

Higher Education Dialogue with the Muslim World Call for Applications – Fact Sheet

This call for applications by the DAAD gives German higher education institutions the opportunity to apply for funding of dialogue-oriented cooperation projects with institutions of higher education in the Muslim world or to apply for an extension to a project which is already being funded. The programme is funded from the budget of the German Foreign Office and is designed to further cultural dialogue with Muslim countries.

1. Objective of the programme

- At the centre of the programme is cultural dialogue achieved through subject-specific cooperation with Muslim countries. In practice this means strengthening the ties between higher education institutions in Germany and Islamic countries and the fostering of subject-specific and cultural dialogue between students and young academics from Germany and partner countries. This approach reflects the DAAD's persuasion that interest in and understanding between cultures is effectively strengthened by working and researching together (see [Dialogverständnis des DAAD](#)).

Cultural dialogue along the lines described above is the **prime aim** of the programme. Further objectives are:

- sustainable modernisation of tertiary level education in the partner countries (i.e. by the joint development of new curricula and quality assurance) and the linking of teaching and research;
- targeted support of qualified young academics from the regions that encompasses gender equality;
- the establishment of regional teaching and research networks with the participation of several higher education institutions from various partner countries wherever possible;
- a contribution made by institutions of higher education to the development of societies and to the growth of a knowledge-based society.

2. Subject focus of the project work

In this programme, all subject areas can be eligible for sponsorship. Themes are of particular interest that are of relevance to the relationship between Germany and the Muslim world, the development of the partner regions and the emergence of a knowledge-based society and are areas in which the teaching and research of tertiary education institutions contribute towards this development.

3. Partner regions

Sponsorship is given to the cooperation projects of German institutions of higher

education with institutions of higher education in countries shaped by Islam. The main regional focus is on Arab countries and Iran but all member states of the Islamic conference are included (http://www.oic-oci.org/member_states.asp). Please discuss your choice of partner in advance with Section 444.

Institutes in Israel can also be involved in cooperation provided institutes from countries shaped by Islam are and will remain main partners in the project and agree to this enlargement. This applies both to new applications and applications for extensions.

In the context of project sponsorship with DAAD funds, only participants in project events who come from the target regions listed can receive funding and not applicants who come from third countries. If there is any doubt please consult DAAD (section 444) in advance.

4. Funding criteria

A decision on funding applications is based on the following criteria:

- **Dialogue orientation**
Projects should outreach subject-specific cooperation and foster dialogue between the two parties, promoting understanding for the historic, cultural and religious identity of the partners. Hence the programme attaches central importance to students and exchange scholars being given special support on the ground and forums being created for meetings and discussions that go beyond purely academic cooperation.
- **Relevance and feasibility**
The contribution the project can be expected to make to an improvement in the teaching and research situation at the partner institutions, the project's practical relevance to regional development and the feasibility of the measures applied for and of the goals that have been set.
- **Sustainability**
The sustainability that can be expected from the project objectives and the associated qualification processes, in particular a lasting improvement in teaching and research.
- **Quality**
The academic quality of the projects and measures named in the application.
- **Target groups**
Funding should be concentrated on students and young academics and ensure the appropriate representation of women and men. Personnel exchanges between the partner institutions should be in both directions and form a central component of the programme.
- **Regional, cross-border cooperation**
A situation should be aimed at where several institutions in a region work together in a cooperation network. In these projects exchanges should also be

sponsored between the institutions within the region involving students, researchers and higher education teaching staff.

Projects which are particularly deserving of sponsorship include:

- those in which German and non-German students and young academics work together as intensively as possible,
- those in which there is time and space for interpersonal encounters and where a setting is created in which cultural differences and similarities are uncovered and reconciled as part of professional cooperation,
- those in which regional cooperation is intensified,
- those that lead to lasting links between the partner institutions involved,
- those which increase the practical relevance of the study courses concerned,
- those which update curricula or study modules,
- those which develop or expand on master's, doctorate and other postgraduate study courses,
- those which are conducive to the qualifying of young academics and give due consideration to gender equality,
- those that address different kinds of target groups within the university,
- those which encourage students and young academics in the partner countries to develop their own initiative,
- those that pursue the mutual recognition of academic qualifications and study modules,
- those whose materialisation is actively supported by decision makers at the relevant institutions in the partner countries,
- new cooperation projects which have not yet been financed by public funds,
- projects that in the medium term develop perspectives for alternative means of funding and sources of income.

