



Welcome!

**Germany as a Partner for
Study, Research and
Cooperation**

Silvia Schmid, Director
DAAD Regional Office
Tbilisi

10 September 2026

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

AGENDA

- **About the DAAD**
- **About the DAAD Regional Office Tbilissi**
- **DAAD Funding Opportunities for**
 - **Students,**
 - **Researchers and**
 - **University Cooperation**



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About the DAAD



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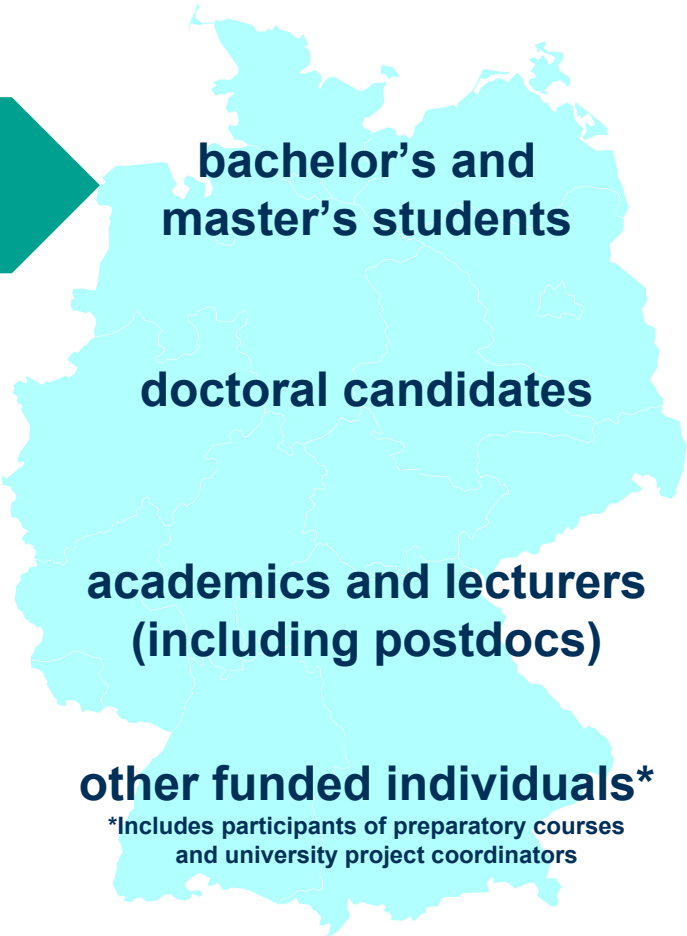
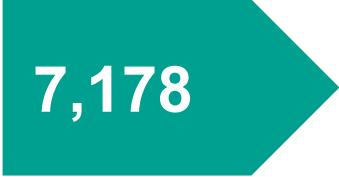
The DAAD is ...

- the world's largest funding organisation for international exchange.
- the independent organisation of German higher education institutions and their student bodies, devoted to internationalising the academic system.
- an experienced intermediary between higher education systems with a worldwide network.
- a German institution in Europe, which, as National Agency for Erasmus+, contributes to shaping the European Higher Education and Research Area.



DAAD funding recipients by academic status (2024)

