



Bhutan 2022

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Current Trends in Academic Cooperation

Germany and the Kingdom of Bhutan have maintained diplomatic relations since 25 November 2020, but there is a much longer history of academic cooperation between the two countries. Around 12,000 students are currently enrolled at the country’s only university, the Royal University of Bhutan, and its associated colleges.

In the 2020/21 winter semester, there were 25 Bhutanese international students at German higher education institutions. The most popular destinations for students from Bhutan are Australia, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and the US. Germany comes in 12th place.

According to the German Rectors’ Conference, as of April 2022 there were three cooperation arrangements in place between Germany and Bhutan:

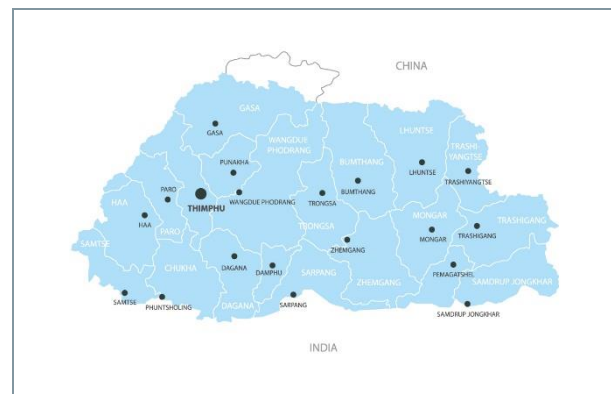
- Heidelberg University of Education & Royal University of Bhutan
- SRH University Heidelberg & Royal University of Bhutan
- Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University & Royal Thiumphu College

Bhutan effectively closed its borders in 2021 in response to the pandemic and has only allowed international students to enter the country again since spring 2022.

DAAD Activities

The number of students and researchers receiving funding remains at a low level overall. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions, the number of Germans receiving funding has effectively fallen to zero.

The DAAD’s New Delhi regional office is responsible for the DAAD’s activities in Bhutan. The DAAD provides information on studying and research in Germany and Bhutan, offers advice on accessing funding and supports



→ 43 funding recipients from Bhutan (2021)
← 1 funding recipient from Germany (2021)

higher education institutions in Bhutan and Germany with establishing and consolidating cooperations and partnerships.

Of the individual scholarship programmes the Development-Related Postgraduate Courses (EPOS) programme is most popular. Through the EPOS programme, scholarships are awarded to students from developing and emerging countries for development-related postgraduate studies at German higher education institutions. After graduation the scholarship holders are expected to act as multipliers, taking active roles within international networks to contribute to solving challenges facing specific countries or regions, or global challenges. In 2021, 10 students from Bhutan received funding through the EPOS programme.

The 'Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation (exceed)' is the primary focus for project funding, supporting many scholarship holders from Bhutan:

- Technical University of Berlin, KfW Development Bank, Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, HU Berlin, Royal University of Bhutan (interdisciplinary), 'Global Center of

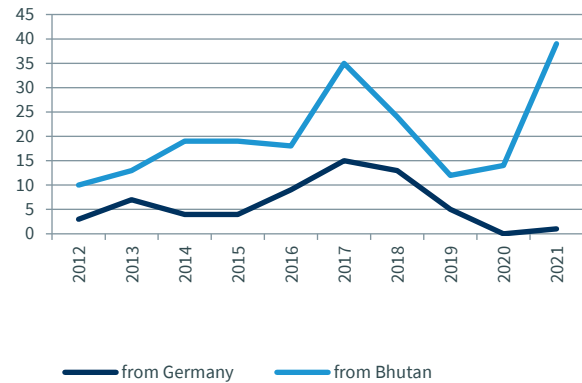
Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability' (GCMUS) (2020–2024)

- LMU Munich University Hospital, Institute of Public Law, Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences (interdisciplinary) 'OH-TARGET' (2020–2024)

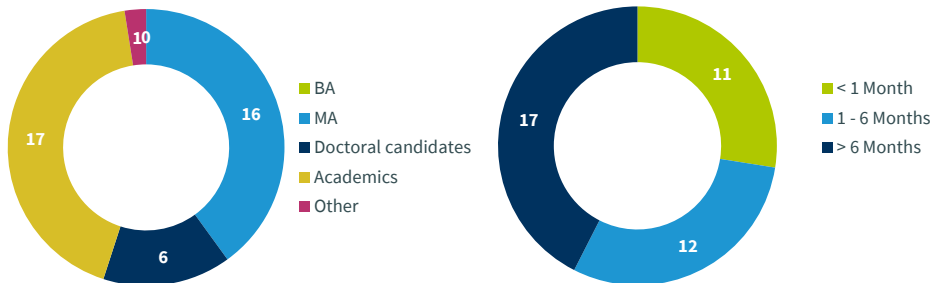
Selected funding programmes by number of DAAD funding recipients

Individual funding	Bhutan	Germany
Research scholarships for international doctoral candidates and early-career academics	2	-
Development-Related Postgraduate Courses (EPOS)	10	-
Project funding	Bhutan	Germany
Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation (exceed)	15	-
Development-Related Postgraduate Courses (EPOS)	4	-
EU	Bhutan	Germany
ERASMUS mobility grants	4	-

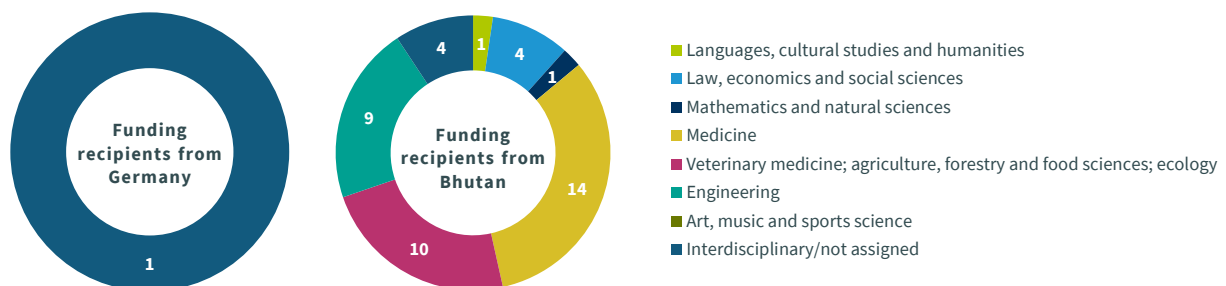
DAAD funding Bhutan 2012–2021 (not including EU mobility programmes)



Distribution of DAAD funding recipients 2021 (not including EU mobility programmes)



Subject distribution of DAAD funding recipients 2021 (incl. EU mobility programmes)



Sources: DAAD statistics, 2021 funding data, © Atelier Hauer + Dörfler/moloko_vector/shutterstock.com, CIA WFB
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