

Global Health and Pandemic Prevention Centres (2021-2025)

Programme objectives

The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst – DAAD) is distributing funds provided by the German Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt – AA) to allow for the structural establishment of initially four 'Global Health and Pandemic Prevention Centres' (hereafter called 'Centres') in emerging and developing countries in all global regions (Africa, Asia, the Near and Middle East, Central and South America) that are each going to maintain links to Germany and other countries, as well as to each other. Particular emphasis shall be placed on the challenges of low-income nations and the development of promising approaches that cater for their specific requirements.

Epidemics and pandemics of unknown and new pathogens have been known for centuries, and owing to globalisation they can in the worst case cause global crises of the health care and social security systems at an unprecedented speed, whose impact varies between different countries and regions. In many cases it can be observed that a virus is passed on from animals to humans and that many countries are ill-prepared for pandemic situations with regard to containment measures, medical care, the economic and social consequences and mechanisms for responding to crises. This is the case in industrial nations, but in particular for medium and low income countries, where there are a lack of qualified professionals, as well as of financial resources and the availability of aid resources. Local scientific systems are often not oriented towards finding solutions to such problems or they do not have the necessary resources.

International scientific collaboration across disciplines is particularly important when it comes to mastering these global challenges, especially between developing and emerging nations and nations that are exceptionally strong in the field of research. Health care and pandemic prevention must be approached by education and research institutions in an increasingly networked way, and solutions must be developed taking various levels of development into account and which promise success in a wide range of contexts. A central aspect, alongside acute medical and epidemiological issues, is coping strategies for the long-term consequences for local business, health care and social security systems.

The goal of the programme is to promote further expansion and improvement of prevention, treatment and response mechanisms. Planning provides for this to be achieved through internationally networked projects, in which German higher education institutions cooperate in matters of education, research and knowledge transfer in the form of real-world laboratories, with at least one, or possibly multiple, higher education institutions in partner countries. The goal is to promote mutual learning of the sciences (education, research, development) and other stakeholders (politics, business, civil society) and to ensure a direct transfer of new findings into practical applications.

The four envisioned Centres shall focus primarily on the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, including crisis preparation, response and after-care. For this purpose, they must maintain close links to national and international epidemic control authorities and non-university research facilities including, possibly, facilities from the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries.

The Centres should work inter or trans-disciplinarily to allow for an integrational and holistic one-health approach, incorporating human medicine as well as other related disciplines. This approach will allow for legal, veterinary, political, socio-scientific, logistic, economic and / or psychological questions, to name a few examples, to also be taken into account.

Qualified experts with strong international links shall be trained in inter-disciplinary teams to provide for better human resources in these areas, while

simultaneously performing applied research that can be transferred into practical use.

In the medium term, the Centres should evolve into think tanks in the fields of public health and pandemic prevention and maintain links to each other that promote synergy effects and allow for overarching questions to be addressed, which are of global as well as of immediate importance for the individual regions.

The long-term impacts of the programme are therefore as follows:

- The programme promotes global health and pandemic prevention and therefore contributes to achieving the sustainability goal SDG 3 to 'ensure healthy lives and promote well-being'.
- The programme contributes to Germany's involvement in joint strategies to tackle global challenges.
- The programme contributes to knowledge generation, transfer and circulation in matters of global health and pandemic prevention.
- The programme promotes closer partnership-based cooperation among higher education institutions, research facilities and public and civic stakeholders from the area of health care.
- The programme contributes to making higher education, research and innovation systems more efficient and international.
- The programme contributes to improving the quality and relevance of education and research at the higher education institutions involved.
- In line with Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy, the programme contributes to finding new friends and partners for Germany and to making links with Germany stronger.

The following direct programme outcomes are derived from these impacts:

- The Centres provide study and doctorate opportunities in relevant disciplines.
- The Centres' graduates are qualified for the local and international employment market in the area of global health care and pandemic prevention.
- There are established research capacities in the area of global health care and pandemic prevention.
- New scientific findings are transferred into practice.
- An established Centre network allows for joint research endeavours, for addressing overarching issues, for synergy effects and for improved visibility.

These programme outcomes should be achieved by means of the following direct results of measures/activities (outputs):

- Study opportunities (modules, courses of study) based on the latest state of scientific knowledge have been developed/updated.
- Students/doctoral candidates/lecturers have spent (sponsored) study and research stays in an international environment.
- Application and demand oriented research is taking place, regarding the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, pandemic prevention or the corresponding health care systems.
- The Centres maintain links to stakeholders from the areas of science, politics, business and to civil society.

