

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***

**COMBINED STUDY AND PRACTICE STAYS FOR
ENGINEERS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
(KOSPIE)**

Subject to the approval of the funding ministry

Application Closing Date: 22/02/2021

Final Selection: March 2021



What are the programme's background and objectives?

The scholarship programme *Programa de Beca para Estudiantes Mexicanos de Ingenierías y Ciencias Naturales* for Mexican undergraduate students focuses on training future professionals and managerial staff from Mexico by supporting academic studies at German Universities and internship placements in Germany, especially for students from engineering and natural science disciplines. During their stay in Germany the students gain subject-specific know-how at German universities as well as practical, sector-specific experience in German companies.

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 (expected contribution may be also provided by a third party/alternative funding source)**. It offers scholarships to engineering and/or natural sciences students who plan to pursue a career in the private or public sector in Mexico after completing their studies in Mexico.

This call for applications is therefore aimed at higher education institutions in Mexico wishing to participate as partner institutions in the programme. Scholarships are awarded to students from selected institutions that are affiliated with the programme.

By training future academic and professional leaders, the scholarship programme 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 long-term impacts, 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 development-related field of activity.

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

The target group for scholarships are 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 university and an internship at a German company. The study semester will be carried out at one of the German universities who participate in the programme. The respective German institutions of higher education will be selected in an upcoming call later in 2021. A list of the currently participating German universities can be found as annex to this call for application. **All further details regarding scholarship funding are also listed below and in the respective call for applications.**

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

Universities from Mexico offering high-quality undergraduate programmes in engineering and/or natural sciences. Economic and management sciences might be considered in exceptional cases.

Programme structure / Conditions of co-financing

After being successfully admitted to the programme through a selection process, the Mexican partner institution receives a maximum number of scholarships each intake. The number depends on the number of places offered by the respective partner institution, the number of qualified applicants, and available financial resources.

The Mexican partner institutions will be affiliated with the programme for three intakes. Afterwards they can reapply for further participation. The participation as

a partner institution in this programme will generally take the form of a cooperation agreement between the DAAD and the partner 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 university
July – September*	Intensive German language course at language institute in Germany
October – February	Semester at German university
February / March – July	Internship at German company

*tbc – subject to available resources and approval of funding ministry

**This period may begin at an earlier time.

Conditions of Co-financing for each scholarship

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

Scholarship benefits*	Duration	DAAD**	Partner Institution / third party / alternative financial source
Travel allowance		Up to 2350 € ***	
Intensive German language course before the start of semester in Germany (including housing and language test fee)	2 - 3 months	Up to 3.861 €	
Pocket money during language course in Germany	2 - 3 months	Up to 1.230 €	
Scholarship rate (10 months)	10 months	3.610 €	5.000€
Study and Research Subsidy	single	460 €	
Health, Care, Accident and Liability Insurance	14 months	1.225 €	
Expenses for supervision at German university	10 months	Up to 1.000 €	
Total amount per scholarship		Up to 13.736 €	5.000 €

* estimated and currently valid amount per scholarship-- final amount subject to respective guidelines of funding ministry

** indicated costs per measure refer to **total amount** per scholarship

*** The DAAD will probably cover the travel allowance, but it is subject to the approval of the funding ministry.

Which are the selection criteria for applying institutions?

The Mexican partner institution (or third party/alternative funding source) contributes to the supervision expenses incurred in connection with the implementation and supervision of the programme with the following fixed amounts: 1.500 EUR per scholarship holder per year of the respective partner institution, payable to the DAAD.

The application 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 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 and administration of the programme. It has identified a member of staff who will be in charge of the administration and 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 demonstration of the implementation of measures to enhance participation of underprivileged groups related to, e.g., social or regional background, is considered an asset.
5. **Highly Desirable: Diversity and inclusion:** The applying institution offers support to underprivileged groups related to, e.g., social or regional background 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 comprising measures of enhancing diversity and inclusion at the institution and within its student body.
6. **Desirable: Accreditation:** The applying institution corresponds to the higher education accreditation standards in Mexico and has graduated at least the first student intake successfully 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. The Mexican partner institution will screen, preselect (according to DAAD selection criteria) and short-list twice as many applicants as scholarships are available. A complete list of all the short-listed applicants and their applications, a pre-selection report (including information on possible candidates from underprivileged groups) and lists showing the participants of the pre-selection committee and explaining the criteria employed, must be submitted to the DAAD. DAAD reserves the right of final selection.

Considering that, DAAD scholarships can only be awarded to applicants who:

- 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 international peers (university professors) nominated by the DAAD.

Required application documents

- Application form, including:
 - Concept that explains the successful implementation of the programme at the applying institution. The concept should also include a detailed description of how the scholarship programme will be made public at the applying institution/how the call for application will be published.
 - Detailed description of internationalisation measures carried out at the applying institution during the last 5 years.
 - If applicable: Information on a support concept comprising measures to enhance the participation of underprivileged groups related to, e.g., social or regional background (e.g. tuition waivers, need-based grant aid, etc.).
- Signed endorsement of the leadership of the applying institution including the confirmation that the scholarship payments as well as supervision expenses will be covered by the applying institution (**or by a third party/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

Universities from Mexico can submit their completed applications until the 22nd of February 2021

The electronic version should be sent to: Roberto Campos Giesemann, campos@daadmex.org

The selection of Mexican partner institutions will be completed by the end of March 2021.

Contact and consultation

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

Roberto Campos Giesemann, campos@daadmex.org