

Call for applications: Integrated International Degree Programmes with Double Degrees (2015/2016)

What are the goals of the programme?

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) finances the programme "Integrated International Degree Programmes with Double Degrees" at German universities and universities of applied sciences. The programme supports courses of study which are offered alternately at German and foreign universities and conclude with the conferral of two national degrees (either a joint degree or double degree, conferred by both partner universities). Such degree programmes promote further internationalisation of German universities and strengthen the exchange of instructors and students.

Who can apply?

State-accredited public and private German universities, their respective departments or institutes in all disciplines may apply for funding for university partnerships with all countries. The only exception are partnerships to establish double degree programmes with France, as these are exclusively supported by the Franco-German University (DFH, <http://www.dfh-ufa.org>). Each cooperation agreement with partner universities must be subject-related. To establish a joint degree programme of identical structure with several partners, the applicant must submit a multi-partner application, providing the names of each partner and descriptions of their specific region (no more than six partners in total).

What is funded?

The programme's main funding goal is to promote the internationalisation measures of German universities and the academic mobility of German students. Consequently, German universities obtain funding to cover the cost of materials and personnel expenses directly related to planning and developing the double degree programme, preparing and advising students, as well as for travel expenses incurred for the purpose of coordinating the programme with the cooperation partners (preparatory and working meetings).

The participating German and non-German **bachelor's and master's degree students** in the degree programme at the German university (see Funding guidelines, no. 3.1), receive a one-time, country-specific travel allowance, a country-specific, partial **or** full scholarship paid out in monthly instalments (applicants must decide on one of these two types of scholarships for all funded students in one course of study. The choice is binding for the **entire** funding period), and a fixed insurance cover of 35 euros per month.

Scholarship funding does not cover tuition fees.

Students from partner universities in developing and emerging countries (see list of developing and emerging countries) receive an additional monthly allowance of 400 euros.

Applicants may apply for **funding** to cover the following expenses:

I. Preparation phase (optional):

max. one funding year (one-year approval)

One funding year corresponds to an academic year at German university (i.e. the winter semester and subsequent summer semester)

II. Funding phase:

- A) New projects (first application) initially receive funding for two years which can be extended by another two years, and then again by another four years pending the successful implementation of the project (i.e. 2+2+4). Funding for the optional one-year preparation phase does not count toward the total funding period.
- B) The funding duration for follow-up applications (funding years) is determined by the funding duration of prior applications.

Programmes, which have received funding for eight years (not including the optional preparation phase), may apply for an additional four years of funding. A funding year corresponds to one academic year (winter semester and following summer semester). Applicants are required to indicate any quantifiable project goals (projects, measures) in the project description (attachment 1).

What target groups are funded?

This funding programme is targeted at German universities which intend to develop and/or establish an integrated international double degree programme.

Terms and conditions / Fundable expenditures

Please note:

As this funding programme is based on financial shortfall financing, German universities applying for DAAD funding are also required to contribute resources of their own.

I. Preparation phase (optional)

The purpose of this one-year preparation phase is to finance the planning and development of the double degree programme.

Terms and conditions:

The partners are required to provide the following:

- A cooperation agreement or letter of intent, issued by the German and international partner university (official document, signed by the university administration of both universities) which contains the following minimum requirements:
 - Agreement between both project partners to collaborate on the planned double degree programme (explicitly stating the intent to establish the degree programme)
 - Agreement on tuition fees (if possible, a waiver of tuition fees altogether; must guarantee at least a 50% reduction)
 - A convincing curricular and structural concept for the planned double degree programme

Fundable expenditures:

The German university may apply for a maximum of **10,000 euros/funding year** to cover structural expenses (i.e. personnel costs and materials). Scholarship funding is not provided.

Awarded funding may be used for:

- **Academic or administrative personnel** involved in preparing, monitoring and implementing the degree programme
- **Accreditation expenses (one-time expenditure for new accreditation)**
- **Travel expenses of German project personnel** for preparatory meetings at the international partner university (or universities) (only vehicle and air travel expenses based on the provisions of the Federal Travel Expense Law (BRKG); business-class flights can be reimbursed in justified, exceptional cases)
- **Material resources (domestic) of up to 3,000 euros**, e.g. for office supplies, communication-related expenses, expenditures for promotional brochures and events
(Excluding: DAAD marketing measures, excursions, summer schools, technical equipment, hardware, teaching materials or furniture)

II. Funding phase

The goal of the funding phase is to ensure the future viability of the degree programme and student mobility in the long-term. During the funding phase, at least five German students and five students from the partner university should be enrolled in the degree programme each year. Follow-up applications must include a report on the development of enrolment in the double degree programme.