From abroad



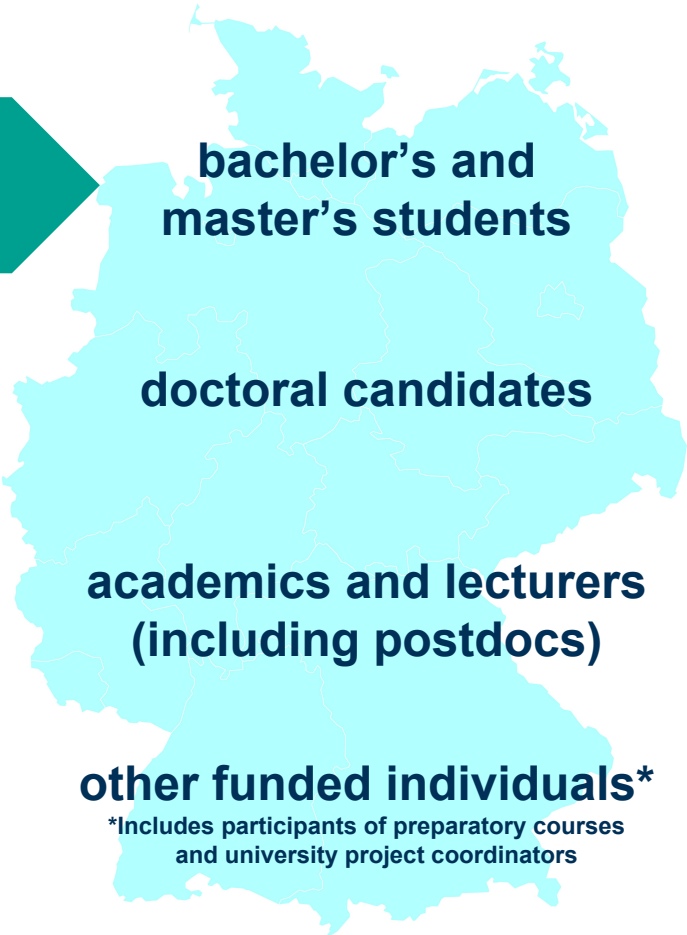
From Germany



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DAAD funding recipients by academic status (2025)

From Armenia to Germany (296)



From Germany to Armenia (120)



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About the DAAD Regional Office Tbilissi

Our work, our team

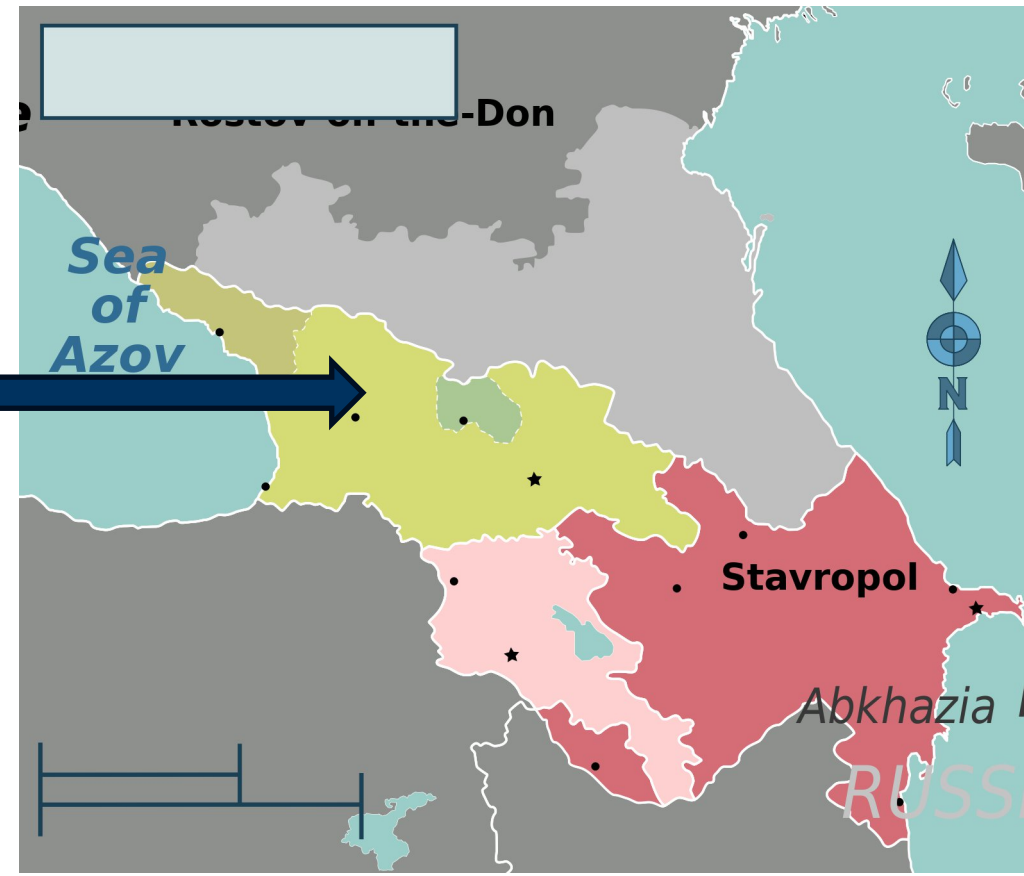


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DAAD Regional Office Tbilisi

