

NOTE CONCEPTUELLE



CONCEPT NOTE

Women Advancement Forum

International Exchanges, Research & Academia (WAFIRA)

BACKGROUND

The DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) is committed to promoting and strengthening equal opportunity in education and research. In contribution to the delivery of this strategic objective, a programmatic capacity-building workshop entitled the "**Women Advancement Forum: International Exchanges, Research & Academia**" (WAFIRA), was conceptualized as a 3-day-training programme for female academics and researchers, in 2014, and will continue with enhanced delivery in collaboration with universities in Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Togo and Cameroon.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Advancing the careers, progression and retention of female academics and researchers.
- Encouraging female academics and researchers with regards to applying for scholarships/ research grants.
- Increasing the application and success rates of female academics and researchers in the DAAD/German international exchange and scholarship programmes.
- Enhancing the delivery of mentoring and support networks for female academics and researchers.
- Contributing to a critical awareness, exchanges, and transformative knowledge development and capacity on gender equity and equality in academia and research.
- Providing a space for dynamic exchanges and networking where female academics and researchers can share their perspectives and particular experiences and thus, engender inspiring and empowering innovations for the engagement of their agencies and capacities.
- Creating a high-level knowledge hub and opportunities for academic publications in leading international journals under the theme "Academia and research through a gendered lens".
- Capturing, sharing and disseminating knowledge for women's advancement in academia and research.

ENVISAGED OUTCOMES

- A promotion, support and networking programme to boost the number of successful applications from female researchers/academics to the DAAD and other German Scholarship programmes
- Vision statement/recommendations to the national authorities for higher education in each host country.
- Vision statement/recommendations to the DAAD.
- Full report (summary of key presentations, discussion points and conclusions from the workshop sessions).
- Identification of potential "God fathers" and mentors and establishment of effective mentoring relationships for the career advancement of women academics and researchers.
- Academic articles in international peer-reviewed journals.
- Compendium of case studies of the experiences, successes, challenges and the transformational impact of international exchange programmes such as DAAD in the career trajectories of Central African women academics and researchers.
- WAFIRA Central Africa Regional Forum 2018 (in Yaounde, CAMEROON) with participants from West and Central African Countries - focus on Women's leadership skills, challenges and opportunities in academia and research.

PARTICIPANTS

Female DAAD and Germany Alumnae as well as other emerging (minimum: Masters' degree level) female academics and researchers from institutes of higher education and research institutes in the respective country. Maximum 100 participants per event.

APPLICATION

Applicants are expected to write a short essay on their experiences on the theme "A version of events: being female in academia/research" The article should also elaborate on why the applicant regards the WAFIRA Forum as relevant. Applications will be screened and selected by a committee. A selected number of essays will be published after the conference (with the prior consent of contributing authors - optionally anonym) as a compendium of case-studies of experiences of female academics from different West African Countries.

Participation Fee (for non-DAAD Alumni): 15€ MA students/ 30€ for PhD to post-doc researchers (in local currency)

FACILITATORS

Facilitators are experienced academics/researchers preferably from the host institution, preferably female, and preferably (but not necessarily) DAAD/Germany Alumni. Individuals interested in being considered to serve as facilitators for a WAFIRA workshop are invited to send their application. Send an email to wafira.cmr@gmail.com to receive the call for application for facilitators.

We are looking forward to creative, dynamic and participatory workshop sessions. Facilitators are encouraged to innovate, provoke, challenge and inspire, to

generate knowledgeable food for thought as well as to offer space for interaction, knowledge sharing and impactful engagements.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Experienced female researcher from Germany and the host country





- Expertise and knowledge on the theme 'Academia and research through a gendered lens' with regards to the German/European as well as to the West African context and scenarios.
- High-level of sensitization, understanding and commitment regarding postcolonial dynamics and realities in West Africa.

