

**Project Based Personnel Exchange Programme (PPP) by the National Science Foundation,
Sri Lanka (NSF) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
7th Joint Call for Proposals – 2025**

Guidelines

Programme

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

Aims

The basic aim of the programme is to strengthen the collaboration between Sri Lankan and German research groups, which are working jointly on a particular scientific research project. The programme 'Project- based Personnel Exchange' envisages, in this connection, financial support for operational mobility only. Particular emphasis is thereby accorded to academic training, research collaboration and specialization of young researchers.

Target Group

- Scientists/ researchers, university academics, post-doctoral researchers and doctoral students, industrial researchers, etc.
- University academics, scientists/researchers and post-doctoral researchers from German and Sri Lankan universities and those in permanent positions at private funded research industries 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 and researchers 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.**
- The basic funding for the research project (personnel and material costs on both sides) must be secured by own funds or by third party funding.
- Application shall be considered by NSF, Sri Lanka and DAAD only if a parallel application has been submitted simultaneously by the Sri Lankan and German partners to NSF, Sri Lanka and DAAD 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 and in accordance with the requirements of the respective partner organization, shall be considered further for evaluation. Incomplete applications, in form, shall be summarily rejected.
- The research project proposal must be clearly described in, the concrete tasks that would be undertaken by the German group and those by the Sri Lankan partner.
- The scientific contents of the proposal must be common from both sides.
- Each project would run up to 02 years (24 months) and no follow-up application possible.
- 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's institution.

Funding

- The financial support under this scheme is available from Sri Lanka only to support exchange visits to the partner institution, which are undertaken during the course of the project-related collaboration. These allowances cover all the expenses related to mobility and hospitality.
- Short term stays of scientists and doctoral students are eligible for funding.
- The maximum duration of stay for scientists is 30 days per visit per year and for doctoral students it is 50 days per visit per year.
- The project Statement must clearly mention the criteria used for selection of the scientists/research scholars to be supported.

- Within the validity of the project duration, a maximum of 4 visits by the Sri Lankan participants shall be funded subject to the condition that not more than one visit is permitted during a year for a particular project participant.
- The funds can be utilized only to support mobility of the project participants officially included in the project statement.
- The DAAD provides funds to German participants for international travel to and from Sri Lanka and their stay in Sri Lanka in the form of lump sums. (Applicants on German side should contact DAAD/read DAAD requirements for further details on funding).
- Sri Lankan funder shall bear the expenses related to international travel (including airfare, medical insurance and visa fee) and the daily allowance, meals, accommodation and the domestic travel costs of the members of the Sri Lankan research group to visit their German partner institution.
- It is understood that the expenses incurred in connection with the visit which go beyond the scope of funding provided by DAAD and Sri Lankan funder (basic office set-up, procurement of equipment, consumables, documentation, photocopies & printing and personnel costs) will be borne by respective Institutions.
- The following shall not be funded:
 1. Projects of the Sri Lankan-German Cooperation in Research and Technology that pertain to the same topic, which are already being funded by another mode, and also include personnel exchange
 2. Pure skill enhancement projects
 3. Bilateral collaboration, which form only a part of an otherwise multilateral collaboration funded through other routes
 4. Language courses
 5. Individual scholarships
 6. Project-related ancillary expenses (computing time, material expenses, documentations, photocopying and printing expenses)
 7. Expenses towards setting up basic facilities such as office space and equipment, as well as staff expenses
 8. Pure seminar events
 9. Conference participation
- The Sri Lankan applicants should come in to consensus with the local industrial partners from the private sector prior to applying for this call.
- The maximum funding limit for each project by each funding agency component from Sri Lanka for a

total project period of 02 years would be Euro 6,000/-. The local industrial partner should clearly consent through written consent to grant that amount of funds.

- The applications shall be evaluated on both sides by independent selection committee. The final selection shall be made jointly by NSF, Sri Lanka and DAAD.
- Up to five (05) projects will be selected for joint funding.

Industrial Partners

- Should be a registered local industry or approved multinational industry.
- Should clearly consent through written consent to grant Euro 6,000/- for a total project period of 02 years for a research team (i.e., not exceeding one visit per researcher per year).
- Provide a brief statement mentioning how the investment of funds for this mobility would benefit their R & D/cater to their industrial needs.

The original research project on which the mobility visit is based

- Should align with the national high priority concerns of Sri Lanka mentioned in policy documents such as Public Investment Programme, National Development Policy Framework, R&D Policy framework, Integrated Rural Development Framework etc.
- Should be already funded.

Selection Criteria

- ✓ Alignment with national high-priority research concerns of Sri Lanka and the industrial needs in line with same.
- ✓ Qualification and experience of the research teams
- ✓ Project plan: methodology, approach, strategy, structure and documentation
- ✓ Level of originality and innovation
- ✓ Social and developmental added value for Sri Lankan-German collaboration i.e. showing that collaboration produces better scientific results than would emerge from research carried out by Sri Lankan and German side alone
- ✓ Purpose of cooperation among groups
- ✓ Exploitation and dissemination of results
- ✓ Contribution to fostering the careers of young researchers/early career researchers

Attachments to the NSF-DAAD PPP Application

- The applicant should submit the full research project proposal project on which the visit is based, along with the approved budget and the timeline along with the PPP application.
- A copy of the Funds Award Letter/Funding Agreement of the original research project should be attached to the PPP application as evidence.
- A complete Project Statement giving the details of all planned visits are to be submitted along with the application (Annex A).
- A statement from the Industrial Partner mentioning the willingness to fund the visits and stating the benefits to the industry (i.e., R & D and other) is to be attached to the application (Annex B).

Reporting

- A brief visit report should be submitted by the applicant/visiting researcher/s to NSF and the Sri Lankan Funder (i.e., the industry partner) within 01 month after completion of each visit on;
 - Activities carried out during the visit
 - How they were complementary to the work with the German collaborators
 - Practical implementation of the gained knowledge and skills in industry and research

Important dates

- Opening of the 7th Joint Call between DAAD and NSF, Sri Lanka on Project Based Personal Exchange Programmes (PPPs): 1st October, 2025
- Closing date: 28th November, 2025
- Applicants from Sri Lanka should submit their applications on or before the midnight of 28.11.2025 to: daad@nsf.gov.lk
- The contact person of the NSF, Sri Lanka:
Ms Thilina Kumari Kandanamulla, Senior Scientific Officer
National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka.
Tel: 0112696771 Ext. 156
E mail: thilina@nsf.gov.lk
- The contact person of the DAAD, Bonn (for applicants from German institutions only):
Mrs Heike Gabler, gabler@daad.de, [DAAD PPP website](#)