

## IVAC - International Virtual Academic Collaboration (2021-2022)

### Programme objectives

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) finances the programme "IVAC – International Virtual Academic Collaboration" with funding provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

The current crisis which puts universities and research organisations under pressure to rapidly expand their capabilities in the fields of digital learning and working holds great opportunity. In the future, we will have to examine more broadly what (new) models of mobility can be developed and institutionalised in the medium term.

In the light of these events, the IVAC programme funds international, border-crossing, bi- and multilateral, virtual collaborations. Lecturers of more than one German institution of higher education may be involved in the planning and implementation of international collaboration seminars and activities. Through their lecturers and students, the foreign partners institutions bring their academic, teaching and learning cultures as well as their own experiences with virtual teaching formats into the funded collaborations enabling intercultural encounters and exchange of experience as well as the joint further development of collaborative virtual teaching formats using modern concepts and technologies.

Access to education and participation in academic dialogue have taken on an increasingly global dimension. Digitalisation opens up numerous opportunities for academic access and collaboration which exceed by far the geographical, political, and social boundaries of traditional teaching and learning. Academic cooperation and collaboration support the development of problem-solving approaches in teaching and research, and thereby that of basic skills acquired during academic qualification. Internationally networked and digitally-based teaching directs the focus to student-instructor dialogue and helps build intercultural competence and teamworking skills.

Virtual exchange represents an interactive and cooperation-based bridge to the world and serves to systematically intensify international higher education collaboration and shape them around new models of (blended) mobility. The student-oriented focus of this programme encourages engagement with the cultural context of other students and makes the digitally-based investigation into "foreignness" a subject of the teaching-learning experience. The programme's didactic implementation will determine how deeply students immerse themselves into a different culture and to what extent they are supported and assisted in proving themselves in international situations.

With regard to the courses being offered within a semester, instructors and students of at least two universities shall work together in an international context and use digital media to communicate, collaborate and document the results of their work. Co-teaching, peer-oriented learning and jointly offered courses comprise the central components of the virtual exchange scenarios. Project- and research-oriented approaches can serve to embed intercampus collaboration in virtual seminar rooms and digital learning environments. Not only do such digital environments enable project partners to involve different groups of students and instructors, but also different disciplines and academic levels of qualification (BA, MA, PhD). These innovations in collaborative teaching can potentially encourage participants to test new forms of learning analytics, especially with regard to skill acquisition (digital competence, intercultural competence, capacity for teamwork, problem-solving skills etc.).

The programme promotes greater flexibility in degree programmes offered at German Higher Education Institutions and their foreign partner universities in

the long term (impact). As well as furthering internationalisation and digitisation, the programme promotes to equal opportunities by expanding access to international higher education. Additionally, the programme adds to the development of high-performance and cosmopolitan Higher Education Institutions in the long term.

The IVAC programme aims to simultaneously achieve the following goals (Outcomes):

**Programme Objective 1 (Outcome 1):**

Lecturers of German institutions of higher education and their international partners have integrated virtual collaboration formats into their courses and plan to integrate them into the curriculum.

**Programme Objective 2 (Outcome 2):**

Students and lecturers apply the digital and intercultural skills acquired through virtual cooperation.

**Programme Objective 3 (Outcome 3):**

The virtual cooperation formats enable students and instructors to gain international experiences in order to further equal opportunity.

**Programme Objective 4 (Outcome 4):**

The developed virtual cooperation formats are integrated into the teaching of the project partners by means of existing IT-services or relevant intersections.

**Programme Objective 5 (Outcome 5):**

Participants in international virtual collaboration formats build a network and form a community of practice.

These programme objectives shall be accomplished by means of the following direct results of the measures / activities (Outputs):

- Universities have developed courses for which students can receive credit points (ECTS).
- Projects have proved and tested the use of digital education technologies and concepts for international, teaching-based cooperation of researchers and university lecturers.
- IT services for teaching and learning in virtual collaborations are coordinated and take up already existing IT solutions.
- Experiences with international collaboration formats gained in the projects are made available to a broad-based university community.

Every project may focus on different aspects. One project does not have to contribute to all of the programme objectives. The projects are given some flexibility regarding the wording of the project objectives and the means of accomplishing these objectives; the project objectives have to be consistent with the programme objectives. The wording of the project objectives has to be based on the programme's results framework; measurable project objectives and results as well as the corresponding indicators have to be formulated. These are to be presented in the application and in the project planning summary. Please consult **attachment 1** („Guide to results-oriented Project Planning and Monitoring“) regarding the instructions for project planning, the programme's results framework, as well as the list of indicators.

