

EURAXESS Member Germany: A global leader in R&D

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 40 countries. Here, we focus on Germany.

Facts & Figures

- Research and innovation are the cornerstones of the future of the German economy. Generous public funding programmes allow German higher education institutions, research institutions and companies to cooperate with foreign partners. Vice versa, **excellent research and innovation conditions in Germany attract partners from all over the world.**
- Keys to the success of the German R&D system are the **autonomy of universities and non-university research institutions** in the identification of research topics and methods in the area of innovative basic research, **close links to the industry** to carry out cutting-edge applied research and the **openness to international cooperation.**
- The German education system **provides English run academic courses in nearly all fields**, where students can benefit from teaching enriched by the lecturers own experience in topical research and international networks
- The public and private sectors have made a significant commitment to spend around **three per cent of national GDP per year on R&D activity.** This amounted to approximately €84 billion R&D spending in 2014; two-third is spent by the private sector



© Lise Gagne - [Istockphoto.com](https://www.istockphoto.com)



© DAAD/Volker Lannert

Germany's R&D landscape is characterised by a close cooperation between science and economy. It is based on the dense and decentralised network of **more than 420 universities**, technical colleges and universities of applied sciences.

In worldwide comparison, Germany holds a unique position thanks to **strong research communities in basic and applied research**.

There exist more than **300 non-university research institutions**, among which the institutes of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, the Helmholtz Gemeinschaft and the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft

- Key sectors of R&D in Germany are defined by the new **High-Tech Strategy which was published in 2014**, namely “Digital Economy and Society”, “Sustainable Economy and Energy”, “Innovative Workplace”, “Healthy Living”, “Intelligent Mobility” and “Civil Security”.

The new High-Tech Strategy stands for the aim of moving Germany forward on its way to becoming a worldwide innovation leader

Where can I find out more ?

Research in Germany

The “Research in Germany” portal provides an overview of the German research landscape and funding system along with interesting news from the scientific world. Additionally, practical information supports foreign scientists and researchers in their decision to collaborate with German research organisations or to complete a research stay in Germany.

- [Research in Germany Facebook page](#).
- [Brochures for download](#) (e.g. “German Funding Programmes for Scientists and Researchers”, FAQs – Preparing a successful research stay in Germany, About the German Research Landscape, The German Research Landscape - Who does research in Germany?)

PhDGermany – open PhD positions

Database maintained by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) listing job openings / PhD positions for doctoral students.

Research Explorer

The Research Explorer contains over 23,000 institutes at German universities and non-university research institutions, searchable by geographic location, subject and other structural criteria.

Euraxess members in focus: Germany | October 2016

Research in
Germany

Land of Ideas





DAAD

DAAD Funding Database

The funding database of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) lists DAAD funding schemes for foreign students, graduates and postdocs as well as on funding offered by other selected organisations.

List of Research Performing Organisations

Universities, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Helmholtz Association, Leibniz Association, Max Planck Society, Academies of Sciences and Humanities, Federal Institutions, Länder Institutions, Companies & Industrial Research, German Federation of Industrial Research Associations (AiF), Networks and Clusters, Research Infrastructures



Collaboration in science, research and innovation between Germany and ASEAN

In general, collaboration in science, research and innovation between Germany and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) falls under the roof of the “Internationalization Strategy” of the German Government. Since the ten member states of ASEAN – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam – are far from being a homogenous group of states, the collaboration varies from country to country. The ASEAN member states do not only differ in size, population, urbanization, religion, economic performance or stage of development. Most significant with regard to science, research and innovation are the differences of the quality of the systems of education and science as well as of the R&D and innovation performances. Therefore implementing a one size fits all science, research and innovation policy for all ten ASEAN member states would simply be impossible. To tackle this challenge Germany signed agreements on cooperation in the field of scientific research and technological development with selected member states such as Indonesia in 1979 or Singapore in 1994. Some ASEAN member states – like Thailand or Singapore for example – participate in joint mobility programs aiming at facilitating scientific cooperation or have developed joint research structures and programs which can highlight the collaboration in the field of science, research and innovation with Germany.



Germany and Singapore for example signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of scientific research and technological development in 1994, since the scientific cooperation between Germany and Singapore is a major pillar of the bilateral relations. With TUM Asia, an offshore campus of the Technische Universität München (TUM), Singapore was the first destination for a German university to open a campus abroad. Besides pure scientific cooperation the German collaboration with Singaporean universities also aims at offering dual education courses “Made in Germany” which cater primarily to the needs of the more than 1500 German companies in Singapore.

The collaboration with Thailand focuses on health science, in particular on infectious diseases, agriculture and engineering. In the field of engineering “The Sirindhorn International Thai-German Graduate School of Engineering” (TGGS), an autonomous International Graduate School of Engineering within King Mongkut’s University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB) can serve as a perfect example for our bilateral scientific collaboration. TGGS is the result of intense cooperation between KMUTNB and Rheinisch-Westfaelische Technische Hochschule Aachen (RWTH Aachen).

In Malaysia, the cooperation between German and Malaysian universities continues to grow and currently numbers more than 80 partnerships. In 2014, an additional element of R&D cooperation was established when the Steinbeis Malaysia Centre was founded. It has signed MoUs with several local R&D institutions and is currently establishing a network with companies active in this field. In more practical terms, the German Malaysian Institute (founded 1992) offers mainly technical education to Malaysian students and is part of the Dual Vocational Education program which was started last year by the Malaysian-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK).

The Vietnamese-German University was founded in 2008 and covers engineering and natural sciences. Besides these fields, collaboration between Germany and Vietnam narrows the scope on water and environmental technology as well as bioeconomy.

From a German scientific point of view, Indonesia with its unique flora and fauna is of special interest in the field of biotechnology. A particular focus is also directed on tsunami research projects.

This broad spectrum of various scientific fields in the collaboration with the ASEAN member states clearly highlights the fact that the German-ASEAN scientific collaboration is always adapted to the respective ASEAN member state to be most fruitful for both parties.

Sascha A. Kienzle

Head of Science and Technology Department, German Embassy Singapore

Euraxess members in focus: Germany | October 2016