A quick overview

- One branch office director, four locally employed staff,
- Responsible for three countries
- Key areas of focus:
 - Scholarship administration (2025: 1,053 applications for different programmes; on-site selection processes in all three countries)
 - Promotion of German (support for currently eight German language lecturers)
 - Regional cooperation
 - Alumni support
 - Information (over 5,000 consultations in 2025) and marketing



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Map from Travelpleb – own work, based on Caucasus regions map.svg by Peter Fitzgerald and the map of ethno-linguistic groups by Pmx, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24050793>

Our team

1. Silvia Schmid, Director
2. Dr. Nino Antadze, Deputy Director and Programme Administrator for Georgia
3. Arevik Harutyunyan, Programme Administrator for Armenia



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DAAD Funding Opportunities for Students

Overview



Five good reasons for a DAAD scholarship

1. Scholarship holders are given the opportunity to gain international study or research experience
2. Scholarship holders can focus on succeeding in their studies in Germany
3. Professional and personal growth
4. Financial benefits and personal support from the DAAD
5. Access to the DAAD alumni network
DAAD-AADL in Armenia



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DAAD scholarship benefits

- **Monthly scholarship instalments**
(992 euros for students and 1,400 euros for doctoral candidates)
- Subsidy toward **travel allowance**
- **Insurance** through the DAAD (illness, accident, personal liability)
- Funds for **German courses**

Depending on the scholarship programme, you can apply for **additional benefits** under certain conditions:

- **Rent subsidy**, if applicable
- **Family benefits**, if applicable:
 - allowance for accompanying partners: 276 euros per month
 - DAAD child allowance: 259 euros per child and month

Information about additional benefits can be found in the **scholarship advertisements** in the **scholarship database**.

**A scholarship does
not
need to be repaid!**



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Study Scholarships – Master Studies for all academic disciplines

- **Who can apply?**

Applicants with a first university degree (e. g. Bachelor)

- **What can be funded?**

- a full Master's degree programme completed at a university in Germany *or*
- one academic year in Germany as part of a Master's degree programme to be completed abroad (first or second year of study, graduation abroad).

- **Duration of the funding**

- between 10 and 24 months, depending on the duration of the chosen study programme



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www.daad.de/go/en/stipa5002620

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ERP – Study Scholarships for Graduates of Economics and Business Administration

- **What is special about this programme?**

Bachelor's students from **Eastern Europe** receive funding for a Master's degree in **Economics or Business Administration** at a German university

- **Who can apply?**

Excellent-qualified graduates who have completed a first degree (Bachelor or comparable academic degree) in the field of Economics and Business Administration

- **What can be funded?**

A complete Master's degree programme in Germany (1 to 2 years)

**EXTRA-TIPP –
higher chances
of funding!**



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www.funding-guide.de

ERP

University summer courses in Germany for foreign students and graduates

- **Who can apply?**

Students in Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes of all disciplines who have completed at least two academic years at the start of the scholarship

- **What can be funded?**

Language and area studies courses as well as special language courses at German universities and language institutes

- **Duration of the funding**

At least 18 teaching days in the period from June to September



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www.daad.de/go/en/stipa5003529

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DAAD Funding Opportunities for Researchers

Overview, tips & tricks



Research Grants in Germany

- **Who can apply?**

People who are already doing a doctorate doctoral programme at a university or research institution outside Germany or who

have already completed their doctorate doctoral studies (post-docs within four years of completing their studies post-docs, up to 4 years after completing their doctorate)

- **What can be funded?**

Research projects at a German university or research institution, in coordination with a German supervisor. supervisor in Germany

- **Duration of the funding:**

Doctoral students: 2 -12 months

Postdocs: 2 - 6 months



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www.daad.de/go/en/stipa57742121

Doctoral programmes in Germany

- **Who can apply?**

Excellent young academics and scientists.

- **What can be funded?**

- a) Individual doctoral projects in Germany supervised by a university lecturer *or*
- b) Participation in a structured doctoral study programme (Ph.D.)

- **The maximum duration of funding: 4 years.**



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www.daad.de/go/en/stipa57135739

Bi-nationally supervised doctoral degrees / Cotutelle

- **Who can apply?**

- a) **Bi-national supervision / “Sandwich PhD”**: Applicants must have completed a Master's degree or diploma by the start of the funding period at the latest. Applicants who have completed a Master's degree or Diploma at the latest at the start of the funding period.
- b) **“Cotutelle” procedure**: Applicants who have been admitted to a doctoral programme at the latest at the beginning of the scholarship

- **What can be funded?**

Research stays at a German university or research institute in for the preparation of a doctoral thesis which is supervised and carried out bi-nationally.