## Eligible measures / activities

Eligible Measures / Activities include:

- **(Further) development of virtual collaborative formats in teaching by German instructors and their international partners**
  - creation of methodical and didactic teaching-learning concepts for courses offered as part of the regular teaching activities (academic year, semester, terms) with supplementary formats (e.g. virtual/hybrid workshops/conferences/summer schools) and the possibility of earning additional credit points
  - support in implementation of virtual and hybrid courses (e.g. online tutorials)
  - development of digital teaching and learning materials and examination formats (e.g. digital audio and video materials, gaming approaches, e-portfolio concepts etc.)
  - development of a communication concept highlighting campus life, learning, and everyday culture, including the enhancement of foreign language skills
  - implementation of coordination and work meetings (e.g. online workshops)
- **Development of a supervision concept for international and virtual students** (e.g. virtual mentoring, digital buddy programmes)
- **Development of assessment tools and accompanying measures** to obtain information on the knowledge and skills acquired by the students (e.g. learning analytics)
- **Implementing and attending professional development courses** (e.g. “train the trainer” programmes, online seminars), **as well as conferences.**
- **Project-specific adjustments to the IT infrastructure** (e.g. opening and expanding existing campus and learning management systems, joint usage of e-learning tools and educational technologies).
- **Development and coordination of digital documentation processes** for monitoring students’ individual learning achievements by the participating partners; particular consideration should be given to reciprocal recognition and automatic exchange of digital certificates in extracurricular co-operation formats.
- **Target group-specific marketing and PR** for virtual and international students as part of the project (e.g. by publishing student material produced within the project).

## Eligible funding expenditures

Funding may cover all expenditures which are necessary for carrying out the project (implementation of measures/activities) and which are not excluded (see notes on non-eligible expenses). These specifically include:

### **Personnel expenses for project implementation and management**

- academic staff
- research assistants
- student assistants
- other personnel

Personnel expenses include the gross wage to be paid by the employer (AG Bruttoentgelt). Annual bonuses are only eligible for funding for the approval period and only if the bonus is paid during this period.

Should there be problems concerning the employment of student assistants for project-related administrative tasks, projects may apply for expenditures for TV-L employees (up to E8) instead.

### **Material expenses of the German university**

#### ➤ Fees

The DAAD table of fees (cf. **Attachment 3**) for external staff (not staff of the institution which receives the funding or project staff of the partner institution) in Germany and the target region who are responsible for advising, moderating meetings, implementing workshops etc. as well as for guest lecturers applies. The fee rates specified may be considered appropriate.

Expenses for mobility and accommodation are also fundable in accordance with the principles of efficiency and economy on the basis of receipts and invoices (flights only in economy-class).

#### ➤ Mobility expenses for project staff

Funding to cover travel/flight expenses can be applied for and claimed in accordance with federal and state travel expense laws (BRKG/LRKG).

#### ➤ Accommodation expenses for project staff

Funding to cover the costs of accommodation (overnight accommodation and subsistence allowance) can be applied for and claimed in accordance with federal and state travel expense laws (BRKG/LRKG).

#### ➤ Material resources

- consumable goods (e.g. conference materials)
- economic assets (e.g. project-specific hardware, software licenses)
- room rental (e.g. for conference rooms, office leases)
- print media/publications/advertising and public relations materials (e.g. social media, newsletters, flyers)
- external services (e.g. for developing digital teaching and learning materials)
- other expenses (e.g. participation fees)

#### Please note:

the sum of the expenditures for fees, external services, hardware and software licences may comprise up to 50 percent of the approved DAAD-grant.

### **Funded individuals** (*funding of individuals who are not employed by the grant recipient*)

#### ▪ Mobility of funded individuals

- For German and foreign students, doctoral candidates and lecturers, country-specific mobility lump sums can be applied for and claimed for the implementation of and participation in events in accordance with **Attachment 2**.

The mobility lump sum results from the first day of travel and is to be accounted for by an attendance list signed by the participants. The mobility lump sum covers all subsidiary expenses related to travel (in addition to expenses for travel and flights, this includes expenses for visa, vaccinations, excess luggage, luggage insurance etc.).

#### ▪ Accommodation of funded individuals

- For German and foreign students, doctoral candidates and lecturers, country-specific accommodation lump sums for stays of up to one month can be applied for and claimed in accordance with **Attachment 2** for the implementation of and participation in events.

