Dear Partners and Friends,

Welcome to the very first newsletter edition of DAAD Information Center Beirut. Academic relations between Lebanon and Germany have a longstanding tradition. With the establishment of the bureau of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Beirut and the official opening in 2016, our goal is to bring academic ties between our two countries to new heights.

Why is Germany a Top Study and Research Destination?

University tradition in Germany dates back more than 600 years when the first university was established in Heidelberg in 1386. Germany offers a unique higher education system comprised of more than 400 universities and colleges of music, art, and film. "The Land of Ideas" has produced 108 Nobel Prize laureates, ranking it third worldwide. Germany ranks second in hosting the most reputable universities in Europe. Additionally, Germany is among the most internationalized university systems. Due to massive state subsidies, higher education is affordable in Germany. Remarkably, the vast majority of German universities do not discriminate between German citizens and international students. In the area of Research, more than 1000 publicly funded, internationally renowned research facilities are available to international researchers. Furthermore, Germany offers among the highest quality of life in the world and is in geographic proximity to Lebanon—Berlin is only a four hour flight away from Beirut.

Lebanon Holds Tremendous Academic Potential

The country of the Cedars hosts some of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the region. Lebanese students are exposed to various cultures from a young age and often master three languages—an indispensable asset in a globalized world. Lebanese academia has committed itself to internationalization. Through its programs, the DAAD is helping in this process.

This longer edition will present a comprehensive overview of DAAD’s activities in Lebanon. None could have been realized without the active support of all DAAD colleagues involved. Our Lebanese and German partners will also introduce their programs. I would like to thank each of them for the meaningful partnerships we have established together. Finally, I like to dedicate my special thanks to H.E. Martin Huth, German Ambassador to Lebanon, who has always been a strong supporter of DAAD's mission.
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Upcoming DAAD Scholarships

Scholarships for RESEARCH

**Please note that DAAD scholarships are country-based**

Please visit the links below for more information!

Research Grants—Doctoral Programmes in Germany
Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists
Research Grants—Short-Term Grants
Research Grants—One Year Grants
Research Grants—Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees
Re-invitation Programme for Former Scholarship Holders
A Message from H.E. Martin Huth, German Ambassador to Lebanon

Dear Readers,

“Knowledge is power” as the proverb says. I believe that indeed knowledge is the ultimate currency, without which a modern human society would be inconceivable. Recognizing the significance of knowledge and hence of education, it is not by accident that Education—including Higher Education—has been identified as a global Sustainable Development Goal by the United Nations.

The Legacy of Knowledge Production in Lebanon and the MENA Region

We do not need to look beyond the borders of Lebanon or the MENA region to find examples and patterns favorable to the flourishing of knowledge, science and research. Lebanon and the MENA region are able to refer back to a rich legacy. In ancient history, the Phoenicians of modern-day Lebanon invented what is widely considered the oldest verified alphabet. During the Islamic Golden Age, art, science and research blossomed in the region. These dynamics are symbolized by monumental Institutions such as Bayt al-Hikma, the House of Wisdom—an academy, an intellectual hub, a library in the heart of Abbasid Baghdad for study, knowledge exchange and research in multiple disciplines with high local, regional and transregional appeal. This era, during which immense scientific progress was achieved, is embodied by prominent polymaths such as Ibn Khaldoun, to only name one scholar among many others. More recently, the writings of the late and beloved Samir Kassir, during the an-Nahda commonly known as the era of Arab Awakening recall a more recent age to mind for knowledge and inspiration. This was a period of cultural renaissance, of intellectual modernization and reform that greatly affected Lebanon.

Today, Lebanon is home to some of the region’s most distinguished universities. High academic standards in Lebanon are not limited to Medicine, Engineering and the Natural Sciences, but apply as well to the Social Sciences and the Humanities—disciplines which often face constraints elsewhere in the region. Universities and research institutions are the powerhouses for generating knowledge. They hold the key to building knowledge societies.

My country, Germany, is a knowledge-based economy and a knowledge-based society, which heavily relies on its human capital. German research is unique in that both basic and applied research, as well as industrial development, go hand in hand more than in any other country. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), mainly represents German Higher Education and Research in Lebanon. What’s more, with the Orient-Institut Beirut—located in an Ottoman villa in the Zokak el-Blat quarter—we have a German Research Institute of the highest renown in the heart of Lebanon.

Germany with its excellent higher education system and research infrastructure is ready to stand by Lebanon’s side as a strong and reliable partner. I invite Lebanese and German academics, and institutions alike, not only to strengthen academic ties but to become partners. I wish DAAD Lebanon and all involved continuous success in this endeavor.

Ambassador Martin Huth © German Embassy Beirut

Martin Huth
A DAAD-Welcome from Germany

DAAD supports talented students, graduates and scientists who seek excellent study and research opportunities in Germany and abroad. We support cooperative research and study programs of German Higher Education Institutions with partners worldwide, provide expertise on higher education systems of partner countries and work closely with our members on international exchange and collaboration.