The following cannot be sponsored:

- projects that are geared exclusively to research funding,
- projects that have no dialogue orientation and are geared exclusively to academic exchange,
- information-gathering travel or travel of a representational nature with no additional academic relevance,
- scholarships which exclusively serve individual advancement and are not awarded as part of a partnership project.

5. DAAD funding

Basically, all measures are eligible for funding that match the objectives set by the programme. At the core of project funding is support for personal exchanges and network forming between partner institutions (i.e. travel to establish contact between project representatives, organisation of workshops, summer schools and specialised courses in Germany and in the partner region and for periods of time spent by teaching staff from higher education institutions, students and graduates in Germany and the partner countries at project partner institutions). Personnel and non-personnel funding is also available for the implementation of exchange measures

(normally amounting to a maximum of 30% of total approved funding). Details on the rates of funding, which are based on DAAD standard programmes, can be obtained from the attached "Funding 2015" leaflet. Programmes can be funded between the 1 February (in the case of extensions 1 January) and the 31 December of each year. Funds approved are only applicable for one financial year and cannot be carried over into the next year.

6. Preparatory measures

Funds for preparatory measures for a longer-term partnership can also be applied for. Some examples of these are initial exploratory trips, planning meetings between project partners and/or first small-scale exchange measures. The maximum sum available for this purpose is 30,000 euros.

7. Documentation and content of applications

Application for funding under the Higher Education Dialogue Programme should be made via the DAAD internet services. You will find assistance on the online procedure in our 'Information on making an application using DAAD internet services'. In order to submit an application, those responsible for projects should register with DAAD online services via the <https://portal.daad.de> internet address and submit the following **application papers**:

- The **cover pages of the application** (online form on the website).
- The **financing plan** (online form on website), as a detailed **calculation of expenditure** for the measures planned in the next calendar year which gives a plausible basis of calculation for individual items. The funding rates of the DAAD are applicable (see leaflet 'Funding 2015'). Only necessary and substantiated expenditure for travel, accommodation, material and resources can be reimbursed. Any other expenditure shall be borne by the applicant.
- The **application form for the programme**. This contains a detailed description of the project and an explanation of the measures planned. It can be found on our website <http://www.daad.de/hochschuldialog>.
- **Endorsement of the project application by the head of the higher education institution**. Please complete the form entitled 'Endorsement by head of higher education institution' to be found on our website <http://www.daad.de/hochschuldialog> with the signature of the institution head and submit it as an attachment to the application.
- Well-documented, informative **agreement by the partner institution(s)** in relation to the goals and measures contained in the project.

Please make sure when sending the online application that you upload as attachments the project description and the documents containing the agreement of institution heads and project partners.

8. Application procedure and closing date

A full set of documentation for first applications and for applications for extensions must be submitted by **30 October 2014 at the latest**. Decisions on applications can be expected in December 2014.

9. Decision on sponsorship and approval of funds

Decisions on sponsorship/extension and their scope (initially for one year) are taken subject to funds available by an advisory commission consisting of academic and regional specialists with the participation of the German Foreign Office. Approval is made known by the DAAD office.

Preparatory measures should also be applied for by 30 October but applications can also be made in the current year. In any event, a counselling interview should take place with Section 444 before applications are submitted. A subsequent application for the coming year for cooperation funding lasting up to three years is regarded as a new application.

The advisory commission mentioned above meets annually to evaluate project applications and applications for extensions. Experience has shown that the large numbers of applications often means that the amount applied for has to be reduced.

Approval of financial support takes the form of private law agreements on funding between the DAAD and the German higher education institution responsible and is subject to sufficient budgetary funds being available.

Approval to support projects is on an annual basis. If a project that is already being funded is to run for a second or third year, an application for extension must be made.

Contact at DAAD:

Inka Löck
Section 444 – German-Arab Transformation Partnership – Cultural Dialogue
Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn
Tel.: 0228/882-816
Email: dialog@daad.de
www.daad.de/hochschuldialog