Dear colleagues and friends,
Dear DAAD scholarship holders and alumni,

Happy New Year to all of you! May the book of 2017 be filled with joy and laughter, success and academic fulfillment. May you complete your degrees, studies abroad or your proposals. DAAD is looking forward to engaging with all of you, the new scholarship holders as well as all familiar faces, with long established partners and curious new associates.

Our book is full of ideas. Let’s start. We have started our university visit series on 27 February in the Eastern Cape where we also launched the Hedis partnership between the University of Oldenburg and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. The partnership seeks to develop academic excellence and the practical application of research in the Hub for Education on ICT for Sustainability (HEdiS).

Last week, we were in the Limpopo Province, looking forward to hearing inspiring stories about the students at the University of Venda that visited Germany last year. What stories did they tell? At the University of Limpopo, we will conduct a seminar on Interculturality & Migration” that developed from the DAAD engagement in that field as well as many experiences of the Language Department at the University of Limpopo. We were excited to launch this pilot project.

We have already visited the Deutsche Schule Pretoria during their Career Day. It was a pleasure meeting so many young and curious pupils. Also, we had a stand at the Postgraduate Fair at the University of Witwatersrand. To meet the future academic leaders in a big variety of fields was nothing but a pleasure.

At the University of Witwatersrand, where discussions about curriculum transformations continue, the German Department had also decided to look beyond its (national) borders. A project with the Ivory Coast will look into the motivations, successes and future career opportunities that the German Language offers.

Finally, it is my pleasure to announce that we again have three language assistants in the country: Nina Keller, Lisa Schlafke, Lisa Letzkus will help teach the German language at the University of Witwatersrand, the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University respectively. They are young professionals from Germany that will bring a lot of first hand student experience from Germany and engage in culture as well as in language teaching.

A lot can happen in one year. Make it the beginning of anything you want.

We will see you soon!
Welcome to the DAAD Family

The DAAD South Africa is privileged to have an ever growing family. Each year we welcome more than 200 new students and researchers. We would like congratulate them on being awarded an In-Country or In-Region scholarship for their Masters / Doctoral studies in 2017.

The DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) is the largest funding organisation in the world, supporting the international exchange of students and scholars. Since it was founded in 1925, it can count more than 2 million alumni in Germany and abroad.

We are looking forward to meeting during Meet & Greet events, the Alumni Celebration or the DAAD-NRF In-Country scholarship holders meeting to walk a piece of your journey with you.
The future of an academic life starts here!

Every year the University of Witwatersrand hosts a Post-Graduate Welcome Day. It is organised by the Human Recources Department of the university and seeks to inform students about a postgraduate academic life. Faculties, libraries, publishing houses and scholarship organizations offered consultations to look into masters or a PhD options.

With music to energise the mood, food and drink to keep those student engines running, informative speeches and curious students, DAAD felt it was a great place to engage. The DAAD South Africa was privileged to be invited again and have a full table with a lot of students interested in embarking on a post-graduate journey. It is inspiring to talk to students and learn about their plans to do a post-graduate degree. DAAD South Africa strives to make post-graduate plans come true and when a student walks away with a smile, we feel we will hear from them again.

Study in Germany with your matric!

The DAAD Team was invited to the Career Day at the German School in Pretoria (Deutsche Schule Pretoria) on 21 February. It was an enriching experience to engage with pupils that are looking for career opportunities after school.

Did you know that you can study in Germany with your South African matric? In Germany, there are 400 institutions of higher education with more than 20,000 degree programmes. 1,800 of them are offered with English as the language of instruction. Sounded like the place to go for many pupils from the German school. Engineering and Humanities were sought after most. But also Law, Medicine and Administrations sounded like options for the audience. The questions and aspirations were all well prepared; and the whole Career Day well organized. It is always a pleasure to plant the seed to study in Germany – and even if that is not your plan, we are still around to consult over studying in Africa or South Africa with DAAD.

Open the Door to a World of Opportunities

The Department of Modern Languages at the university of the Witwatersrand had a get-together with students and introduced the department as well as the languages that are available to study as a foreign language.

Lecturers from the departments of French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish each had a few words to say and introduce the perspective languages.

The department focuses on promoting and teaching foreign languages. Besides the focus on the continent, the language school also encourages young students and future leaders in business and academics to look beyond the borders of the world: in a globalized world, it is important to think outside the box. An international language is always an asset for the job market as well as on your CV. Furthermore with learning a new language you will see the world through new eyes and learn to think in different ways. It will open the door to a world with opportunities.

We hope the students are ready for an adventurous semester!
DAAD University visit series to start soon

The DAAD South Africa kicks off each year with the university visit series, visiting all the universities in South Africa as well as long established partners for various new projects, seminars and engagements.

Besides a DAAD Information Session on the German Research Landscape and the DAAD funding programmes, we have a set of new ideas as well.

We launched the Hub for Education on ICT for Sustainability (HEdIS) at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth. This hub that is a cooperation with the University of Oldenburg will not only promote academic excellence but also value the outreach and application of research.