Excellent science needs academic exchange, it needs promoting talents worldwide, it needs transnational cooperation, it needs networking amongst knowledge-based societies and the private sector. All this is at the heart of our activities.

DAAD Worldwide Network

None of this could be done without the support of our worldwide network of offices. It is the colleagues on site who keep close contact to partners within the university system, who follow the developments in politics, economics, society and higher education in their host countries and who provide this expertise to German Higher Education Institutions. They also offer advice and information on the German higher education system to universities, students, researchers and policy-makers in their host countries.

“As populist nationalism is growing in a steadily increasing number of countries, DAAD ever so strongly believes in international exchange.”

We observe the phenomenon of counter-factual argumentation, of decreasing trust in science, and are convinced that academic cooperation can be a powerful tool against this – in Germany as well as in Lebanon, and worldwide.

Felix Wagenfeld

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Felix Wagenfeld is Head of Section “Coordination of Regional Expertise” at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). His section is responsible for mapping and monitoring all of DAAD’s activities to facilitate internal and external knowledge exchange with stakeholders in academia worldwide and politics/policies.

Important Links

www.study-in.de
All Degree Programmes in Germany

www.daad.de/deutschland
Studying and Living in Germany

www.funding-guide.de
Scholarships and Funding

www.daad.de/international-programmes
International Programmes in Germany

www.summerschools.de
Language and Short Courses in Germany
German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier Visits Lebanon and Receives Honorary Doctorate from the Lebanese University

German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier © Bundesregierung / Steffen Kugler

“I not only believe that dialogue can be achieved, but I believe that Beirut can be the place where it is achieved. Beirut lies at the intersection of many opposing interests and many tensions. And yet it can be a place of hope, indeed inspiration, far beyond its own borders – for the entire region.”*

These were the words of Federal President Steinmeier on January 30, 2018 while addressing students at the Lebanese University. Earlier that day he visited German soldiers from the UNIFIL mission on the Corvette 'Magdeburg', met with Premier Saad Hariri, Speaker of the House Nabih Berri and laid a wreath at the Martyrs' Square in the heart of Beirut.

German Embassy Beirut

“Beirut is the capital of a country that believes in accepting others, in the ability to overcome conflicts and that is, last but not least, founded on the democratic virtue that is the willingness to reach compromises. This makes Beirut a city that is loved by all Arabs, and this fascination is shared far beyond the borders of the Middle East.”**

German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier


Please visit the link above for the complete speech of German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.
The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Lebanon organized a panel discussion on “The Effects of the Syria Crisis on the Lebanese Higher Education System” in Beirut

On the occasion of the official visit of the German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to Lebanon, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Lebanon organized a panel discussion around the situation in the Higher Education sector of Lebanon on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at the Hotel Hilton, Beirut.

Presided over by Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel, the President of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the event gathered more than 80 participants, including experts from several Lebanese and international institutions related to higher education, partners of DAAD as well as Lebanese and Syrian students sponsored by the HOPES program funded by the EU Madad Fund. The panel discussed with the audience “The Effects of the Syria Crisis on the Lebanese Higher Education System”.

Germany’s Academic Relations with Lebanon
In her introductory speech, Prof. Dr. Wintermantel briefly portrayed the vision, mission and activities of DAAD, the world’s largest funding organization for academic exchange with tremendous knowledge of international cooperation. Committed to universities and other educational institutions both in times of peace and in times of conflict, DAAD is mindful of crisis regions needing international support. As a result, DAAD has worked during the last years on an intensification of Germany’s academic relations with Lebanon. In October 2017 a high-ranking delegation of Lebanese university presidents visited Germany for the exploration of cooperation opportunities.

Academic Exchange in Times of Conflict
The Syria crisis has not only brought harm and hardship on the Syrian population but also poses an enormous challenge for the countries hosting millions of refugees. Hardest affected is Lebanon which hosts the highest number of refugees in relation to its own population. The events in Syria created also enormous challenges for the Lebanese higher education institutions, as Dr. Pierre Gedeon, representing the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education, pointed out. This was further exemplified by Dr. Zeinab Saad, the General Coordinator of the International Relations Office at the Lebanese University, hosting the highest number of Syrian students when speaking about the many challenges the university faces, mostly related to infrastructure and financial support.

Event in collaboration with

DAAD President Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel with (left to right) Dr. Carsten Walbiner, Program Director of HOPES, Ms. Bahar Sayyas, Director DAAD IC Beirut, Dr. Zeinab Saad, General Coordinator International Relations Office Lebanese University (LU), Ms. Agatha Abi-Aad, UNHCR - Associate Education Officer, Lebanese student at LU and HOPES scholarship holder, Dr. Christian Hülshörster, DAAD Head of Division Scholarships Southern Hemisphere, Dr. Pierre Gedeon, Erasmus+ Higher Education Reform Expert (HERE), Syrian student and HOPES scholarship holder © DAAD / Maha Maalouf

Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel, President of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) © DAAD / Maha Maalouf

© DAAD / Maha Maalouf

Fund by the European Union
European Regional Development Fund ‘MADAD’
الصندوق الاستثماري الأوروبي مدّد

Higher and Further Education Opportunities & Perspectives for Syrians
National Council for Scientific Research Lebanon (CNRS-L)

“In Lebanon we have a relatively small, but active research community. One that builds on a long history of collaborations at a diverse national, regional and international scale, through joint endeavors and strong networks between researchers, universities, and stakeholders that are vital for creating a critical mass in innovative fields with high impact outcomes for serving the community.”

