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DAAD News!

Your guide to study and research in Germany



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

FOREWORD



Dear Readers!

2010 has been a very busy year for the DAAD Information Centre Singapore. Among the highlights of this year's activities was our participation in the "Scholarship & Top University Fair" in early September. The booth of the DAAD IC Singapore was crowded with visitors and hundreds of brochures were gone within a few hours. I am happy to say that the hard work has paid off! More and more Singaporeans are choosing Germany as their first choice education and research destination. Indeed, student visa application numbers have climbed to 345 for the academic year 2009/10.

In 2011, we will continue to present the outstanding education offers of Germany's universities to you. Do visit our website regularly to find out about upcoming fairs and road shows.

Initiating bilateral research cooperation is one of the key concerns of the DAAD Information Centre Singapore. As international leaders in Science & Technology Germany and Singapore are ideal partners. Germany's universities and research institutes offer world class research opportunities for young scientists from all over the world. DAAD has just established a new database of PhD and Post Doc opportunities available in Germany. You can read all about it on page 5.

Water technology is just one of the many areas where Germany has established itself as an international leader. To facilitate closer cooperation between Germany and Singapore, DAAD IC Singapore partnered up with the German embassy Singapore and the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) to host a bilateral workshop on "Storm Water Management for Urban Sustainability". Over 120 experts followed our invitation to exchange ideas on how to further increase flood resilience of highly urbanised areas.

We are already planning further research collaborations for 2011.

To serve you even better the DAAD Information Centre Singapore will be expanding its office. From 1 January 2011 onwards you will find us at our new location:

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I wish you a very joyful Christmas and a happy New Year!

Dr Susanne Rentzow-Vasu
Director of DAAD IC Singapore

C O N T E N T	
	Foreword 2
	Study in Germany – Land of Ideas 3
	Advertisement 4
	Research Destination Germany 5
	NUS researcher wins "Green Talents" competition 2010 6
	Workshop "Stormwater Management for Urban Sustainability" 7
	Meet the DAAD Scholar: Mitali Kakran 8
	Winning pictures of the "Mein Deutschland" photo competition 9
	Events of the DAAD IC Singapore 2010 10 & 11
	Contact Information 12

Study in Germany



Land of Ideas

www.study-in.de

All over the world German higher education institutions enjoy an excellent reputation. German degrees carry great prestige while teaching and research provide key impulses for innovation and progress. Institutions boast state-of-the-art equipment and labs to provide students with the very best conditions for successful studies. More than 380 institutions of higher education offer thousands of degree programmes, making Germany the destination of choice for an ever growing number of international students.

One third of all international students at German universities come from Asia

The number of Asians studying at German universities continues to rise. In 2009, one out of three international students who studied full-time at a German university came from Asia. The largest number was made up of students from East Asia, of which 24,746 came from China, 5209 from South Korea and 2106 were Japanese. Among South Asians, Indians made up the largest number with 3516 international students while Vietnamese (3671) and Indonesians (2400) were the two largest groups of Southeast Asians. Asian students make up almost 44 percent of all international students in the engineering sciences alone. Singaporeans, too, are increasingly attracted by the excellent reputation of German universities with student visa application numbers climbing to 345 for the academic year 2009/10.

Source: Wissenschaft Weltoffen 2010,

www.wissenschaft-weltoffen.de

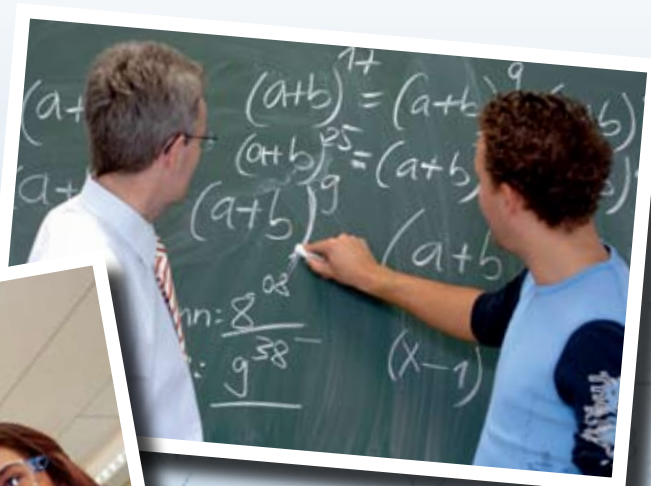
English-taught International Degree Programmes at German universities on the rise