Individual projects can focus on different aspects within the programme. It is not necessary that each project contributes to all programme objectives. Projects are also permitted room for manoeuvre in formulating their objectives and in their strategies for achieving them; whereby the project objectives must be consistent with programme objectives. The higher education institutions are accordingly asked to develop their projects based on the programme's impact analysis structure and programme indicators, thus enabling them to formulate measurable project objectives and associated indicators. These must be presented in the application and project planning summary (for the detailed procedure please refer to the "Handbook on Results-oriented Monitoring").

Eligible measures

Interdisciplinary courses of study or research opportunities (master's degree, doctorate, postdoc, professorships) with strong global or regional relevance to the issues of global health and pandemic prevention are established and offered at the Centres. The following measures may be eligible for funding:

- Establishment of a visiting professorship that should be occupied by a succession of high-ranking scientists from the respective specialist field (here: funding for topping up the local salary)
- Establishment of short-term lectureships
- Granting of scholarships for foreign and German students, doctoral candidates, postdocs and researchers for study, work experience and research stays
- Granting of scholarships for funding research projects including material expenditure for junior researchers
- Development of (joint) master's and doctoral programmes concerning matters of global health and pandemic prevention and the related SDGs
- Development and application of digital formats in the areas of education, research cooperation and collaboration with non-scientific players and other Centres (e.g. use of shared systems for research data management and teaching methods)
- Networking with other Centres, e.g. through joint publications, conferences, exchange in matters of education, student exchanges, joint projects (including in digital form)
- Events (symposiums, conferences, workshops, summer schools, digital event formats)
- Networking with stakeholders from the areas of politics, business, the civil society and non-university research facilities
- Publications, e.g. of research results in internationally recognised publication series and in less specialised formats that promote public discourse
- Alumni activities
- Establishment of an advisory committee with representatives from the areas of politics, business, civil society and sciences that acts as a coordination and control body to determine the Centre's strategic orientation (specific research requirements, specifying an agenda, etc.) and to ensure that results are transferred into practical applications.

The instruments can be chosen and combined as needed.

Eligible expenditure

Regarding eligible expenditure, please refer to appendix 1 'Eligible expenditure'.

Funding method

Funding takes place in the form of fixed-sum financing.

Funding period

The funding period begins at the earliest on 01/05/2021 and ends at the latest on 31/12/2025.

Note:

Subject to a positive evaluation, a second funding phase of 5 years can be applied for at the end of the funding period.

Grant amount

The upper limit of grants paid by the DAAD per Centre per year, is EUR 400,000 for 2021 and EUR 600,000 for subsequent years.

Financial and resource contributions are expected from the German higher education institution(s) (e.g. for involvement of German teaching staff, involvement in the advisory committee), and financial contributions are expected from the foreign partners (provision of qualified researchers and of premises and operating overheads, partial funding of local mobility, etc.).

Sustainable future perspectives for funding without DAAD resources should be considered from the start and be developed over the course of the funding period.

Discipline(s)	All disciplines that address matters of global health and pandemic prevention.
Target group	<p>The direct target group comprises master's students, doctoral candidates, postdocs, habilitation candidates, researchers, professors, administration staff, disseminators and alumni.</p> <p>The indirect target group comprises stakeholders from the areas of politics and business and civil society.</p>
Eligible applicants	Eligible applicants are officially recognised German higher education state institutions.
Application process	<p>The application process has two levels to allow for inter-disciplinary and inter-continental networking of the Centres from the outset.</p> <p>Level 1: Expression of interest To take part in the application process, a project outline (please use the expression of interest template) must be submitted in a timely manner, via the email address health-centres@daad.de.</p> <p>Level 2: Application for project funding An application for project funding may only be submitted (complete and on time) via the DAAD portal (www.mydaad.de).</p> <p>The application should be drawn up in cooperation with the foreign partner(s) and any German partner institutions (further higher education institutions, non-university research facilities, foundations, etc.). The involvement of partner institutions from other European and non-European industrial nations that take part in the cooperation using their own funds is also very welcome. The application documents are also available in English for this purpose.</p> <p>Please note, regarding the 'Research Hubs in Africa' programme of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH):</p> <p>With its programme 'Research Hubs in Africa' that is currently open for applications, the AvH provides alumni of its funding programmes in Africa with support for long-term research concepts that are particularly relevant to the issue of handling pandemics. The alumni choose cooperation partners in Germany and Africa.</p> <p>A close collaboration of cooperation projects funded through this DAAD programme and projects funded through the AvH programme is very desirable even in the initial phase, and may be considered positively in the selection process. Further information about this call for applications is available on the AvH website.</p>
Application requirements	<p><u>Application documents relevant for selection for project funding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project application (in the DAAD portal) • Finance plan (in the DAAD portal) • Project description (attachment type: project description) • Project planning summary (attachment type: programme-specific attachments) • Cooperation agreement (or declaration of cooperation intent) with higher education institutions in the target country that also contains information about the resources that are to be contributed by the foreign institution (attachment type: contracts, agreements) • Cooperation agreement (or declaration of cooperation intent) between German partners involved, if applicable (attachment type: contracts, agreements) • Approval of the German and foreign university management (attachment type: programme-specific attachments) <p>The application documents relevant for selection must be named according to the guidelines and submitted under the specified attachment type prior to the application deadline.</p> <p>Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection process.</p>