Through its mandate, the National Council for Scientific Research-Lebanon (CNRS-L) serves the scientific community in Lebanon covering a wide range of nationally identified priority disciplines, including: Environment & Natural Resources, Agriculture & Food, Basic Sciences, Medical Sciences, Business & Economics, Sociology & Political Science, Cultural Heritage, and Language & History.

Partnerships are key for knowledge production

Recognizing that partnerships are a key opportunity for creating, sharing and utilizing knowledge, the CNRS-L works through well-established networks and partnership agreements to support research and human resources development. With a commitment to keep the Lebanese scientific community connected with worldwide advances, at the same time dedicating resources to meet local development needs in a time that our regions continue to face escalating challenges related to natural resources, migration, and climate change.

Within the field of Research, a collaboration has long existed between Lebanon and Germany, specifically within joint projects of the EU Framework Programmes, and more recently (since 2012) within the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA). Our ambition is that through continued joint endeavors, targeted actions and exchange of information and knowledge, we explore new avenues within active programmes, open to the Lebanese Research Community at large, within a multi-disciplinary approach and a focus on the humanities and social sciences as a niche that responds to social responsibility.

“Science is vital for building a knowledge society, scientific research is the cornerstone for innovation and science diplomacy for sustainable development and wellbeing ensures a community free of violence, extremism and discrimination.”

Prof. Dr. Mouïn Hamzé
Secretary General, CNRS-L

Participants of the first joint event of CNRS-L and DAAD Lebanon “Successful Research Proposals for Young Scientists and Researchers—from Idea to Implementation”, November 30, 2017 © DAAD Lebanon
Science Lecture—Joint Event of CNRS-L and DAAD Lebanon

Conference on “The State of Knowledge Society in Lebanon—Prospects for Joint Knowledge Production Between Lebanon and Germany” (March 2, 2018)

Science, innovation and knowledge production are key elements for the progress of any society. The significant question of the state of knowledge society was debated extensively in 2003 by the UNDP Arab Human Development Report entitled “Building a Knowledge Society”.* Fifteen years after the release of this landmark report, the jointly organized conference by CNRS-L and DAAD Lebanon discussed the current state of knowledge production in Lebanon.

The event took place under the patronage of H.E. Dr Marwan Hamadeh, Lebanese Minister of Education and Higher Education; and in the presence of H.E. Martin Huth, German Ambassador to Lebanon, who both delivered much-acclaimed keynote speeches. Furthermore, the conference was attended by H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim, UN-Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA.


Please visit the following link for the complete report http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/rbas_ahdr2003_en.pdf

At the event a panel of renowned experts discussed Lebanon’s prospects and challenges towards building a knowledge-based society and possibilities of joint knowledge production between Germany and Lebanon: Dr. Marianne Paasi, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation / TU Berlin, Chair of Innovation Economics, Prof. Dr. Sari Hanafi, Professor of Sociology at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Prof. Dr. Birgit Schäbler, Director of Orient-Institut Beirut (OiB) and Prof. Dr. Kamal Abouchedid, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU). Representatives of Lebanese Universities were present, as well as scientists, students and the interested public.
Orient-Institut Beirut

I am happy to present here the Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), a German academic research institute that engages in and supports research in the humanities and social sciences relating to the Arab world and the wider Middle East.

We are a vibrant research community with a team of longer-term researchers and a number of visiting research fellows that join the institute for up to a year, bringing with them diverse disciplinary backgrounds that reflect on the interdisciplinary nature of the research undertaken at the OIB. The breadth of our research interests is visible in our research activities, which span from weekly internal colloquia to monthly public research seminars, public conversations on art, society, and politics, workshops and conferences. In recent months, topics have ranged from the “history of Soviet-Arab relations” to the “neighbourhood of books in Ottoman libraries” to “football and politics in Lebanon”.

Research Agenda

Our research agenda for the next few years revolves around the theme of “relations”, with the topic of “neighbourliness” being the first thematic focus. We are planning a series of events around this focus, including a conference at the end of the year on “Reconstructing Neighbourhoods of War” at the OIB and an event called “Weber World Café” in 2019 in Berlin. We have just held a panel about neighbourhood relations in Beirut and beyond at the World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies in Seville in July.
Goethe-Institut Libanon

As the director of the Goethe-Institut Libanon, I am delighted to introduce our activities in the first newsletter of DAAD—an important partner institution for us in fostering cultural and academic exchange between Lebanon and Germany.

New Premises in Gemmayzeh
After extensive renovations, we were happy to open the doors of the Goethe-Institut again last September, to create a space for cultural encounters. Now located in the Gemmayzeh district of Beirut, we find ourselves in a lively environment nearby many art institutions in the heart of the city. Our language courses are in stable demand and for the first time, we are also offering weekend courses for children.