German institutions of higher education offer ever increasing numbers of International Bachelor, Master and PhD courses that are taught exclusively or primarily in English. These International Programmes deliver fundamental, professional and methodological expertise as well as a wide range of soft skills to prepare students for jobs all over the world. Many study programmes entail extended stays at international partner universities as well as periods of practical training abroad. The full list of International Bachelor, Master and PhD Programmes can be accessed online at www.daad.de/idp



German Universities in profile – Introducing German Universities of Applied Sciences

Germany's education landscape boasts 167 'Fachhochschulen' (FHs). Their official English translation is University of Applied Sciences. This name mirrors exactly what this type of university is all about: Universities of Applied Sciences stand for strong ties to application in the working world. FHs offer Bachelor and Master degree programmes in the field of technology, business and management, social studies, media and design. The strong applied focus of Universities of Applied Sciences is also reflected in the profile of their lecturers and professors. Most faculty members have professional experience in industry, business or social work. This expertise qualifies them to provide students with special insights into the processes, working methods and expectations of companies or social and cultural institutions. Compulsory study internships (as a rule students are required to complete one or two practical semesters) round off the knowledge transfer to students.



Study in Germany. Experience the World.



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For further information, please visit <http://fulltime-mba.whu.edu> or contact us at:

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Research in Germany



Land of Ideas

In our section “Research Destination Germany”, we bring you information on the latest developments in Germany’s research community, on funding opportunities at German universities and research institutions, as well as on career opportunities in science and research.

PhDGermany – Launch of new database for PhD posts at German universities

Would you like to be among the 25,000 graduates who successfully complete the doctoral process at a German university every year? German higher education and research institutions are constantly on the lookout for qualified international doctoral candidates. To make things easier, the DAAD has launched the new database PhDGermany where you will find PhD offers specifically for foreign applicants. Once you have found a doctorate matching your interests, you can directly apply via the DAAD Portal.

www.phdgermany.de



Research areas in focus: Medical Technology

German medical technology is a particularly innovative sector with a total of 170,000 employees in over 11,000 companies, most of them SMEs. This sector occupies a top place internationally. Overall turnover increased by 21.4% from 14.7 to 18.7 billion Euros between 2005 and 2008. Exports represent the driving force with a share of 64%.

Medical technology integrates key technologies such as microsystems technology, information and communication technology, nanotechnology, molecular and cell biology, regeneration technology and pharmacy.

German universities offer a number of English-taught degree programmes in the field of medical technology. For example, the University of Magdeburg offers a Master of Science Programme in Medical Systems Engineering while the University of Applied Sciences Lübeck runs a Master of Science Programme in Biomedical Engineering. Among the structured PhD programmes is the Berlin-Brandenburg School for Regenerative Therapies coordinated by Charité University Medicine Berlin.

For further information on these and other international degree programmes offered at German universities please access our database at: www.daad.de/idp

For further information on Medical Technology research in Germany please see: www.research-in-germany.de and click on ‘research areas’.

NUS researcher wins “Green Talents” competition 2010

Singapore researcher Dr Low Bee Ting was one of the 20 young scientists whose work was recognized as leading the way towards mastering global environmental challenges by German Federal Minister of Education and Research Professor Annette Schavan. Minister Professor Schavan received the 20 award winners at the 7th BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research) Forum for Sustainability (FONA) in Berlin. “We are extremely pleased about the great response the ‘Green Talents’ competition once again received this year and about the participants’ interest in Germany as a research location,” she said. “The purpose of this competition is to advance international cooperation so we can jointly contribute towards developing sustainable solutions to fighting the climate change and to protect the environment.”

The award of the BMBF under the patronage of Minister Professor Annette Schavan was handed out for the second time in 2010. It is a distinction for outstanding scientific talents in the field of sustainability research. The decisive selection criterion is that a research paper may crucially contribute towards mastering global challenges such as the climate change, declining energy resources and massive environmental pollution. Germany is one of the leading locations for sustainability research in the world and a strong partner for international cooperation arrangements in this field. During their stay in Germany, the “Green Talents” visited important universities, research institutions and companies and learned about trend-setting projects in various fields of technology. They met renowned German experts and established contacts with young German scientists.

A total of 234 young scientists from 57 countries had applied to become one of the “Green Talents”. A high-calibre jury of German experts selected a total of 20 award winners who travelled to Germany from 1 to 11 November 2010 as part of a ten day science forum.

