



DAAD KIWi

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



DAAD GLOBUS Country Report short version

Mexico 2025

Contact: [DAAD Centre for International Academic Cooperation](#) → kiwi@daad.de
[DAAD Regional Office Mexico](#) → info.mexico@daad.de

Current Trends in Higher Education

The higher education system in Mexico has undergone substantial expansion in recent years, a development largely attributable to the country's rapid demographic growth. Between 1960 and 2025, the population rose from 36.7 million to over 130 million. In Q1 of 2025, the population of Mexico between the ages of 15 and 24 was more than 30 million, comprising 51% women and 49% men. This rapid population growth necessitated the parallel development of an adequate supply of academic education and vocational qualifications. In the 2024/2025 academic year, Mexico had more than 4,300 higher education institutions of various types and 5.5 million students.

Recent years have seen a series of significant changes to Mexico's science policy. The National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) underwent a transformation between 2023 and 2024, resulting in its re-designation as the National Council for Humanities, Sciences and Technologies (CONAHCYT). This explicitly included the humanities ('humanidades'). The objective was to position research as a tool to serve the social welfare of the population, as defined by the government.

In November 2024, the newly elected government under President Claudia Sheinbaum established SECIHTI, the first ministry dedicated to science, and CONAHCYT was subsequently incorporated into SECIHTI. These reforms serve to strengthen the state's control over the planning and financing of knowledge, with the objective of forging closer links between science, technology and the humanities, and the country's strategic development goals.

Following a period of stagnation under the previous government, international cooperation is now once again being accorded a higher priority.



- 1,116 funding recipients from Mexico (2024)
- ← 410 funding recipients from Germany (2024)

Regional Office: Mexico City

DAAD Lecturers: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico City (2), Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN), Mexico City, Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), Monterrey, Universidad de Guadalajara, Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí

Internationalisation and University Cooperation

The primary stakeholders in the internationalisation of higher education and research in Mexico are the institutions of higher education. The institutional support and coordination received from the Mexican Association for International Education (AMPEI), the National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES), the Ministry of Science, Humanities, Technology and Innovation (SECIHTI) and the 32 Mexican states is indicative of the scale and scope of the initiative.

In order to assess the degree of internationalisation of Mexican universities, a distinction must be made between the different types of higher education institutions. Large public universities under federal supervision, such as the National Autonomous University of

Mexico (UNAM) or the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN), are well connected internationally and attach great importance to the strategic selection of their partner institutions. Public institutions with a well-developed international network also include regional state universities at the federal state level (UPES), which have often implemented outstanding internationalisation projects. Other types of public higher education institutions include Technological Institutes, Technological Universities, Intercultural Universities and public Polytechnic Universities. The majority of these institutions already engage in international cooperation, while the Technological Universities only began awarding academic degrees beyond vocational and technical training a few years ago. There is an increasing interest in cooperation with German Universities of Applied Sciences and in the dual study model.

70% of these institutions are private higher education institutions, where there is a particularly wide range in terms of quality and reputation. Certain private institutions have been observed to achieve a higher ranking than state institutions in international rankings, which primarily utilise reputation as a metric. To date, a mere 10 % have formulated strategies for internationalisation and cooperation. Several of these universities are affiliated with 37 German higher education institutions that constitute the German University Consortium for International Cooperation (DHIK). The Mexican-German Higher Education Cooperation Project (mdhk), which has been funded by the BMBF / BMFTR since 2016, supports student exchanges in combined study and practical semesters, double degree programmes and, in future, joint research projects.

There are several ways to assess the quality of research and teaching at Mexican universities and their study programmes. Research-intensive institutions in the public sector have been found to achieve solid results in both basic and applied research. The group is led by federal universities and public research centres, which are coordinated by SECIHTI. At the state level, the group is followed by state universities (UPES) and Technological Institutes. It is particularly noteworthy that the Ministry of Science has established 25 public research centres under the aegis of SECIHTI. The institution's research strength renders it an appealing collaborator for international scientists. It is also important to note that the state's research funding policy is aligned with the priority topics of the National Strategic Programmes (PRONACES). This phenomenon exerts its influence not solely on the selection of research projects that are allocated preferential funding, but also on the configuration of graduate education.

DAAD Activities

In Mexico, the DAAD is represented by a branch office in Mexico City with regional responsibility for Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic. In addition, the DAAD maintains five (six from September 2025) German language lecturers in Mexico and two long-term teaching positions, one for Economics (UNAM) and one in the field of German and European studies (University of Guadalajara). The Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt Special Chair, which was established in 1998 and became institutionally affiliated with the Colegio de México (COLMEX) in 2013, also plays an important role in strengthening Mexican-German academic relations.

In 2024, the DAAD awarded a total of 1,526 scholarships to students, graduates and researchers (1,116 from Mexico and 410 from Germany) as part of bilateral academic mobility.

