation.
- Development-related, subject-specific networks will be set up between the participating universities and institutions.

An example: „ARBONETH - ARBOPRO-Netzwerk in Ethiopia“, an alliance for the protection and research of biodiversity in Ethiopia

Biodiversity project of the University of Hamburg

Project objectives

- To continue the development of cooperative ventures between German and African universities and to strengthen them
- To promote academic exchange, especially within Africa
- To provide further training for academic staff and students at the participating universities
- To develop problem-solving strategies that will successfully meet environmental challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa, such as the loss of biodiversity

Measures

- Coordination and development of modules or teaching
- Specialist conferences and field trips
- Training at the National Herbarium and development of an online herbarium
- Development of training capacities

The Ethiopian-German partnership between the Universities of Addis Ababa, Haramaya, Havassa, Bonn and Hamburg under the ARBONETH Project (www.ARBONETH.com) cultivate an active exchange and knowledge transfer that strengthens the knowledge and skills required to record and evaluate the partners’ biodiversity. Our aim is to learn and work together so that we can sustain biodiversity."

– Dr. Peter Borchardt, University of Hamburg

Joint activities of project partners

- Developing, revising and acquiring relevant teaching and learning materials, consumables, small-scale equipment, etc.
- Events, further education and training (e.g. field trips)
- Project-specific visits
- PR work with the focus on specific target groups
- Conducting research with relevance to biodiversity

Funding

- German universities at the level of institutes, faculties and departments as well as academic research institutions in partnership with at least one university in a developing country are eligible to apply. Applications for collaborative projects are welcome if headed by a German university. Applicants and cooperation partners must be active university lecturers.
- Maximum funding (through deficit financing): EUR 200,000 per project (up to EUR 280,000 per project if a cooperative venture is multilateral) with a maximum funding period of four years.
- Funding includes grants to cover mobility expenses (travel and living expenses) as well as material and HR expenses of the universities.