EXTRA WORKSHOP SESSION FOR MALE PARTICIPANTS

Separate male ONLY break away session parallel to the first round of workshops during the afternoon session on the first day after the morning plenary session (that is open for all gender) No prior application needed. Call for participants during the plenary session.

TEMPLATE

	DAY 1		DAY 2	DAY 3
8-10	registration			
9-10			Thé/Café	Thé/Café
10-1	opening ceremony key note speech		2-3 parallel workshops	2-3 parallel workshops
1-2	lunch / coffee / tea		lunch / coffee / tea	lunch / coffee / tea
2-3			DAAD Alumni meeting	evaluation/ closing ceremony
3-6	2-3 parallel workshops	1 male only workshop	2-3 parallel workshops	

-  open for all (no prior registration)
-  for registered female participants only (application process prior to the event)
-  for male participants only (no prior application needed)
-  for DAAD Alumni only

WORKSHOP THEMES

Four major workshop blocks, each 2-3 parallel workshops. Subthemes can be modified by the facilitators.

DAY 1 Workshop Session 3-6pm

GENDERED RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Suggestions for subthemes (to be adapted and defined by the facilitator):

- Women in Academia & Research - Innovation in Science and Technology
- Transcending Gender Barriers: Delivering Excellence in Women's Academic and Research performance
- Women in Academia and Value-Oriented: Ethical and Social Inclusion paradigms
- Male only break away session

DAY 2 Workshop Session 10am – 1pm

WOMEN IN ACADEMIA & RESEARCH: REAFFIRMING IDENTITIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY **Suggestions for subthemes (to be adapted and defined by the facilitator):**

- Women as agents of sustainable development in nation-building: Way Forward
- Gender and Mentoring: Addressing the gap
- Successful application for DAAD/German International academic exchange programmes (offered twice)
- Gender stereotypes in Teaching and Research

DAY 2 Workshop Session 3-6pm

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND INTERVENTIONS in ACADEMIA & RESEARCH

Suggestions for subthemes (to be adapted and defined by the facilitator):

- Mainstreaming Gender in Academia & Research: Evidenced-based Policy-making
- Gender Equality in Capacity and Skills Development
- Enhancing Research capabilities of female Academics

DAY 3 Workshop Session 10am – 1pm

SUCCESS JOURNEY THROUGH THE ACADEMIA & RESEARCH MAZE

Suggestions for subthemes (to be adapted and defined by the facilitator):

- International exchanges, experiences and their career advancement benefits
- Successful application for DAAD/German International academic exchange programmes
- Successful Proposal writing and research/project planning skills and techniques

- Successful Self-promotion skills and techniques

DATES

March 26 – 28th 2018 Yaounde - CAMEROON

FINANCES

- Limited travel and accommodation allowance for DAAD Alumni provided by DAAD

- DAAD further caters for: press/media coverage, honorarium/travel allowance and accommodation for invited international guest speakers, lunch & snacks for all participants, venue + technical equipment (1 main auditorium for the opening ceremony, 3 workshop rooms that can contain up to 40 people each - all equipped with projector, white board and reliable electricity, 1 coffee room for informal gathering (40 people), 1 room for lunch/catering (where up to 100 people can be served)

- Facilitators (mainly female lecturers from the partnership university) support the programme by offering workshops, if facilitators come from other universities limited travel allowance and accommodation would be provided by DAAD

THE ORGANISERS

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in collaboration with West African Universities and Dr. Elizabeth Rasekoala, co-initiator and senior adviser for the WAFIRA Programme.

OTHER PARTNER

Up to 10 exhibitors, priority to German institutions

DAAD - GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE

The DAAD is the world's largest funding organisation for the international exchange of students and researchers. It is a registered association and its members are German institutions of higher education and student bodies. Its activities go far beyond simply awarding grants and scholarships. The DAAD supports the internationalisation of German universities, promotes German studies and language abroad, assists developing countries in establishing effective universities and advises decision makers on matters of cultural, education and development policy.

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