Please note:

- All partners should strive to achieve a **full waiver of tuition fees**; however, at least a 50% reduction in tuition fees should be guaranteed.
- It is assumed that all the DAAD-registered students, who are enrolled in these degree programmes, study at the partner university with the intention to actually **earn a double degree**. The DAAD cannot fund degree programmes which permit students to decide on location whether or not they wish to obtain a double degree.

Terms and conditions:

The partners are required to provide the following:

- A joint cooperation agreement, signed by both university administrations, which describes the binational curriculum (complementary subject-related and intercultural instruction), credit points awarded for each module (or individual course), a course/study schedule and the names of the respective national or binational degrees conferred at the conclusion of the programme
- A curriculum for the joint degree programme, as agreed upon by both universities, including a description of the qualification profile of the national degrees
- An agreement outlining procedures for student admission to the joint degree programme and for awarding credit for academic achievement
- Conferral of double degrees or a joint degree by both partner universities
- Description of the degrees in the form of a Diploma Supplement

The partners are expected to:

- Organise an exchange of students in both directions every year (the partners must submit a list of participants if funding is approved by the DAAD); preferably an equal number of participants at each partnering university
- Generally ensure that groups are comprised of same-semester students and that the duration of study at both universities is as balanced as possible. For master's degree programmes, participants are expected to study at the partner university for at least one semester, and for bachelor's degree programmes, two semesters.
- Provide (subject-related) language training and ensure that participants have adequate knowledge of the language of instruction, and – in case they differ – basic knowledge of the language of the respective country. If possible, the majority of courses should be taught in the language spoken in the respective country.
- Provide academic and non-academic student advising
- Ensure that the funded students have above-average academic qualification (i.e. belong to the top 25 percent of their class)
- Should students spend at least two semesters study at the partner university, this funding can be used to finance a max. six-month practical phase, provided such is mandated by the examination regulations. The academic units abroad must be offered in blocks and last at least one semester; the DAAD will not grant funding to programmes which require students to frequently commute back and forth between two universities (due to geographic proximity, for example).
- Issue joint study and examination regulations
- Administer joint final examination(s)
- Secure or work toward gaining national accreditation for the double degree programme

Fundable expenditures:

The funding limit for the German university is **50,000 euros/funding year** (i.e. academic year, typically WS and following SS), whereby a maximum of 20,000 euros can be used to pay for structural resources (personnel and materials).

For multi-partner applications, a maximum of **25,000 euros/funding year** is granted to each additional partner country (max. of five additional partners), of which 5,000 euros can be used to cover costs of structural resources (personnel and materials).

The funding limit can be increased to a maximum of 80,000 euros per funding year (of which a max. of 20,000 euros can be allocated to structural resources), provided the funding limit per class (at least five German students and preferably five students from a partner university) exceeds the 50,000-euro funding limit. In the case of multi-partner applications, this exception may only apply to **one** selected partnership.

Awarded funding may be used for:

- **Academic or administrative personnel**, tutors, assistants and language instructors at the German university (for accompanying and implementing the degree programme, preparing the German students, supervising the guest students, and for language courses)
- **Travel expenses of German project personnel for work meetings** at the partner university (or universities) (only vehicle and air travel expenses based on the provisions of the Federal Travel Expense Law (BRKG); business-class flights can be reimbursed in justified, exceptional cases)
- **Grants for short-term guest lectureships** (no less than two weeks and no more than three months) – by international university instructors at the German university (flat-rate subsistence allowance) and German university instructors at the international partner university (travel expenses in accordance with the BRKG, please note: only in justified exceptional cases business class flights can be accepted)
- **Accreditation expenses (one-time expenditure for new accreditation)**
- **Scholarship funding for German and non-German students** (see Funding guidelines, no. 3.1) for the duration of their foreign study visit: a one-time, country-specific travel allowance, a country-specific, partial **or** full scholarship paid out in monthly instalments (applicants must decide on one of these two types of scholarships for all funded students in one course of study. The choice is binding for the **entire** funding period), and a fixed insurance cover of 35 euros per month.

