



## **Call for Applications**

**Procedures and guidelines for Mexican academic institutions applying to participate as partner institutions in the co-financed scholarship programme:**

***Programa de Beca para Estudiantes Mexicanos de Ingenierías y Ciencias Naturales***

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***Combined Study and Practice Stays for Engineers from Developing Countries (KOSPIE)***

Subject to the approval of the  
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Application closing date: 11/03/2024**

**Final Selection: April 2024**

## What are the programme's background and objectives?

The *Combined Study and Practice Stays for Engineers from Developing Countries (KOSPIE)* scholarship programme for undergraduate students focuses on training future professionals and managerial staff from Mexico by supporting academic studies at German institutions of higher education (HEIs) and internship placements at German companies. As the main target audience, students from engineering and natural science disciplines gain subject-specific know-how, as well as practical, sector-specific experience.

The programme will be carried out by the DAAD in collaboration with German and Mexican institutions of higher education, **who will also be expected to bear part of the programme's costs<sup>1</sup>**, with resources from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). KOSPIE offers scholarships to students who plan to pursue a career in the private or public sector in Mexico after completing their studies in their home institutions.

**This call for applications is therefore aimed at higher education institutions in Mexico wishing to participate as partners within the programme. Scholarships are exclusively awarded to students from the selected institutions.**

By training future academic and professional leaders, KOSPIE contributes to the following **long-term impacts** promoting sustainable development:

- Qualified professionals' involvement in the solution of development-related problems in Mexico and/or in their region of origin.
- Strengthening of the private and public sector in Mexico.

To achieve these, the following outcomes have been formulated as programme objectives:

**Programme objective 1:** Alumni of the programme are well-prepared to meet future technical and professional challenges in their jobs.

**Programme objective 2:** Scholarship holders of the programme intend to use their competences in their country/region of origin, in the context of a development-related field of activity.

**Programme objective 3:** The practice-oriented and international profile of the alumni increases their employability in or for their region of origin.

## Who is eligible for application? Which subject areas are eligible for funding?

The target group for scholarships is undergraduate students from Mexico. Funding is generally granted for a period up to 13 months in Germany. Selected students complete a German language course, a study semester at a German higher education institution and an internship at a German company. The study semester will be carried out at one of the German counterparts who participate in the programme. The respective German HEIs will be selected in an upcoming call

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<sup>1</sup> Expected contribution may be also provided by a third party/alternative funding source.



later in 2024. A list of the current partners in Germany is included as an annex to this call for applications. **All further details regarding scholarship funding are also listed below.**

Considering the requirements of the target audience at the student level, Mexican higher education institutions which offer high-quality undergraduate programmes in engineering and/or natural sciences, can apply as part of this institutional call. Economic and management sciences might be considered in exceptional cases.

The proposed study programmes included as part of the application must be within the areas of interest of this scholarship programme (see above) and must have graduated at least the first student intake successfully. Newer programmes that do not comply cannot be considered as part of the process.

### Programme structure / Conditions of co-financing

After being successfully admitted to the KOSPIE programme through a selection process, the Mexican partner institution receives a maximum number of scholarships each intake. This number is agreed to between the DAAD and the admitted institution, which can include -but is not limited to- the following criteria: number of qualified applicants, available financial resources, and institutional support.

The Mexican partner institutions will be affiliated with the programme for three intakes.<sup>2</sup> The involvement as a partner in this programme will generally take the form of a cooperation agreement between the DAAD and the selected institution.

#### General programme structure and timetable\*

August – September*	Convocation of scholarships at Mexican partner institution
October – November*	Selection of scholarship holders (two-stage process)
December	Selected candidates register online at the DAAD portal
April / May	Placement at German HEI
July – September*	Intensive German language course at language institute in Germany
October – February	Semester at German HEI
February / March – July	Internship at German company

\*This period may begin at an earlier time.

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<sup>2</sup> Afterwards, it is possible to reapply for further participation, contingent on being selected once again by the respective committee in a new call for applications.

### Conditions of co-financing for each scholarship

The following programme costs per scholarship holder will be covered by the DAAD and the partner institution. Alternatively, the expected contribution may be also provided by a third party or alternative funding source.

Scholarship benefits*	Duration	DAAD**	Partner Institution / third party / alternative financial source
Travel allowance		Up to 2.820 €	
Intensive German language course before the start of semester in Germany (including housing and language test fee)	2 - 3 months	Up to 3.940 €	
Pocket money during language course in Germany	2 - 3 months	Up to 1.430 €	
Scholarship rate (10 months)	10 months	3.340 €	6.000 €
Study and Research Subsidy	single	460 €	
Health, Care, Accident and Liability Insurance	14 months	1.434 €	
Expenses for supervision at German university	10 months	Up to 1.000 €	
<b>Total amount per scholarship</b>		<b>Up to 14.424 €</b>	<b>6.000 €</b>

\* Estimated and currently valid amount per scholarship - final amount subject to respective guidelines of the funding ministry (BMZ) and the DAAD.

