



Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions 2016

1. What funding can I apply for under this scheme?

Australian funding will cover the costs of:

- return economy airfares from Australia to Germany;
- a per diem of either AUD 250 per day or a maximum of AUD 3,500 per month per person for each day spent at the host German institution, or at other locations in Germany necessary for the research in question.
- Maximum funding per year per project is AUD 12,500.
- The DAAD in Germany will fund the costs for the German applicant.

2. Do I have to apply for the full amount of funding available?

No. It is not compulsory to apply for the maximum per diem of AUD 250 per day or the maximum of AUD 12,500 per project.

Some universities will choose to fund projects at a lower level than the maximum \$12,500.

You should apply for the amount of funding that you feel is necessary and can show is required. You will be required to justify the requested budget.

3. How long can I stay in Germany?

Most visits under this scheme range from two to eight weeks. The length of visit is normally determined by the available funding and the amount of work required while in Germany.

Applicants who are able to stay for longer periods of time without breaching the maximum funding limits can do so if their research warrants a longer period of collaboration.

The DAAD prefers not to fund exchanges of less than two weeks in length due to the distance between Australia and Germany. By the time researchers recover from jetlag the DAAD is of the belief that there is little valuable work to be achieved in a visit of under 14 days.

4. Can I apply for funding for an early career researcher's salary?

No. This scheme funds travel and living costs for short-term visits to work on joint research projects in Germany. Please see section 5 of the terms and conditions.

5. How much funding is available in total for this scheme?

For the 2015 application round, Australian universities contributed a total of AUD 1.8 million. It is likely to be a similar amount for the 2016 round. Each university is able to nominate its level of contribution and will only fund those projects involving its own researchers.

6. What is the success rate for applications?

In 2015 the success rate was 31%. It will change from year to year as the DAAD budget is not always the same.

7. Is it compulsory for both Australian and German academics to travel?

This scheme is based on the [DAAD's Project Related Personnel Exchange Program \(PPP\)](#) and therefore it usually involves an exchange of researchers from and to Germany. However, there have been instances in the past where applicants have been successful even though they did not want to travel but could show the benefits of hosting a German colleague (and vice versa). While most projects selected for funding involve a two-way exchange, it is not compulsory.

8. Can I work with colleagues from more than one German university?

Yes, but the German colleagues must discuss which institution will be the lead institution on the German application. The lead institution in Germany is then responsible for administering the funds.

9. Can I submit a proposal for an interdisciplinary project? Will this be viewed favourably?

Yes, interdisciplinary projects are permitted and encouraged. They are not given preference over single discipline applications.

10. How are the qualifications of the German academics assessed?

The DAAD will assess the publications and academic track record of the German academics as well as the quality of the project infrastructure provided.

11. Where can my German colleague find information about the scheme in Germany?

The program details will be available in April 2016 from the [DAAD's website](#).

The contact officer at the DAAD is Mr Martin Müller: m.mueller@daad.de

12. Are all German higher education institutions eligible for DAAD funding?

No. Only publicly funded higher education and research institutions based in Germany are eligible for DAAD funding.

You can check this Study in Germany website for the name of your partner institution in Germany. <http://www.hochschulkompass.de/en/study-in-germany.html>.

You can also ensure your German colleague/s contact the DAAD to ascertain their eligibility for DAAD funding.

13. Is my collaborator eligible if he/she is not German but works in Germany?

The DAAD requires applicants to have German citizenship or permanent residence.

14. Do I have to be an early career researcher to apply?

No. The support of early career researchers is a significant focus of this scheme and will make up 1/3 of the overall assessment of the project. It is not compulsory to be an early career researcher to apply but if the project does not provide opportunities for ECRs it will not be considered.

15. Can I be a project leader if I am a PhD student?

No. PhD students are not entitled to submit applications on their own in either Germany or Australia. They must be part of a project with an academic staff member as project leader.

16. What is the definition of early career researcher?

For the purpose of this scheme early career researcher means:

- a PhD student enrolled at a participating Australian university;
- a researcher who has had a Research Masters or PhD awarded within five years from the date of the application;
- a researcher who received his or her award more than five years before the date of the application but who, due to career interruptions such as carer responsibilities, has had less than the equivalent of five cumulative years of research experience.

17. Can I apply if I am not a permanent resident?

Yes.

Australian applicants must be:

- employed as an academic staff member in a teaching and research or research only role at a participating Australian university administering the application and with a contract that is valid for the duration of the relevant funding period; or
- enrolled for the duration of the relevant funding period as a PhD or Research Masters student at a participating Australian university administering the application and part of a research project application submitted by an eligible staff member.

18. Can I apply if I am an honorary or adjunct staff member?

The eligibility of honorary and adjunct staff will be a matter for each university to decide internally and will be handled on a case by case basis. Please refer to your university's research office for clarification before applying.

19. Can I apply if I am an international PhD student?

The eligibility of international PhD students will be a matter for each university to decide internally and will be handled on a case by case basis. Please refer to your university's research office for clarification before applying.

20. Can I apply if I am on sabbatical or Special Studies Program Leave?

The eligibility of staff on any kind of academic leave will be a matter for each university to decide internally and will be handled on a case by case basis. Please refer to your university's research office for clarification before applying.

21. Is my application form all that is required or is there paperwork for my German research partner?

Your German collaborating partner **MUST** submit a corresponding application, with the same project title, to the DAAD in Bonn by the closing date. If no corresponding application is submitted the project will not be considered for funding. The DAAD uses an online application system which can be found at: <https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal>

22. Do I have to have an existing relationship with my German collaborators?

No. Existing and new partnerships are viewed equally under this scheme.

23. How will the applications be assessed in Australia and Germany?

1/3 for the quality and feasibility of the research project:

- Clarity of project goals
- Preparation work
- Work program and timeline
- Level of innovation
- Methods
- Suitability of the research questions in the context of the work program and timeline

1/3 for the qualifications of both research groups and their complementarities:

- Publications
- Academic record of the participants
- Project Infrastructure provided
- Content, methods, equipment
- Earlier collaborative work or publications
- How relevant is this cooperation for reaching the stated goals?

1/3 for the inclusion of early career researchers:

- Scientific importance of ECRs for the project
- Number and travel time of ECRs relevant to the project's goals.

A small number of bonus points (0.3 from a total of 10.3) can be awarded for:

- knowledge transfer between Australian and German researchers:
- lasting impact or wider effect of the cooperation (engagement with policy makers/industry).

Only the very best projects are awarded these extra points in Germany.

24. What happens if we have not collaborated previously? How can we prove “complementarity”, i.e. what kind of factors will be used to assess this?

The following aspects will be considered:

- Links between the research groups
- How their skill sets will work together
- Content, methods, equipment
- How relevant is this cooperation for reaching the stated goals?

25. Where can I find more information on projects which have been funded in the past?

The names of the 100 projects funded in 2015 are available on the UA website at:

<http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/australia-germany-joint-research>