German Arab Transformation Partnership, Line 4: German-Arab Research Partnerships – Al Tawasul

Programme line 4 is part of the DAAD programme “German Arab transformation partnership”. It therefore contributes to the modernization of teaching and research, to the improvement of graduates’ employability, to the scientific performance and to the strengthening of the transitional process in the partner countries Egypt and Tunisia.

German-Arab Research Partnerships provide an opportunity to extend and intensify existing research contacts between Germany and the partner countries. German universities together with Tunisian and Egyptian Alumni (usually DAAD-Alumni) can apply for funding to conduct a joint research project. This way the alumnus/ the alumna can both start his/her post doc research phase in his/ her home country and continue his/ her research contacts to Germany. In order to build up research structures in Egypt and Tunisia and to guarantee relevant institutional effects the alumnus/ the alumna is supposed to coordinate groups of young researchers.

The overall objective is the development of a joint research project being innovative and relevant for the current situation in Egypt and Tunisia. The programme line is open to all subjects. Applications from Social Sciences and Humanities are especially welcome.

The completion of the doctoral thesis in Germany should not be more than 5 years ago.

Profile of potential applicants

The programme mainly focuses on German universities that intend to conduct a joint research project with an Egyptian or Tunisian alumnus/ alumna (usually DAAD-Alumni). The application should be developed jointly but needs to be handed in by the German university.

Funding horizon

Funding will be provided from January to December 2013. Maximum amount of funding is up to 70,000 Euros in 2013. Funds are managed by the German university.

Even though the first funding period ends in 2013, the joint research projects should be designed for 3 years. An extension of funding beyond 2013 is only possible in case of a successful application and is always under DAAD budget reservation. Any application for extension must be accompanied in each case by a detailed final report on results achieved so far and will be evaluated by a selection committee.

It is possible to request funding for the following items specific to the joint research project: organization, implementation and coordination of the research team, consumables, equipment and travel expenses for short-term trips and research stays.
To apply please submit a full online application via DAAD Portal (https://portal.daad.de). Applications can only be submitted by German universities.

The application deadline is October 15 2012. The funding commences as from January 2013.

The DAAD requests the research team to nominate a university teacher who will take on responsibility as the partnership coordinator for the German university and a corresponding person in the partner country; the Alumnus/ the Alumna. For the DAAD, the German partnership coordinator is the contact person in financial terms.

In agreement with the foreign partner, the application should be worded in English or in German and should be signed both by the German partnership coordinator as well as the Alumnus/ the Alumna in Egypt or Tunisia.

The application must contain:

- Application form
- Financial budget plan
- Project description (up to 10 pages)
- Tabular overview of the project
- Approval of the German university
- Memorandum of Understanding or Letter of Intent between German university and partner university in Egypt or Tunisia.
- Scholarship certificate of the Alumnus/ Alumna

A pre-selection meeting is scheduled for November 2012 at the DAAD branch office in Cairo and at the DAAD office in Tunis. Egyptian or Tunisian project coordinators (Alumni) shall be invited to present their projects.

The final decision will be taken by a selection board nominated by the DAAD.

The applications will be assessed toward their form and content, whereby the relevance to the transformation process is given special consideration.

Furthermore, importance is attached to the following aspects, including, among others:

- Scientific qualification of the Egyptian or Tunisian project coordinator
- Quality of the project
- Scientific significance of the project
- Formation of research structures at the partner university
- Integration of young scientists
- Feasibility of the project
- Embedding of the project in local scientific landscapes

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