We conducted a seminars on “Interculturality and Migration” at the University of Limpopo. This idea derived from the seminars at the University of Venda and the teacher training workshop at the National German Teachers’ Conference last year. It is a cooperation with the Department of Languages which had a great experiences and expertise in the fields of migration and/or arts; as the Drama Section and the English Literature have proven at various occasions. It is an honour that they chose DAAD to be a partner in the seminar this year.

Furthermore, we will organize scholarship and alumni meetings where academic workshops and trainings will improve the skills of tomorrow’s leaders. The workshop will be conducted by local and regional experts to generate knowledge in Africa, the continent of the future.

We will also welcome all the new professors from Germany in the country that have arrived at the University of the Western Cape and other institutions to give lectures and seminars in their fields and also learn from their South African counterparts about approaches to and implementations of research at their host universities.

We will meet and greet the new scholarship holders in South Africa as well as the international students from Africa that found a spot in our centers of excellence.

All these events will be advertised in our Newsletter as well as Facebook and Twitter pages. So be sure to like us on DAAD South Africa, https://www.facebook.com/DAAD.South.Africa/ and https://twitter.com/DAADSouthAfrica or for queries contact the DAAD Office on daad@wits.ac.za

Keeping up with DAAD!

Follow us on our newly designed Twitter page! Here you will find interesting facts on Germany, tips about studying in Germany, live feeds during events and so much more! Find us on the next link https://twitter.com/DAADSouthAfrica and keep up with all our activities!
“It’s the people that make Joburg great!”

Welcome to Nina Keller, DAAD language assistant at the university of the Witwatersrand

South Africa- Rainbow nation and land of diversity. The reason why I chose South Africa as the place to teach is easy. I fell in love with the country and its people for the first time in 2013 while doing an exchange semester in the beautiful town of Stellenbosch. From this time on, I visited almost every year to either gain some work experience in the various fields of teaching at the Goethe Institute in Cape Town, at the KunterbuntKidz Kindergarten in Bloubergstrand or I just travelled and simply enjoyed the vast nature and the beautiful countryside.

The decision to work in South Africa as DAAD language assistant was easy. But why Johannesburg? To complete my picture of this beautiful country I consider it important to see and experience all different places in South Africa. I spent a lot of time in the Western Cape so I am happy to experience something new, something bigger and especially something different. Johannesburg has a fairly bad reputation but one should be very careful with judging a city that inhabits such a diverse population with thousands of people from all different parts of Africa and the world. It is a great opportunity to celebrate diversity and enrich multiculturalism. When asking my South African friends about Johannesburg, an answer I often received was: “It’s the people that make Joburg great!”. So I am excited to explore the city and get to know its people.

I am currently at Wits University, ready to paint my picture. What I have experienced at University so far, I can say I am more than happy with my decision. I had very interesting and delighting conversations with my students thanks to great teamwork in the classroom. The DAAD team offered me a very warm welcome as well as the whole Department of Languages and Literature which will make it easy for me to call this place home.

As DAAD Language Assistant at Wits University I get the opportunity to teach in all three years of the German undergraduate program which creates the possibility to get to know all German students. My courses range from culture classes and conversational classes to advanced composition and style courses. I can even take part in an international project to enhance the communication between different countries in Africa, concerning German language learning. Besides teaching, I can gain various insights into the work of the DAAD office in South Africa which is very exciting and makes me look forward to the next 10 months.

Due to the fact that I always considered working abroad, I did an additional education course in teaching German as a foreign language. One of the greatest motivations for being a language teacher is the possibility to take part in intercultural exchange and communication. The focus of foreign language teaching emphasizes the cultural aspects of a country and therefore arouses the exchange of cultural values, traditions and languages between different nations. I have enriched myself in this country so much, I would now like to give something back.

It is exciting and challenging to teach my mother tongue, but I like to face challenges so I am happy and extremely grateful to get this opportunity to teach as DAAD Language assistant at Wits University. It is an honour for me to work in a country full of diversity and multiple identities.

(Nina Keller)
5 Questions to Tshia Malehase...

Tshia Malehase is one of our Scholarship holders at Tshwane University of Technology. He did his masters degree through our DAAD-NRF scholarship programme. Having completed his masters degree successfully, he is now looking at the possibility of applying for his PhD degree through us...

1) How would you describe yourself in one sentence?

I am determined in life having a great interest in studying and building my profile, although sometimes I am very playful and like to take risks.

2) How would you advertise the DAAD.

If you have good plans for your future, DAAD is for you. The staff is always friendly and supportive.

3) How has the DAAD scholarship benefited you?

The financial support was my security towards obtaining my masters degree.

4) Do you want to go to Germany? If yes, why?

Yes, to develop myself by acquiring new skills as well as learning their customs.

5) What is your ideal job?

Environmental specialist

Die DSJ sucht eine Teilzeitlehrkraft

Die DSJ sucht eine Teilzeitlehrkraft im Fach Deutsch als Fremdsprache, die hauptsächlich in den Klassen 5, 6 und 7 unterrichten wird. Die Stelle ist befristet bis zum Ende des Jahres. Interessenten können sich bei Frau Wizemann unter wizemannh@dsjmail.co.za melden.
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