Among the 20 is Singaporean Dr Low Bee Ting. Dr Low holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering from the National University of Singapore (NUS). She continued her

studies at her alma mater where she earned a Doctorate in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, with a specialisation in membrane science and technology for pre-combustion CO₂ capture, earlier this year. The goal of Dr Low’s doctoral research was the development of membrane technology for the purification of hydrogen and natural gas, a project funded by the Singapore National Research Foundation. Dr Low is currently furthering her research career in the industry where she was recently appointed as a senior research engineer at Membrane Technology and Research, a company that develops and produces membrane-based separation systems for the petrochemical, natural gas and refining industries. She is looking forward to the new challenges ahead.

The jury chose Dr Low for the *Green Talents Forum* because of her impressive basic research in the field of polymeric membrane technologies as well as the considerable number of published scientific papers and honours she has already received for her work. “With representatives coming from both the academia and industries, the *Green Talents Forum* is a great chance for networking and to obtain state-of-the-art information,” says Dr Low. “It provides a platform for researchers from various fields to come together and share their ideas and works towards shaping a sustainable world.”



2 November 2010, 7th BMBF Forum for Sustainability (FONA) in Berlin: Professor Annette Schavan, German Federal Minister of Education and Research, with Low Bee Ting, winner of the “Green Talents Competition 2010” from Singapore
Copyright © German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

German-Singaporean Workshop “Stormwater Management for Urban Sustainability”

29 & 30 November 2010,
NTU @ One North

In many highly urbanised areas across the world changing weather patterns and increasing urbanisation are challenging traditional methods of collecting, controlling, treating, draining or channelling stormwater. Singapore and Germany are no exceptions. Both countries have recently witnessed unusually strong weather conditions that have caused widespread flooding. Various stakeholders in both countries are thus constantly seeking to improve existing approaches and methods to stormwater management in order to build flood resilience while also making sure the needs of their urban populations are being met.

On 29 November 2010, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and German embassy Singapore together with the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) organized a joint workshop to facilitate closer cooperation between the two countries on this increasingly important issue. The event opened with a keynote speech by Mr Tan Nguan Sen, Director of PUB's Catchment & Waterways Department. Mr Tan introduced the ABC – active, beautiful, clean waters – programme of Singapore's national water agency to an audience of over 120 participants representing academia, industry and government agencies. The presentations of the expert speakers were met with a high level of interest on both sides and laid the foundations for deeper cooperation. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Erik Pasche from Technical University Hamburg-Harburg in Germany expressed the sentiments of the German delegates saying, *“This workshop is a great opportunity to share our knowledge and to create partnerships between Germany and Singapore. We have a lot to offer in Germany because we have a lot of experience in integrated water management.”* He added,

“However, to find truly sustainable solutions we have to go beyond the mere technical aspects and include the people. I can see here that in Singapore they have found good solutions to approach and to integrate the public. I am very optimistic that Germany and Singapore can work together.”

The Singapore partners at NEWRI and PUB, too, hope to take this first step towards bilateral cooperation beyond the initial workshop. Said Mr Tan *“Cooperation between Germany and Singapore in the field of stormwater management is very important as we can learn a lot from each other.”*

Owing to generous sponsoring from the DAAD, the one-day workshop saw participation from five German experts in the field of storm water management; Dr.-Ing. Ulrich Dittmer from Stuttgart University, Dr.-Ing. Kathrin Gantner from Technical University Berlin, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Erik Pasche from Technical University Hamburg, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Frank Schneider from Beuth-Hochschule für Technik in Berlin, and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Mathias Uhl from the University of Applied Sciences Münster. Mr Tobias Baur, Head of the Singapore office of Atelier Dreiseitl also presented his company's ongoing cooperation with PUB in various stormwater management projects across Singapore. The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) also sponsored the participation of two experts from the Water University in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The German visitors also used the opportunity to visit some of PUB's current projects in stormwater management including the newly opened Marina Barrage. For information on this workshop please visit our website at: www.ic.daad.de/singapore



It is with great sadness that DAAD IC Singapore has learned of the sudden passing away of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Erik Pasche. Erik Pasche was an internationally acclaimed expert in flood management and hydrodynamics who headed the Institute of River & Coastal Engineering at Hamburg University of Technology as its Director. Erik Pasche was greatly respected by his peers for his scientific expertise, his dedication to his work, and his great commitment to the welfare of his students. We offer our deepest condolences to his family.