	<p>The accommodation lump sum results from the first day of travel (for the entire stay) and is to be accounted for by an attendance list signed by the participants. The accommodation lump sum covers expenses for accommodation and meals as well as for health, accident and liability insurance.</p> <p><u>Please note:</u> Particularly with regard to the current travel restrictions, the timeframe of (international) mobilities should be planned as realistic as possible.</p> <p><b>Non-eligible expenses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Infrastructure and non-project-related basic hardware</li> <li>➤ Professional development courses offered by the International DAAD Academy (iDA)</li> </ul>
Type of financing	Funding is provided as fixed-sum financing.
Funding period	The funding period begins on 1 October 2021 at the earliest and ends on 30 September 2022 at the latest.
Sum of financing	The general maximum sum of the DAAD-grant is 50.000 €.
Disciplines	This programme is open to all disciplines and subject areas.
Target group	Students in bachelor's and/or master's programmes, doctoral candidates, post-doctoral and professorial candidates, researchers, professors.
Eligibility	Public and state-accredited German higher education institutions are eligible to apply for funding.
Application	The funding application must be submitted in full and on time via the DAAD online portal ( <a href="http://www.mydaad.de">www.mydaad.de</a> ) in German or English.
Application requirements	<p><b><u>Application documents</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project application (available on the DAAD portal)</li> <li>▪ Financing plan (available on the DAAD portal)</li> <li>▪ Project description, cf. <b>template</b> (attachment type: project description)</li> <li>▪ Project planning summary, cf. <b>template</b> (attachment type: project description)</li> <li>▪ Explanation of total financing, cf. <b>template</b> (attachment type: supplementary finance information)</li> <li>▪ Methodological-didactic teaching concept exemplified by a session of the course (attachment type: programme-specific attachments)</li> </ul> <p>The application documents are to be named according to the guidelines and are to be submitted under the specified attachment type before the deadline.</p> <p>Please note: Please make sure to provide the documents (including the information you enter on the DAAD portal) including all free text boxes consistently in one language only (German or English).</p> <p>Following the application deadline, the DAAD will neither request missing documents nor consider documents submitted or changes made at a later time. Incomplete applications will be excluded from the selection process.</p>
Application deadline	The application deadline is <b>25 May 2021</b> (CET).

## Selection process

### Selection of applications for project funding

Funding applications are selected based on evaluation of a DAAD-appointed selection committee.

Besides the general plausibility of the proposed project, the following selection criteria are considered:

- Relation of the project to the programme objectives (according to the programme's results framework) and results-oriented planning using indicators that meet the SMART criteria
- Integration of the overall concept into the digitalisation and internationalisation strategy of the participating institutes of higher education
- (Media) didactic concept
- Involvement and commitment of the foreign partner institution(s) within the framework of the methodical-didactic concept
- Inter-university applicability and use of platforms, interoperability and use of standards
- Potential for continuation of the digital-collaborative teaching offer
- Scaling potential of the technical, medial, methodical and didactic solutions and the digital tools into the university network and into other higher education institutions

## Contact

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
 German Academic Exchange Service  
 P44 – Digitalisation for Internationalisation, Universities of Applied Sciences  
 Kennedyallee 50  
 53175 Bonn

Samira Herb-Cless  
 tel.: +49 228 882-4534

Vera Bub  
 tel.: +49 228 882-8146

E-Mail: [ivac@daad.de](mailto:ivac@daad.de)

## Attachments

1. Guide to results-oriented monitoring
2. Country-specific residence and mobility lump sums (only in German)
3. DAAD table of fees (only in German)

## Important information and templates

- Explanation of total financing (cf. **template**)
- Project description (cf. **template**)
- Project planning summary (cf. **template**)
- Guide to completing the financing plan (only in German)
- Information on mobility with disability or chronic illness
- Information on Covid 19 regulations in project funding (only in German)
- List of FAQs (only in German)

### Networking measures of the DAAD community

Funding recipients and their respective projects participate in DAAD measures to build and interconnect the DAAD community. These include expert workshops and exchange formats. In the DAAD virtual exchange community, instructors can share experience, information, materials (e.g. helpful tools) and examples of good teaching practice. The functionality of this partnership-oriented service helps expand networks and develop new, jointly organised courses. In this digital environment, the DAAD provides instructors access to a global community of practice, and in so doing, contributes to strengthening digital competence in teaching.

For specific questions in the context of transatlantic cooperation, the DAAD's Regional Office in New York can also be contacted for support and advice - particularly for networking in the USA and Canada.

Financed by:



This is a translation of the German call for applications. Please note that the German call for applications forms the binding legal basis for applications in this programme.