Our new Media Lounge includes not only a library with around 2,000 media items in 4 languages; it is also a working and event space, where film screenings, lectures, and workshops take place.

Cultural Projects
With our cultural projects, we focus on collaborations with local partners, individuals, as well as organizations. Our projects range from cultural education programs for children in disadvantaged areas to exhibitions and showcases of highly acclaimed artists from Germany, Lebanon and the region.

By focusing on the disciplines visual arts, film, theatre, music, and dance, we follow a broad approach in enhancing cultural relationships and co-productions.

Joint Event “Discover Germany”

German Embassy Beirut, Goethe-Institut Libanon and DAAD Lebanon
Language, Study and Research, Career Chances in Germany
November 2, 2017
Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA)

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA), at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) and at the Academy of Scientific Research & Technology (ASRT) in Egypt, was established in 2013. It is the first bilateral young academy worldwide. AGYA promotes research cooperation among outstanding early-career researchers (3–10 years post-PhD) from all disciplines who are affiliated with a research institution in Germany or in any Arab country.

The academy provides partnership building opportunities and funding to support innovative projects of its members in various fields of research as well as in science policy and education. AGYA is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and various Arab cooperation partners. The call for membership applications is published annually at the beginning of the year.

AGYA Advisory Board
AGYA is supervised by an Advisory Board consisting of Arab and German representatives of internationally renowned academic institutions. Prof. Dr. Edgar Choueiri, former president of the Lebanese Academy of Sciences, accompanied AGYA’s successful development and supported its activities as a member of the AGYA Advisory Board since the very foundation of AGYA in 2013. In 2016, Ziad Mikati, head of the Beirut Office of the Mikati Foundation, replaced him. Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel, President of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is one of the high-ranking German representatives in the AGYA Advisory Board.

Goethe University is now offering scholarships for 75 Master’s programs. Applicants must hold an excellent Bachelor’s degree from a university outside of Germany. Awardees are provided with a monthly stipend of 1,000 EUR and other benefits to help them develop their career. Find more info here: [www.uni-frankfurt.de/masterstip](http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/masterstip) and spread the word!

For information on scholarships please visit [www.funding-guide.de](http://www.funding-guide.de)

Follow us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/DAADLebanon/)

Send us an [email](mailto:info@daad-lebanon.org) to
Delegation Visit to Germany

I was invited by DAAD, along with other representatives from several Lebanese universities, to visit Germany from October 15-21, 2017. This DAAD information visit to Germany was intended to give us the opportunity to gain insight into German institutions of higher education and research both at the academic and the administrative levels. We visited the DAAD Center and other universities, centers and offices, such as: University of Bonn, Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB), Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW), Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, University of Applied Sciences, Bildungsforum Potsdam, Technical University of Berlin and the Research Center MATHEON. We also had the chance to meet representatives of the German research institutions Leibniz Association and Humboldt Foundation.

Strengthening Academic Ties Between Lebanon and Germany

The visit was a very fruitful one, where we found German academics very willing to collaborate at all levels and I obtained a good impression that this collaboration will lead to very positive results in the future. We also learnt about the individual scholarship-programs, government scholarship-programs and institutional cooperation. Upon returning to my university I wrote a report about the delegation visit and later a procedure of how to seek collaboration with a German partner. With this in mind, we hope to initiate research collaboration as well as exchange mobility, since one of Beirut Arab University’s (BAU) strategy objectives is to seek internationalization.

Prof. Dr. Hania Nakkash Chmaisse, BAU Dean of Graduate Studies

Prof. Dr. Hania Nakkash Chmaisse got her PhD in Physiology and Pharmacology from the University Of New South Wales-Sydney, Australia. She has held several positions and responsibilities at Beirut Arab University (BAU) since 1995 and is currently the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. She is a member in several committees inside and outside BAU, one of which is Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE). Among others she was identified as a HERE member to act as a promoter of higher education reforms supporting policy development at the national level as well as policy dialogue with the EU.
Innovative Lebanese-German Initiatives

As Germany-Alumnus and representative of the Alumni Club Academic Forum Beirut Berlin (AFBB) Ayman Chehade has been a central figure in the Lebanese-German academic and cultural exchange and has been involved – inter alia – in the initiation of the academic cooperation between Rafik Hariri University and Deggendorf Institute of Technology (see page 15).

German Academic Development Center Engineers to Germany

In 2014 the private initiative German Academic Development Center (GADC) was founded by Mr. Chehade and his partners. GADC’s first non-profit project was the qualifying program Engineers to Germany which focuses on preparing qualified Lebanese engineers to match the requirements of the German engineering job market and ultimately helps local engineers to start a new career in Germany. It is a joint program of GADC, RWTH Aachen and the Sprachenakademie (German language school) in Aachen, in coordination with the German Embassy in Beirut, the Chamber of Engineers in the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the Order of Engineers in Beirut. It supports applicants with language training, lectures, workshops as well as career services.

