



Call for Proposals

DAAD Graduate School

'Performing Sustainability. Cultures and Development in West Africa'

The interdisciplinary Graduate School 'Performing Sustainability. Cultures and Development in West Africa' is a collaborative training network for postgraduate students by the University of Hildesheim (Germany), the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria) and the University of Cape Coast (Ghana). The initiative is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and focuses on innovative research that brings together approaches from performance, arts and culture to bear on sustainable development as defined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A specific focus of the Graduate School is on issues of peace and conflict resolution.

We hereby announce the availability of six 3-year scholarships for students at the PhD level and six 3-year scholarships for Master students at the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria. The scholarships will commence in March 2017. More specifically, we call for proposals for the following available scholarships:

6 PhD scholarships at the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria)

6 Master scholarships at the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria)

The Graduate School will be based on online tutorials and two intensive research workshops held annually at the University of Cape Coast (Ghana). During the three-week workshops, experts from various areas will teach specific topics related to the research subjects and methodology for all scholarship holders. Additionally, workshops in didactics will be held and an exchange program for scholarship holders between Germany, Nigeria and Ghana will take place during the funding period. Throughout the year, the students will conduct their individual research at their home universities. Participants in the Graduate School will pay the respective tuition fees for the programs they are enrolled in, but all costs in relation to the Graduate School (workshops etc.) will be covered. Scholarship holders will additionally receive a monthly stipend.

Focus of Research Proposals

Research proposals may focus on various topics connecting performance, arts and culture in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa, such as:

- the prevention of violent conflicts (e.g. promoting of tolerance between ethnic groups and religions, the conservation and protection of the diversity of cultural expressions, averting social exclusion and violence due to diseases and epidemics)
- peacekeeping (e.g. securing land and land use rights, reconciliation after violent conflicts, stopping and preventing environmental degradation and resource exploitation, educating about climate change and social challenges)
- conflict transformation and social equality (e.g. actions for righteous participation and self-determination of gender, reconciliation building after the end of violent conflicts, promoting physical / mental healing processes within the society)

The research projects should be conducted in local contexts and be directed towards solving problems voiced by local agents and stakeholders. Projects should therefore include an applied aspect aiming at sustainable, mid- and long-term solutions in the fields of education, socio-cultural development or cultural policy.

Target Group

The Graduate School offers the opportunity to learn and exchange experiences in an international academic environment with scholars from Nigeria, Ghana and Germany. It is targeting qualified young scholars and students. It is addressed to qualified young scientists and students. A precondition for entering the Graduate school is a Master's or Bachelor's degree respectively in the humanities, social sciences, cultural sciences or cultural policy. In addition, the University of Hildesheim (Germany) offers a „cotutelle de these“, a split-side doctoral program, which provides certification from the two participating universities.

Application and Selection Process

The working language of the Graduate School is English; a very good command of English in oral and written communication is mandatory. Candidates apply with a project proposal (maximum five pages) which must include issues and topics clearly related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The proposal should also contain the following information: description of the current situation/state of research, the resulting research questions and the intended research methods, a list of the relevant literature and other potential research materials (e.g. documents, interviews, sound archives, media sources), a description of the targeted results and ideas for an applied project based on the outcome of the research.

Candidates will be selected based on their qualification and motivation. Special emphasis is placed on gender balance. We particularly encourage women and people with diverse backgrounds to apply.

The deadline for application is 22 January 2017. No application after this date will be accepted.

To apply please send the following documents to:
daad-sdg@uni-hildesheim.de

- Research project proposal (maximum 5 pages)
- Motivation letter (2 pages) stating qualifications and interest and also indicating the specific graduate program the applicant wishes to enrol in
- CV in English
- Certificates and other relevant credentials
- 2 Letters of academic reference

Selection will take place in the February. Short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview.

We are looking forward to receive your application. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further inquiry.

Contact

University of Maiduguri (Nigeria), Department of Visual and Performing Arts: Dr. Christopher Mtaku (cymtaku@gmail.com)

University of Hildesheim (Germany), Center for World Music: Dr Nepomuk Riva (nepomuk.riva@uni-hildesheim.de); UNESCO Chair Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development: Meike Lettau (lettau@uni-hildesheim.de)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair
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University of Hildesheim, Germany

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