From Singapore to Berlin with a DAAD Scholarship

meet PhD candidate Ms Mitali Kakran

Originally hailing from India, Mitali Kakran arrived in Singapore with a full Undergraduate Scholarship from Singapore Airlines in her pocket to study Bioengineering at Nanyang Technological University (NTU). She graduated with First Class Honors in 2008 and embarked on a PhD at NTU's School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering in the same year. Mitali's research focuses on the fabrication of micro/nano-particles for pharmaceutical applications. With the help of a DAAD scholarship, she got the opportunity to work in Prof. Dr. R.H. Müller's lab at Free University of Berlin where she went for a 4-month exchange programme earlier this year.

Besides the good research facilities at German universities, Mitali was attracted by the country's international reputation as a leader in science and research. "When it comes to research and technology, Germany is definitely one of the leading countries." Her first impression of the country and its people were very positive. She says, "The people in my lab were very helpful and every time I had questions they were more than happy to explain."

Even the often dreaded language barrier was no problem for this NTU doctoral candidate.



"There was no language problem in my lab or at the university. Outside in general like at the supermarket, if somebody did not understand English there would definitely be somebody around who would know and help."

Mitali thoroughly enjoyed her time in Germany's capital Berlin getting to know the German people and their culture. "I enjoyed the life in Germany in terms of the weather and also the work culture" she adds. "Weekdays are for work and weekends are truly weekends. Germans are much more into sports and I just loved their enthusiasm for football. I was lucky to watch a few FIFA 2010 matches in which Germany won and it was really exciting."

Besides the personal enrichment she felt that her research stay in Germany has helped her "a lot" with her doctoral project. "I learnt a lot of new things and gained new knowledge and ideas." Mitali strongly encourages other students to apply for the DAAD scholarship. "The application procedure is the same as with any other scholarship. You have to submit the application form with all your supporting documents. Once you get the scholarship there is nothing to worry about. DAAD even helps you with getting the visa or finding accommodation." To improve their chances for success she advises future applicants to prepare their applications carefully. "When you plan to apply for DAAD, besides having a good academic record it is important to have a good research plan and to establish early contact with the Professor in Germany. That really improves your chances." Otherwise there is no cause for anxiety says Mitali. "The transport is good, it's safe, you get all varieties of food and people are welcoming." She adds, "I would just tell them to know a few common words in German like 'good morning' or 'thanks'. That will make it easier to approach people."



Information on doctoral and post-doctoral research opportunities in Germany are available at: www.phdgermany.de or www.research-in-germany.de

Winning pictures of the 'Mein Deutschland' Photo competition

How would you capture your idea of Germany in a photograph? That was the question posed by the organisers of the annual 'German Day' event. The invitation to submit a unique picture was met with great enthusiasm; all in all almost 100 people sent in their pictures showing Germany in all its silly, funny, beautiful and sometimes "typical" glory – a big thank you to all participants!

The winning photographs were exhibited at the 'German Day @ NUS' Fair at the National University of Singapore on 8 September 2010. Yiping Jin, undergraduate student at NUS, won a DAAD scholarship to participate in a 4-week university summer course in Germany with his winning entry. The second prize went to Ms Yvonne Ng who graduated from SMU and now works for Walter AG in Singapore. Yvonne won a German language course at Goethe Institute Singapore. Congratulations!



Jin Yiping, Undergraduate student at NUS
"Football fever in the German town Ulm" (First Prize)



Yvonne Ng, Walter AG
"Beautiful Tübingen" (Second Prize)



Aurelia Lin, NUS alumna
"Cherry tree blossoms outside the university library in Heidelberg"



Malcom Boey, Undergraduate student at Mannheim University
"Cows returning to the valleys from the mountains"



Kit Geok Kam, student
"Adventures with the Berlin Bear"

events 2010

Promoting German Research Excellence at “World Cities Summit Expo”

Liveable and Sustainable Cities for the Future was the theme of the second “World Cities Summit” held in Singapore in early summer 2010. The conference brought together international practitioners and policy makers to identify innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges facing cities today. Key emphasis was placed on the three broad themes of Leadership and Governance for Vibrant and Liveable Cities, Building Sustainable and Eco-friendly Cities and Fostering Harmonious and Sustainable Communities. The DAAD Information Centre Singapore participated in the “World Cities Summit Expo” which attracted more than 3000 international visitors. The DAAD booth provided information on Germany’s research expertise, its research landscape and the opportunities for international cooperation.



