

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and NSF Project Based Personnel Exchange Programmes (DAAD-NSF PPP)

Programme

The 'Project-based Personnel Exchange Programme'(PPP) is a bilateral research promotion programme which is the result of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in April, 2018 between the DAAD, Germany and the National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka.

Aims

The aim of the programme is to strengthen the collaboration between Sri Lankan and German research groups, which are working jointly on a particular scientific project. The programme 'Project- based Personnel Exchange' envisages an emphasis on academic training and specialization of young researchers.

Target Group

- Scientists/ researchers, university academics, post-doctoral researchers and doctoral students
- University academics, scientists/researchers and post-doctoral researchers from German and Sri Lankan universities and those in permanent positions at public funded research institutes are eligible to apply.
- It is specially encouraged to include young 'early career researchers'. This means a PhD student enrolled at a participating university or a research institution, a researcher who has had a PhD or a Research Masters degree awarded within five years before the date of the application, or a researcher who received his or her award of that degree more than five years before the date of application, but who due to career interruptions such as career responsibilities, has had less than equivalent of five cumulative years of research experience.
- Projects which do not include 'early career researchers' on both sides will not be considered.

Project Proposal

- The pre-requisite for application is a concrete and precise scientific research project proposal of high quality, on which academics from both countries jointly and complementarily work on.
- The research group on each side should consist of a project leader and up to two doctoral students or post-doctoral researchers. The total number of participants in the project **should not exceed three (03) from each side.**

- Application shall be considered by NSF, Sri Lanka and DAAD, Germany only if a parallel application has been submitted simultaneously by the Sri Lankan and German partner to NSF, Sri Lanka and DAAD, Germany respectively.
- Only those applications that have been submitted by both partners to NSF, Sri Lanka (by Sri Lankan partner) as well as to DAAD (by German partner), complete in all respects, shall be considered further for evaluation. Incomplete applications, in form, shall be summarily rejected.
- The project proposal must be clearly described in, the concrete tasks that would be undertaken by the German group.
- The scientific contents of the proposals from both sides must depict complementarity and synergy
- Each project would run for 02 years.
- In case the applicant leaves his/her institution before the expiry of the official validity of the project, its continuity must be safeguarded, for instance through a written confirmation by the grantee institution.

Funding

- The basic funding for the project (personnel and material costs on both sides) must already be secured by own funds or by a third-party funding.
- DAAD shall bear the expenses related to international travel (including medical insurance, visa fee) and the daily allowance, accommodation and the domestic travel costs of the members of the German research group to visit their Sri Lankan partner institution
- Prospective counterpart project participants from Sri Lanka must meet their expenditure from their own affiliated institutions if visiting and stay in Germany **as NSF is not in a position to meet funding requirements at this juncture due to severe budgetary constraints.** In this occasion, the NSF will facilitate collaboration among research teams remotely through its Global Digital Platform.
- The applications shall be evaluated on both sides by an independent selection committee. The final selection shall be made jointly by NSF, Sri Lanka and DAAD, Germany.

Selection Criteria

- The project description must clearly mention the criteria used for selection of the scientists/research scholars to be supported.
- Subject-related, institutional, interdisciplinary value addition by the co-operation between the two groups
- Scientific quality of the project (clarity of project objectives and methodology)
- Scientific status of the project: national relevance/addressing national high priority concern, topicality and degree of innovation of the project
- Feasibility of the research project (in particular: basic financial security, preliminary work and further planning, Project-relevant competence of the two research groups, articles published in indexed and Peer-reviewed Journals, patents acquired, national/international awards received and experience in the field etc).
- Strengths of the local and foreign institutions
- Complementarity of the two research groups in the joint project (with regard to methodology, content, instruments) and mutual arrangement between the two parties
- Potential scientific and socio-economic impact
- Involvement of Young Scientists (Age Below 40) and Gender Balance
- Presentation and Communication skills