Application documents that may be submitted later on

Subsequent submissions and amendments, including amendments to the financing plan, will no longer be considered after the application deadline. Cooperation agreements may be submitted at a later date only if they are not available on time. In this case, at least a written statement by the project leader must be submitted by the application deadline. The cooperation agreements must be presented when a contract is concluded, at the very latest.

Application deadline

Expression of interest: **19 November 2020**

Application for project funding: **23 February 2021**

Selection procedure**Expression of interest process (Level 1)**

Applicants whose project outline is considered promising, are invited to a launch event on 15 December 2020. All project outlines are presented to the applicants and the selection committee at this event. The purpose of the presentation of the envisioned projects is for applicants to learn about the professional orientation of the intended projects, and for any overlaps and cooperation options among potential grant recipients to be identified.

The most promising candidates for funding are asked to draw up and submit an application for project funding.

Applications for project funding (Level 2)

The DAAD will make its funding decision based on evaluation of the applications by a selection committee, using the following selection criteria:

- **Relationship of the project to the programme objectives (as per the impact analysis structure) and results-oriented planning using indicators that meet the SMART criteria**
- **Quality of experience to date and achievements in relevant areas in the form of:** teaching and research activities, international university cooperation; cooperation with non-university stakeholders from the areas of politics, business and civil society; country and regional expertise
- **Scientific quality and innovative potential of the presented concept with regard to:** content and method-related approaches to teaching and research, including practical relevance/transfer of results and inter-disciplinary nature; climate and resource friendly project implementation; integration of (partially) digital formats in education, research and cooperation
- **Potential for (international) networking and visibility with regard to:** cooperation with university and non-university stakeholders from the areas of politics, business and civil society; involvement of other countries (neighbouring countries, other industrial nations, countries from different continents) and networking potential with other Centres; relevance for Germany and the partner countries
- **Financial planning and use of funds with regard to:** plausibility of the financing plan; amount of own funds available for the project; financial viability after the end of the funding period

Note: The results of the selection meeting are expected to be available at the end of March.

In the interest of networking opportunities for the two programmes by AvH and DAAD and the projects or research concepts funded in the context of these programmes, a representative of the AvH will also be part of the selection committee.

Scholarship selection procedure

For information about the scholarship selection procedure, please refer to the document 'Information about the awarding of scholarships'.

Contact

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Contact partners:

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Attachments to the call for applications

1. Eligible expenditure
2. DAAD table of fees
3. Scholarship sums per target country

Important information and form specifications**Information:**

- Information about the awarding of scholarships
- Mobility information for those with a disability or chronic illness
- Handbook on Results-oriented Monitoring
- Guideline for preparing financing plans

Web-based seminar for applicants

A web-based seminar takes place from 12:30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. (CET) on 13 October. The background and concept of the funding programme will be explained and questions will be answered. The seminar is held using AdobeConnect and is available via this link: http://daad.reflect.com/globale_zen-tren/.

Any questions should ideally be emailed to the contact partners indicated above in advance.

Templates

- [Expression of interest project outline template](#)
- [Project description template](#)
- [Project planning overview template](#)
- [Approval of the university management](#)

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Federal Foreign Office