While the first batch of engineers left in January 2016, currently the sixth batch is preparing for leaving for Germany in October 2018.

Maria Goeppert-Mayer Incubator

Maria Goeppert-Mayer Incubator (MGMI), named after a German physicist and Nobel Prize winner is the latest project of GADC in collaboration with the Innovation Center Hamm in Germany. It is the first German-Lebanese incubator to support Lebanese academics with entrepreneurial skills from Lebanon in kick-starting their ideas.
Moving Forward Towards Further Higher Education Opportunities for Syrian Students and Host Communities: the EU-funded "HOPES" Project

HOPES (Higher and Further Education Opportunities and Perspectives for Syrians) is a €12 million project, funded by the European Union’s Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis, the ‘Madad Fund’ and implemented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) together with the British Council, Campus France and Nuffic.

It aims at improving prospects for young Syrians and contributing to the preparation of the post-crisis reconstruction of Syria. The project seeks to provide better access to quality further and higher education opportunities for refugees of post-secondary-age from Syria as well as young people in the host communities affected by the high influx of refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

HOPES Activities

HOPES multifaceted project include full academic scholarships to candidates at different levels, Higher Education English courses, academic counselling and support funding for innovative short-term education projects, and national and regional stakeholder dialogues.

To date, the HOPES project has provided 459 full scholarships to candidates at different levels. In Lebanon alone, the collaboration with the Lebanese University allowed the HOPES project to provide more than 86 Syrian students with a scholarship for Master studies, and 58 Lebanese students with a scholarship at the Bachelor level.

Through the Higher Education English Access Programme (HEEAP), students benefit from university-based English and study skills courses to improve their English, increasing their ability to apply for scholarships and access other educational opportunities in their host countries.

“HOPES gives hope…”

Louay, HOPES student, Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI)

HOPES project also provides funding for innovative short-term education projects targeting refugees and vulnerable host communities and implemented by local and regional education institutions. In 2017, seventeen projects were awarded across Egypt, Northern Iraq (KRI), Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and/or Syria including the project implemented by the American University of Beirut in the Bekaa region. In 2018, the second round of the Call for Proposals resulted in 169 applications out of which approximately fourteen projects are expected to be awarded the different countries.

HOPES Team

Implemented by

DAAD  |  British Council  |  Campus France  |  Nuffic

“The HOPES scholarship provided financial assistance, but most importantly, and through the constant follow up and support of the HOPES team, it has had a significant impact both on our personality and on our academic and learning path.”

Shahed, HOPES student, Lebanon
The Deggendorf Institute of Technology is active in digital, mobile, health and sustainability areas of research and development.

For more information please visit: www.th-deg.de/en

“Personal exchange is very important for both institutions to benefit from each other’s strengths: Lebanese academics are globally networked and very mobile, while German universities have intensive business contacts. The focus for both is on the academic education of outstanding specialists who leave as graduates well-prepared for the challenges of the modern world.”

Dr. Elise von Randow, Director Institute for International and Academic Affairs (DIT)

An Agreement on Cooperation between the Rafik Hariri University (RHU) and the Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT/Technische Hochschule Deggendorf—THD) was signed in April 2018, fostering the academic partnership of the two institutions of higher education. The agreement intends the exchange of students and faculty members as well as joint educational and research activities.

“We greatly enjoyed the hospitality of the Rafik Hariri University, its impressive green and quiet campus south of Beirut and we are really looking forward to exchange students and staff to share not only our educational achievements and goals, but also work on challenging research topics together.”

Prof. Dr. Peter Sperber, President DIT

One of the main points of the cooperation are the Master programs MSc Medical Informatics, MSc Applied Computer Science, MSc Electrical Engineering and Information Technology.

DIT’s Partnerships with Lebanese Universities

DIT has been in contact with university lecturers in Lebanon since 2000 as Lebanese scholars are highly interested in merging theory with practice, which is a key factor to the success of German universities. On the other hand, in Deggendorf we recognize how eager, inquisitive and ambitious Lebanese students are. The Rafik Hariri University in Lebanon offers courses similar to our university courses and also works closely with other universities in Beirut, which is an excellent basis for close cooperation in teaching and research. Technically they are well-equipped, allowing future-orientated forms of teaching and digital media to be implemented. And Lebanon is a gateway to the Arab world.

Deggendorf Institute of Technology

With eleven research and technology campuses throughout Bavaria, the DIT is pursuing a unique concept of open and successful cooperation with universities worldwide as well as businesses and industries. Six faculties and a Further Education Centre offer a range of over 50 undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in the fields of economics, engineering, computer sciences, applied natural sciences and healthcare sciences. The university also includes the European Campus Rottal-Inn, which has exclusively English-based and internationally orientated degree programs. The DIT has a total current student population of over 6200 students including 16 percent international students who are enrolled in bachelor, master and short programs in English and German.
Humboldt Kolleg Conference  
“At the Confluence of Analysis, Geometry and Modern Mathematical Physics”

The conference “At the Confluence of Analysis, Geometry and Modern Mathematical Physics” was a new initiative in Lebanon, as no Humboldt Kolleg had been organized in the country before. The aim of the conference was to bring together international experts from diverse backgrounds to enhance interdisciplinary interactions in Mathematics and Physics, to introduce students and researchers from Lebanon to the latest advances in mathematical research and to discuss problems related to multidisciplinary research approaches.