\*\* Indicated costs per measure refer to **total amount** per scholarship

**In addition**, the Mexican partner institution (or third party/alternative funding source) contributes to the supervision expenses related to the implementation and supervision of the programme with the following fixed amounts: **1.950 EUR** per scholarship holder per year of the respective partner institution, payable to the DAAD.

### Which are the selection criteria for applying institutions?

The proposals will be evaluated according to formal and content criteria, with particular emphasis on relation to development issues and result orientation. The following criteria will be applied in the evaluation of applications:

1. **Academic expertise:** The applying institution provides high-quality academic education in the fields of engineering and/or natural sciences. It reflects application-oriented skills and know-how, as well as the use of up-to-date concepts, methods and methodologies in its field.

2. **Implementation of the programme:** The applying institution provides sufficient infrastructure and efficient management for the implementation, as well as administration, of the programme. It has identified a member of staff who will oversee the administration and who will also act as contact partner for the DAAD.
3. **Cooperation and networking:** The applying institution regularly pursues cooperation and networking activities within and beyond academia, fostering inter-institutional and international exchange. Experience in managing international projects and cooperation with German partners are especially desirable.
4. **Selection of scholarship holders:** The applying institution demonstrates a transparent selection process. The implementation of measures to enhance participation of underprivileged groups<sup>3</sup> is considered an asset.
5. **Diversity and inclusion:** The applying institution offers support to underprivileged groups in order to enable them to enrol in its academic programmes (e.g., tuition waivers, need-based grant aid, etc.), and/or provides a respective support concept that details measures of enhancing diversity and inclusion at the institution and within its student body.
6. **Desirable: German preparatory course** - The planning and offering of preparatory German courses for participating students is one of the commitments assumed by the participating institutions and must be explicitly mentioned in the letter of institutional support. If the applying institution does not have the internal capacity of doing so, the involvement of external partners in this endeavour (e.g., independent language institutes) can also be considered as part of the plan.
7. **Desirable: Accreditation:** The applying institution corresponds to the higher education accreditation standards in Mexico

### Which are the selection criteria for students that apply for a scholarship?

The selection of scholarship holders will take place after the selection of the Mexican partner institutions. These will screen, preselect (according to DAAD selection criteria) and short-list twice as many applicants as scholarships are available. As part of the standard process, the following must be submitted to the DAAD:

- A complete list of all the short-listed students and their applications
- A pre-selection report (including information on possible candidates from underprivileged groups)
- Lists showing the members of the pre-selection committee and explaining the criteria employed

The DAAD reserves the right of final selection. KOSPIE scholarships can only be awarded to applicants who:

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<sup>3</sup> This is related to e.g., social or regional background.

- Have successfully completed generally six semesters of their undergraduate studies and gained 60% of the required credit points
- Present above average results (**8.5** as the minimum academic average)
- Clearly show motivation and strong commitment concerning both their academic subject and their interest in the solution of development-related problems in Mexico and/or in their region of origin
- Have already gained basic knowledge of the German language (level A2 completed according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)
- Have thorough knowledge of English (TOEFL: iBT 79-80 / ITP 550; IELTS: 6,0)
- Have completed their university entrance qualification not more than 6 years ago at the time of application
- Must be nationals or permanent residents of Mexico

## Selection procedure

The selection of partner institutions is carried out by an independent committee of university professors nominated by the DAAD.

## Required application documents

### 1. **Application form**, including:

- Concept that explains the successful implementation of the programme at the applying institution. This should also include a detailed description of how the scholarship programme will be made public at the applying institution/how the call for applications will be published.
- Detailed description of internationalisation measures carried out at the applying institution during the last 5 years.
- Information on a support concept, comprising measures to enhance the participation of underprivileged groups, as outlined previously.

***Note: All points of the application form must be answered as comprehensively as possible. Failure to complete individual parts could lead to disqualification.***

2. **Annex 1**, detailing all study programmes that are to be considered as part of the application

3. **Signed endorsement by the leadership of the applying institution**, including confirmation that the scholarship payments, as well as supervision expenses, will be covered by the applying institution, a third party, or an alternative funding source.

If applicable: Charter certificate of the applying institution/accreditation certificate(s) of institution and/or study programmes.



## Application closing date and submission

Institutions that want to apply can submit their completed applications until the **11<sup>th</sup> of March 2024**

The electronic version should be sent to:

**Roberto Campos Giesemann** - [campos@daadmex.org](mailto:campos@daadmex.org)

The selection of Mexican partner institutions will be completed by the end of April 2024.

## Legal notice on funding

This call and the pursuing agreements after the selection process are subject to funding by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

## Contact and consultation

Before applying, a sufficiently prior consultation with DAAD is highly recommended. Please contact:

**Roberto Campos Giesemann** - [campos@daadmex.org](mailto:campos@daadmex.org)