- a) Stays as part of a doctorate in the home country (**“sandwich model”**) with academic supervision at the home university and in Germany; the doctoral degree is awarded by the home university.
- b) Stays as part of a doctorate according to the **“Cotutelle” procedure**: After successful completion of the doctorate, the German university and the German and partner university generally award the doctoral degree jointly.



Application – what else to consider?

- A good DAAD scholarship application takes time
A good preparation for a DAAD scholarship takes time
- Applicants shall read the programme description thoroughly
Applicants should read the programme description thoroughly.
- Application times vary depending on the programme / country
- The application often require several documents, such as language certificates, letter of recommendation of a university lecturer
- **Although AI can be helpful, it can provide misleading or outdated information when preparing applications, and it will lead to generic and unconvincing documents when writing motivation letters or research proposals. Using AI must be stated in the application!**



Application documents – description of the research project

A fundamental part of the application for a research grant is the proposal, including:

- detailed and precise description of the research project
- presentation of the objectives of the research work
- Reflexion of the theoretical and methodical procedure
- description of the individual work steps

Applicants have to write and formulate their proposal by themselves!



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University Cooperation

Overview, strategies

General Advice for Cooperation

There are multiple examples of successful academic cooperation between foreign universities and German higher education institutions involving the exchange of students and/or professors, as well as joint academic projects.

Armenia: Currently 52 cooperations between Armenian and German higher education institutions*

Nevertheless, there is an even greater potential for establishing new collaboration in diverse fields of science.



Steps to Establish Cooperation with German Universities

Step 1: Determine your cooperation objective

Begin by defining:

- The field(s) of expertise involved, bearing in mind areas of shared and own interest of the HEI.
- The academic level, whether study, research and/or teaching.
- The goals to attain, such as increasing the number of German students and/or researchers at a given institution or vice versa, complementing study programs, collaborative research projects, etc.
- The grounds on which the contact is established with the destination HEI – such as existing cooperation, visits or fellowships of students and/or researchers and/or teachers, and more.
- The duration of the cooperation action.

Lastly, it is important to consider the definition of the objective on an individual basis with each one of the HEIs with which collaboration is desired.



Steps to Establish Cooperation with German Universities

Step 2: Identifying possible German partners

There are various paths to identify possible partners. For example, scientific journals publishing articles written by German researchers in their field of specialization can offer an initial contact. Another idea is to identify in your own institutions DAAD / Germany Alumni and take advantage of their direct contact with German members of academia.

Yet another option would be to use Internet search engines, i.e.:

- Higher Education Compass: Provides information and links to all State HEIs or others recognized by the German State; discusses study and research possibilities as well as international cooperation agreements.
<https://www.hochschulkompass.de/en/higher-education-institutions.html>
- German Research Institutions (GERiT): Directory of the German Research Foundation (DFG) with over 23,000 institutions listed, both universities and other.

<https://gerit.org/en/>



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Steps to Establish Cooperation with German Universities

Step 3: Contact with German universities

1. Identify the person in charge of the internationalization department, the researcher or academic with whom one wishes to establish a relationship for cooperation, or the dean of the faculty in question.
2. Draft an email in English or in German. The email should introduce your institution and explain the interest in cooperating with the counterpart, clearly and directly stipulating the cooperation objective sought.
3. Maintain contact after the first email. Follow up on the specification of priorities and guidelines proposed for cooperation, as well as other aspects as deemed necessary.

Steps to Establish Cooperation with German Universities

Step 4: Find Funding

DAAD has a broad array of possibilities to establish or foster collaboration between foreign and German HEIs, at both the individual and institutional levels.

You can start for example with:

- Utilising research stays at German higher education institutions to get to know potential project partners. Information on funding opportunities you can find in the DAAD Scholarship database.
- Inviting a German university lecturer to a symposium or to a specialist lecture: (German guest can apply for DAAD *Kongressreisenprogramm*)
- You can invite a German lecturer for a short-term lectureship (1-6 months): *Kurzzeitdozentur*

Please note: For the DAAD project funding programmes only German Universities can apply!



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**Thank you for
your attention**

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Thank you for
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