The event was held from February 15-17, 2018 at the Doctoral School of Sciences and Technology of the Lebanese University. The main sponsors were the Humboldt foundation, the Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences (CAMS) of the American University of Beirut, and the Lebanese University. The conference was opened by a word of Ms. Bahar Sayyas, Director of the DAAD office in Lebanon, Prof. Dr. Thomas Hesse, Deputy Secretary General of the Humboldt foundation, Prof. Bassam Badran, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Prof. Fawaz El Omar, Dean of the Doctoral School of Sciences and Technology.

The meeting was very successful, bringing together a total of 72 scholars, coming from different places in Europe and Lebanon, including 21 PhD and Master students. It was also useful both for the researchers from Europe and the participants from Lebanon in so far as:

- It triggered interactions—both scientific and personal—between the invited speakers and the Lebanese participants, some of which might develop into long term projects;
- It raised awareness among the invited speakers concerning the specific difficulties their Lebanese peers have to confront in their daily work;
- It enabled young Lebanese researchers as well as PhD and Master students to strengthen or set up contacts with European researchers.

Dr. Georges Elias Habib  
Professor of Mathematics at the Lebanese University, Member of the organizing committee of the Humboldt-Kolleg and Humboldt Fellow
“German has always been a language that I wanted to study someday. That day happened last year.”

Rim Trad, a student of Journalism at the Lebanese University, was granted a scholarship by the DAAD and stayed for one month at the University of Freiburg (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität in Freiburg im Breisgau, Baden-Wuerttemberg) where she took part in a summer language course.

1. Why did you decide to learn the German language and what were your expectations in relation to acquiring this language?

The German language has always been a language on my to-do list; having had some books that teach German in my house helped (my father has studied a bit of German). But the direct reason was when the DAAD explained their scholarship programs to us, as well as the benefits of learning German these days. Moreover, I had in mind that I want to continue my Masters degree in Germany.

“That month was one of the greatest experiences in my life.”

I had the expectation that the language would teach me a different culture as well as open up more work opportunities for me.

2. In what way do you feel you have benefited from your stay in Germany?

♦ I lived and learned a new culture.
♦ I have learned a new language, therefore a new way of thinking and seeing things.

“I truly feel that I benefited from my stay in Germany.”

♦ I am considering studying / working in the future in Germany as I feel that I am so much in love with the culture.
♦ I have been finding myself in social situations where someone has to know or speak German (that one is me!).
♦ In my job as a journalist, any new language or culture is an added value.

3. Since returning to Lebanon have you continued to engage in the German language?

I am still practicing German in different ways. I still read some articles (DW—Deutsche Welle) in German, some Facebook posts in German, and watch some German movies (with German subtitles!), and I listen to German songs occasionally. The most important thing is that I have a German tandem partner whom I started talking to from last year onwards. He has been teaching me German, and I have been teaching him Arabic.

“I still think in German sometimes and build sentences in my mind in this language.”

DAAD Scholarships

University Summer Courses offered in Germany for Foreign Students and Graduates
Deadline 01-12-18

For more information on language and short courses in Germany please visit: www.summerschools.de
“My curiosity and passion for science, perseverance and love for adventure flew me to Germany, the land of ideas...”

Hanady Nehme holds a Master of Neuroscience from the Lebanese University. She spent six months at the Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology in Magdeburg to conduct her master thesis project marking the end of her studies.

1. Why did you decide on Germany as the place to carry out the research for your thesis?
After I decided to pursue a career in the scientific research field, it was only natural for me to scout for research institutes and teams of scientists working on projects that meet my interests and inspire me to be part of the research world.

“My experience allowed me to gain technical, organizational and analytical skills that are crucial for a successful career in research.”

I found myself leaning toward the innovative ideas, high-tech equipped labs and pertinent publications of German institutions. The more I read, the more I was tempted to establish my first steps towards my future in Germany, starting with my master thesis project.

2. Do you think you will have better career chances due to your stay in Germany?
Although I still have a long way to go and a lot to learn, the qualifications I gained in Germany open more doors for me and increase my chances in getting accepted into PhD programs.

“Upon arrival, Leibniz surpassed all my expectations and Magdeburg was beautiful - I simply loved it.”

3. Do you have any advice for other interested students?
NEVER GIVE UP! Applying, waiting weeks for replies, worrying about funding, all is truly a nightmare. Just believe in yourself, be patient and work hard enough to reach the light at the end of the dark tunnel. Trust me, it will be all worth it in the end, you can do it! Power to you!

4. Was it difficult for you to make friends in Germany?
I was lucky enough to be surrounded by wonderful people, both at work and in the guesthouse where I lived for 6 months. At first, I was worried about cultural differences and misunderstandings that may occur. Nevertheless, I was quickly and warmly integrated in the working group and the guesthouse family and we shared memorable, funny and happy moments.