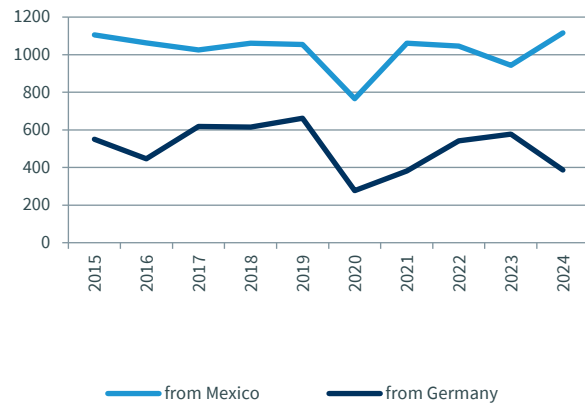
A milestone in the promotion of Mexican talent was the successful negotiations between the DAAD and the Science and Technology Council of the State of Mexico (Consejo Mexiquense de Ciencia y Tecnología, COMECYT) in 2024 on a new, co-financed scholarship programme. It is aimed at students and graduates from the country's most populous state who wish to pursue a master's degree or doctorate in Germany. The new programme, which is funded on the German side by the Federal Foreign Office, was first announced at the beginning of 2025. The first generation of DAAD-COMECYT scholarship holders consists of 20 graduates (19 Master's students and one doctoral candidate). As part of the DAAD's individual funding programme, the KOSPIE programme – Combined Study and Practical Stays for Engineers from Developing Countries (BMZ) – is also a very successful co-financed funding instrument. When the programme is advertised, there are regularly very high numbers of applications from all over Mexico. Since its inception in 2002, a total of 3,057 scholarships have been awarded.

One highlight of DAAD's project funding in Mexico is the Global Centre for Health and Pandemic Preparedness, which was established in 2021 with funding from the Federal Foreign Office. The German-Latin American Centre of Infection & Epidemiology Research & Training (GLACIER) is based at UNAM in Mexico City and has a co-location at the University of Havana. The project was extended in 2025 for a second funding phase until 2030. On the German side, the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg are responsible for the project. In 2024, the DAAD funded 33 individuals as part of this project.

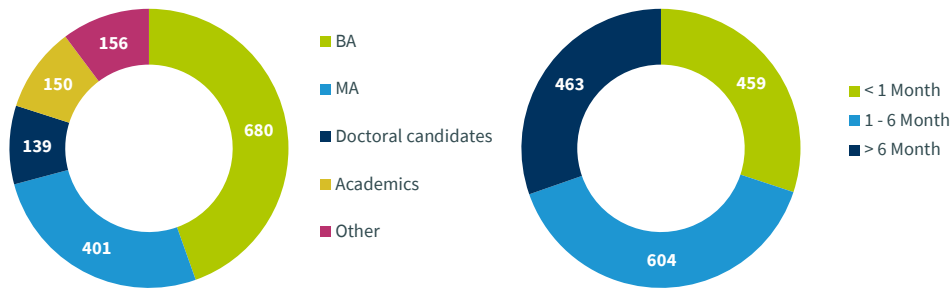
Selected funding programmes by number of DAAD funding recipients, 2024

Individual funding	Mexico	Germany
Research grants for foreign doctoral candidates and early-career researchers	46	-
CONACYT / Government scholarships Mexico	33	-
Project funding	Mexico	Germany
PROMOS	-	207
Internationalisation of Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS.International)	40	23
EU	Mexico	Germany
ERASMUS mobility grants	-	23

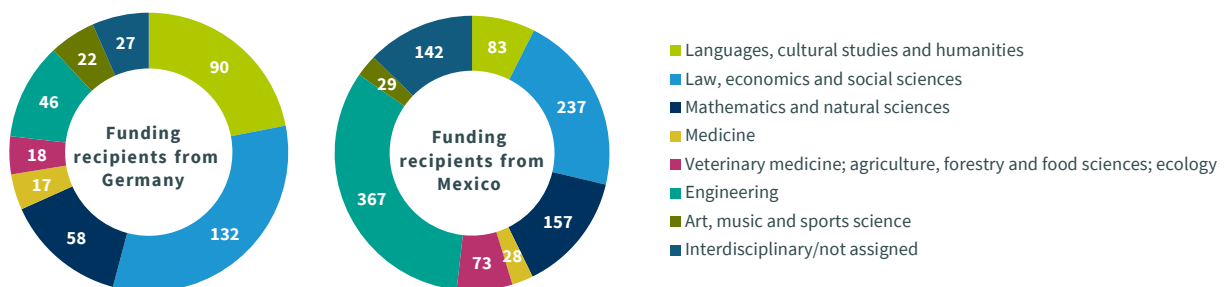
DAAD funding recipients Mexico, 2015-2024 (excl. EU mobility grants)



Distribution of DAAD funding recipients by academic status and funding period (incl. EU mobility grants), 2024



Subject distribution of DAAD funding recipients (incl. EU mobility grants), 2024



Sources: DAAD statistics, 2024 funding data, © Atelier Hauer + Dörfler/moloko_vector/shutterstock.com, CIA WFB

Publisher: Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V. (DAAD)
 Kennedyallee 50, D-53175 Bonn, Tel.: +49 228 882-0, Fax: +49 228 882-444
 E-Mail: webmaster@daad.de, Internet: https://www.daad.de
 Authorised Representative of the Executive Committee:
 Prof Dr Joybrato Mukherjee, District Court of Bonn
 Register of associations, number VR 2107, Sales tax number: DE122276332

Person responsible according to § 18 Abs. 2 MStV: Dr Kai Sicks, Kennedyallee 50, 53175 Bonn
 Kompetenzzentrum Internationale Wissenschaftskooperationen |
 Layout: Atelier Hauer + Dörfler, Berlin
 Published as a digital publication on the internet, October 2025 © DAAD