

Germany Today 2021**Facing Today's Societal Challenges: German Universities' and Research Institutions'
Interdisciplinary, Interinstitutional and International Cooperation Approaches****October 10 – October 16, 2021**

DAAD invites representatives from universities, research institutions and funding agencies in the United States and Canada, as well as colleagues from the fields of education policy and politics, to join us for our “Germany Today” Information Tour 2021.

DAAD's information tour “Germany Today” is designed to give participants a broad overview of Germany's higher education landscape. This includes:

- An overview of Germany's higher education and research systems
- An update on current developments, innovative projects and structural reforms
- Details about BA and MA programs, as well as PhD training at various institutions
- Information on funding opportunities for academic exchange and institutional cooperation

This year's tour will focus on how higher education institutions in Germany approach today's societal challenges through engaged modes of interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, and international cooperation.

Environmental changes, artificial intelligence, and ageing populations are just a handful of societal challenges being faced today on a global scale. In order to adequately address these issues, new ways of cooperation and an interdisciplinary and international approach are key. In addition to this, substantial resources are required to conduct analysis on the scientific background pertaining to these issues—interinstitutional efforts allow these resources to be tapped both wisely and effectively. Furthermore, the upcoming challenges and opportunities affect the whole of society. Therefore, bringing in societal voices, perspectives and criteria into the process will be more and more important.

The German government has recognized these structural necessities and, as a result, allocates public funding schemes to support interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, and international cooperation. Examples of these include the creation of excellence clusters and joint research institutions.

The Germany Today 2021 tour offers participants the opportunity to exchange best practices, effective methodologies, and lessons learned between the German hosts and the North American guests.

The tour includes on-site visits to a variety of universities and research institutes whose focus areas and approaches to collaborative, interdisciplinary research and teaching span a diverse spectrum.

The 2021 tour will visit the following institutions in Dresden, Jena, Leipzig, and Berlin:

Dresden:

- *Technische Universität Dresden* (<https://tu-dresden.de/>)
- *CeTI* (<https://www.ceti.one/>)

Jena:

- *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena* (<https://www.uni-jena.de/en/University.html>)
- *Cluster of Excellence "Balance of the Microverse"* (<https://microverse-cluster.de/en/>)
- *UniWiND/ GUAT* (<https://www.unikon.uniwind.org/ueber-uns/about-us-information-in-english>)

Leipzig:

- *German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)* (<https://www.idiv.de/en/about-idiv.html>).

Berlin:

- *Berlin Universities Alliance* (<https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/en/index.html>) -pending confirmation
- *Die Junge Akademie* (<https://www.diejungeakademie.de/en/about-us/>)
- *Futurium* (<https://futurium.de/en/>)
- DAAD Workshop: This workshop will wrap up the lessons learned of the tour. It will discuss conclusions which are relevant for the development of cooperation in both countries and inform about funding opportunities for joint initiatives. (<https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/contact/directions-to-berlin/>)

The program will be interactive: our hosts will provide valuable insights into their activities, and you will be asked to share your perspectives and expertise with them. North American participants in this program are typically senior administrators at leading universities in the U.S. and Canada (such as vice presidents for international affairs or heads of international offices), policy makers in federal and state/provincial governments or associations and other experts in the higher education field or in the respective research topics.

The program will be in English. Program-related costs in Germany (accommodation, domestic travel, most meals) will be covered by DAAD. The program officially starts in Dresden on Sunday afternoon, October 10, 2021 and ends with a dinner on Friday evening, October 15, 2021 in Berlin. The night from Friday, October 15, to Saturday, October 16, is also booked and covered by DAAD. Intercontinental travel is at the participant's expense.

Applicants must have U.S./Canadian citizenship or permanent residency, a demonstrated interest in Germany and transatlantic co-operation, and a relevant professional position. They should not have recently participated in another information trip to Germany. For better protection of the group's participants and our German hosts we request proof of full COVID 19 vaccination.

Applications – ideally as one pdf-document – must be received by **Sunday, August 22, 2021**. Please contact Ms. Uta Gaedeke at DAAD's New York Office at gaedeke@daad.de for further information.