“I was surrounded by inspiring professors, cutting edge laboratory equipment and cultural diversity that resulted in my growth on both academic and personal levels.”

Elbe River. The perfect place to relax and spend time with friends © Hanady Nehme

Hanady in the laboratory of the Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology © Hanady Nehme

Cathedral of Magdeburg and Elbe River © Hanady Nehme
The Leibniz Association

The Leibniz Association is one of the largest research organisations in Europe. It connects 93 independent research institutes that range in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences via economics, spatial and social sciences to the humanities. Some 19,100 individuals, including 9,900 researchers closely cooperate on issues of social, economic and ecological relevance. The entire budget of all the institutes is approximately 1.9 billion Euros.

Cooperative research is key

The Leibniz Association identifies key areas for knowledge transfer: to policy-makers, academia, business and the public. Its main focus is cooperative research: Leibniz institutions collaborate intensively with universities – in the form of 19 “Leibniz ScienceCampi” (thematic and regional partnerships between university and non-university research institutes), for example – as well as with industry and other partners at home and abroad. Inter- and transdisciplinary research on topics relevant to society is performed in 12 research alliances between Leibniz institutions. Sustainable food, nano safety, infections, healthy aging or education potentials are some of the topics Leibniz researchers work on.

All Leibniz institutions are subject to an independent evaluation procedure that is unparalleled in its transparency. Due to the importance of the institutions for the country as a whole, they are funded jointly by the Federal Government and the States (Länder).

International collaboration

Leibniz Institutes, Leibniz Research Alliances and Leibniz ScienceCampi collaborate internationally with partners from over 170 different countries. Furthermore, the Association has partner sites and permanent research stations abroad, such as in the USA, Senegal, Peru, Thailand, Brazil, Bolivia, Indonesia, Madagascar and Ghana.

Around 20 per cent of the researchers working in Leibniz Institutes come from abroad. Leibniz Institutes are also chosen as research locations by numerous Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows and scholarship-holders of the DAAD and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Leibniz researchers currently also hold 28 ERC grants awarded by the European Research Council.
First DAAD-Alumni Event in Lebanon

The first DAAD-Alumni event in Lebanon in collaboration with Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (American University of Beirut) on Leadership and Diplomacy took place with a retrospective by H.E. Martin Huth, German Ambassador to Lebanon, on “Looking at Lebanon and the Region.”

Call for Lebanese DAAD-/Germany-Alumni

Dear DAAD-Alumni, dear Germany-Alumni,
The German Academic Exchange Service DAAD Lebanon would like to remain in close contact with you and help create lasting connections between students, scholars, researchers and university teachers in Lebanon and Germany. To this aim, we are extending and updating our database with your latest contact information and academic profile.

Therefore, we kindly ask you to fill out our contact form which can be downloaded here and send it back via email to event@daad-lebanon.org.

Our immediate goal is to hold a big event for DAAD-Alumni next year to kickstart our alumni work in Lebanon and facilitate contact and cooperation between Lebanese alumni. To make this event a huge success, we kindly ask for your help in forwarding this call to your friends and colleagues who are DAAD-Alumni or have studied, taught, or conducted research at German universities and institutions of higher education.

Alumni Services

For more information please visit our DAAD-Lebanon Alumni-Services-Website: www.daad-lebanon.org/en/alumni-services/

Please find the latest Alumni magazine Letter 01/2018 here: www.daad.de/medien-und-publikationen/en/31763-letter/

Find an overview of all of DAAD’s offers for Alumni in this pdf.
Did you know that since the official opening of our office in 2016...

...DAAD Team Lebanon has actively participated in **around 50 events** such as information seminars, education fairs, special conferences with partner institutions?

...there has been a total of **over 4000 inquiries** about studying and researching in Germany from people in Lebanon? **We are very happy about this great interest!**

Panel discussion **“The Effects of the Syria Crisis on the Lebanese Higher Education System”**, with a keynote speech of the President of the DAAD Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel, jointly organized by the HOPES program funded by the EU Madad Fund and DAAD Lebanon, Beirut (see page 6)

**January 30, 2018**

Humboldt conference **“At the Confluence of Analysis, Geometry and Modern Mathematical Physics”**, Doctoral School of Sciences and Technology, Hadath & Fanar, Lebanese University (LU), Beirut (see page 16)

**February 15, 2018**

Science Lecture **“The State of Knowledge Society in Lebanon—Prospects for Joint Knowledge Production Between Lebanon and Germany”**, jointly organized by CNRS-L and DAAD Lebanon, Beirut

**March 2, 2018**

**LAU Spring Global Day 2018**, Lebanese American University, Byblos Campus

**April 11, 2018**

“**Discover Germany**”, DAAD information event on studying and researching in Germany, Islamic University of Lebanon, Wardanieh Campus

**May 18, 2018**

**DAAD-Germany-Alumni Event “Leadership & Diplomacy”**, jointly organized by Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs and DAAD Lebanon, American University of Beirut (AUB)

**June 8, 2018**
Events 2017—Highlights

More than 2100 counseling sessions and about 30 events in 2017!