Visitors flock to DAAD Booth at “Scholarship & Top University Fair”

For the first time DAAD along with two premier German universities took part in the “Scholarship & Top University Fair” in Singapore. Organized by Singapore Press Holdings this leading education fair is now in its tenth year and continues to attract Singapore’s top students. Over 3000 students from Singapore and the region visited the fair eager to snap up the best education options. The exhibition booths of DAAD IC Singapore, Humboldt University Berlin and the Singapore Campus of Technical University Munich – TUM Asia informed the visitors about Germany’s world class education offers which were met with great interest by the students.

German DAAD scholars visit BOSCH Singapore

Singapore’s universities and research institutes are becoming increasingly popular with students at German universities. Growing numbers opt to spend an exchange semester in the Southeast Asian city state of which almost 50 received a DAAD scholarship in 2010. As part of their stay in Singapore, DAAD IC Singapore organized a visit to the new regional Headquarters of BOSCH. Mr Cem Peksaklam, CEO of the company’s Singapore office, and his colleagues gave the students a unique insight into the workings of this Germany technology giant.





German Day @ NUS

Food, games, prizes, a German DJ and plenty of information – this is what the over 600 visitors at the second ‘Discover Germany – Land of Ideas’ event experienced on 8 September 2010. This year’s event was kindly hosted by the International Relations Office of National University of Singapore. Besides information sessions on study & research opportunities in Germany, visitors enjoyed German delicacies offered by Bacchus restaurant, took part in free speed teaching language sessions conducted by the Goethe Institute, and were serenaded by the choir of the NUS Language Centre. Leading German companies were at hand to provide information on career opportunities while our very own DJ from The Germany European School Singapore created a funky vibe! We also awarded prizes to the winners of our photo competition ‘My Germany’ whose pictures were on display throughout the day.



events 2010



Germany, France and Singapore hold joint workshop on “Applied Cryptography”


On 3 December 2010, Germany, France and Singapore jointly co-hosted a workshop on Applied Cryptography at NTU’s School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. The workshop participants presented state of the art research in digital security while exploring avenues for future research collaborations. Leading international companies including Rohde & Schwarz (German) and Gemalto (France) hosted the international visitors for in-depth discussions at their Singapore offices. DAAD IC Singapore was a key partner in the organization of this event which was financed by BMBF.



GIST-TUM Asia students awarded with DAAD Scholarships

The DAAD awarded eight scholarships to outstanding Master students of the German Institute of Science and Technology (GIST) TUM Asia in Singapore. GIST-TUM Asia is a subsidiary of Technische Universität München (TUM) in Singapore and the first German academic venture abroad. Through joint programmes with the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) GIST-TUM Asia bridges academic education, industry and research to qualify young professionals for technology oriented leadership roles in a competitive global economy. From 2010 onwards GIST will offer a Bachelor Degree in Electrical Engineering at its Singapore Campus. For information please contact: info@gist.edu.sg

Dr Susanne Rentzow-Vasu, Director of DAAD IC Singapore congratulates awardee Ms Chen Yu (left) who studies for a Master’s in Microelectronics.



The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the German national agency for the support of international academic cooperation, and is a private, federally- and state-funded, self-governing national agency of the institutions of higher education in Germany. The DAAD network now includes 14 branch offices and 50 Information Centres worldwide; the head office is located in Bonn.

In the field of international academic cooperation, the DAAD fulfils responsibilities in foreign cultural and academic policy with the prime objective of internationalizing research, teaching, and studies.

The DAAD aims to aid in international academic mobility by providing grants to foreign and German students, student trainees and interns, graduates, academics and researchers. In principle, more than 250 different funding programmes are open in both directions to all countries of the world and to all disciplines. Moreover, the DAAD aims to increase the international appeal of Germany's higher education institutions and research institutes, and to raise interest in German language and culture abroad. Another task is to promote the academic, scientific, economic, and democratic advancement of developing countries. The DAAD funds more than 67,000 German and foreign scholars worldwide per annum.

The DAAD Information Center Singapore was established in September 2001. It offers free and comprehensive advice on study and research

opportunities in Germany, on specific international degree programmes, scholarship and funding options, university summer courses and much more.

The DAAD Information Center Singapore is also coordinating exhibition presentations, events, and advertising/marketing measures to promote research in Germany and international cooperation between German companies and research institutes.

For more information, please visit our websites at: **www.daad.de** and **www.ic.daad.de/singapore**

New address as of 1 January 2011:

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