Scholarship funding does not cover tuition fees.

Special rules apply to BAföG recipients. Please refer to the corresponding provision in the funding guidelines (No. 3.3).

- **Additional monthly allowance** of 400 euros to students from partner universities in developing and emerging countries (see list of developing and emerging countries).
- Maximum of **3,000 euros for material resources (domestic)**, e.g. for office supplies, communication-related expenses, expenditures for promotional brochures and events.

(Excluding: DAAD marketing measures, excursions, summer schools, technical equipment, hardware, teaching materials or furniture)

Subsequent funding

Programmes which have received funding for eight years (i.e. 2+2+4 years not including the optional preparation phase) may apply for an additional four years of funding totalling a maximum of 50,000 euros/funding year, of which 5,000 euros can be allocated to structural resources.

The funding limit can be increased to a maximum of 80,000 euros per funding year (of which a max. of 5,000 euros can be allocated to structural resources), provided the funding limit per class (at least five German students and preferably five students from a partner university) exceeds the 50,000-euro funding limit.

Funding overview:

	Funding period (= academic year WS-SS)	Max. funding amount per funding year	Max. funding amount per funding year for structural re- sources
Preparation phase	1 funding year	10,000 euros	10,000 euros
Funding phase	2 funding years Additional 2 funding years	50,000 euros 80,000 euros* 25,000 euros for each additional partner**	20,000 euros 20,000 euros* 5,000 euros**
	Additional 4 funding years		
	Subsequent funding, typically 4 funding years	50,000 euros 80,000 euros* 25,000 euros for each additional partner**	5,000 euros 5,000 euros* 5,000 euros**

* Exception to the max. funding amount, see above

** Funding requirements for multi-partner applications, see above

What are the selection criteria?

The institutes or departments responsible for implementing the new programme should have relevant international experience and, if possible, long-standing contact with suitable partner universities. In addition to fulfilling the goals of the programme and the formal prerequisites (see "Terms and Conditions"), applications are chosen based on the following criteria:

- Partners' demonstration of commitment to the joint degree programme
- Quality of the curriculum (course content corresponds to most up-to-date in the respective field)
- Added academic, interdisciplinary and intercultural benefit of the degree programme and its professionally qualifying orientation
- Academic quality and reputation of the foreign partner university (or universities)
- Suitable conditions for implementing the degree programme (language preparation, selection and supervision of the students, etc.)
- Upward trend in student enrolment in the double degree programme (at all participating partner universities)
- Progress achieved, verified by regular progress reports – for follow-up applications

Funding duration

Following an optional one-year preparatory phase, funding is generally granted for two academic years, which can be extended by another two academic years if the programme shows promise. The partners may apply for subsequent funding for another four academic years, which would amount to eight years of funding (2+2+4).

After eight years, successful programmes are eligible to receive another four years of subsequent funding.

Application details

All first and follow-up applications should be submitted directly to the DAAD via its online portal (<https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal>).

You will find an overview of all documents, which must be submitted with your application on the form "Project description" (see Attachment 1).

Before applying, please observe the attached "Funding guidelines".

Funding is expected to commence on 1 August 2015 at the earliest.

Please note:

Do not submit original documents to the DAAD. Applications must be complete and submitted by a university instructor (professor) prior to the given deadline via the DAAD online portal.

Please refrain from submitting unsolicited documentation, such as module guidebooks, accreditation reports, prospects, flyers, articles, etc.

**Submission dead-
line**

The submission deadline is **02 February 2015**.

The review board will only consider applications which are complete and submitted prior to the given deadline.

Contacts**German Academic Exchange Service**

Section 511 – Internationalisation of Study and Teaching
Kennedyallee 50
53175 Bonn

Section heads:

Kirsten Habbich and Birgit Siebe-Herbig

Universities A - Kö

Verena Grau, grau<at>daad.de, Tel.: 0228/882-769

Universities Kon - Mag

Anna Maria Petrow, petrow<at>daad.de, Tel.: 0228/882-8804

Universities Mai - Z

Almut Lemke, lemke<at>daad.de, Tel.: 0228/882-457

www.daad.de/doppelabschluss

For a complete list of all DAAD calls for applications, visit www.daad.de/projektfoerderung.