“Study in Germany”, DAAD information event, German International School Beirut, Doha Campus
January 18, 2017

International Education Week, Lebanese American University (LAU)
April 4-6, 2017

“Study and Research in Germany”, DAAD information event, Lebanese University (LU), Doctoral School of Science & Technology, Hadath & Fanar, Beirut
May 5, 2017

“Study and Research in Germany”, jointly organized by the German Embassy Beirut and DAAD Lebanon, Université de Saint Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ), École supérieure d’ingénieurs de Beyrouth, Beirut
May 23, 2017

Study Abroad Fair, American University of Beirut (AUB), Beirut
October 6, 2017

“Discover Germany”, jointly organized by the German Embassy Beirut, Goethe-Institut Libanon and DAAD Lebanon, Premises of Goethe-Institut Libanon, Beirut (see page 10)
November 2, 2017

Networking Event “Strengthening Academic Ties between Germany and Lebanon”, German Embassy Beirut
November 7, 2017

“Successful Research Proposals for Young Scientists and Researchers—from Idea to Implementation”, jointly organized by CNRS-L and DAAD Lebanon, Beirut
November 30, 2017

Students of USJ attending a joint information session of the German Embassy Beirut and DAAD Lebanon, May 23, 2017 © DAAD Lebanon

Students of AUB visiting our DAAD information booth and student counselor Mr. Abdallah Nemer (DAAD Lebanon), October 6, 2017 © DAAD Lebanon

Panelists of the joint workshop of CNRS-L and DAAD Lebanon “Successful Research Proposals for Young Scientists and Researchers—from Idea to Implementation” (left to right): Dr. Hala Ghali-Muhtasib, Professor of Cell Biology (AUB), Dr. Abdallah Nassereddine, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Business Administration / Department of Economics (BAU), Dr. Stefan Maneval, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), Dr. Marie Abboud, Associate Professor, Faculty of Sciences—Department of Physics (USJ) and host Dr. Tamara Elzein, Research Associate at the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission and Director Doctoral Fellowships Program at CNRS-L. Dr. Elzein represented Prof. Dr. Mouin Hamzé, CNRS-L General Secretary, November 30, 2017 © DAAD Lebanon
Abdallah Nemer

Mr. Abdallah Nemer has been working with DAAD since June 2017.

He has always had a strong connection to Germany. After he had gone through primary school education in Germany, Abdallah continued his education at the German International School Beirut (DSB) from which he graduated. He attended the Studienkolleg in Heidelberg and lived in Hamburg.

Abdallah holds a bachelor’s degree in Marketing from Rafik Hariri University (RHU) and studied International Management at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences.

Abdallah is the student counselor of DAAD Lebanon and has extensive knowledge of both the Lebanese and German education systems.

“Students wish to encounter understanding which can be provided through my experience as Germany-Alumnus. Therefore, personal exchange is important as well as beneficial and encourages students to pursue their plans.”

Annika Hack

Ms. Annika Hack has been working with DAAD since March 2018. She studied a two-subjects Bachelor in History and English Literature, Culture, and Language at the University of Göttingen.

She has always taken great interest in various education systems around the world. She spent her junior year at a high school in Texas, USA, and during her academic studies she took part in the Erasmus+ program, spending a semester studying at the University of Leeds, England.

At the University of Göttingen, Annika worked as a student assistant in the International Office. Her work there has deepened her interest in the international academic exchange.

“Academic collaboration and exchange is a bridge builder and a pillar in the cooperative international processing of knowledge. Both the individual and society can benefit from this.”

Please note that we will be on summer leave until September 3, 2018
Upcoming DAAD Scholarships

**Please note that DAAD scholarships are country-based**

Please visit the links below for more information on the scholarships!

Scholarships for RESEARCH

Deadline: 31-08-2018

- Research Grants—Doctoral Programmes in Germany
- Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists
- Research Grants—Short-Term Grants
- Research Grants—One Year Grants
- Research Grants—Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Degrees
- Re-invitation Programme for Former Scholarship Holders

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Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Scholarships for STUDYING

www.study-in.de

Field of study for Master students | Deadline
---|---
Field of Architecture | 30-09-2018
Field of the Performing Arts | 31-10-2018
Field of Music | 31-10-2018
Field of Fine Art, Design, Visual Communication and Film | 30-11-2018

Improve your German language skills!

University Summer Courses offered in Germany for foreign students and graduates

www.summerschools.de

Deadline: 01-12-2018

**Please note that DAAD scholarships are country-based**

Please visit www.funding-guide.de for detailed information about all scholarships!
JOIN THE HOPES COMMUNITY, BECAUSE HOPES GIVES HOPE!

> Are you a student refugee from Syria or a student from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon or Turkey?

> Are you at least 18 years old and interested in continuing your Higher Education studies?

> Are you a local or regional educational institution working with Syrian students and needing extra support?

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