

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH) at University Hospital Heidelberg is organizing the

International Germany Alumni Seminar 2021

“SUSTAINABLE NUTRITION AND PUBLIC HEALTH”

10 - 15 February 2021, Heidelberg, Germany

followed by the participation in the

BIOFACH 2021

World's Leading Trade Fair for Organic Food

17 - 20 February 2021, Nuremberg, Germany

Background and objectives

A large body of research demonstrates a number of strong linkages between food, health and well-being. Firstly, **nutrition** is related to the improved infant, child and maternal health, stronger immune systems, safer pregnancy and childbirth, lower risk of non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease), and longevity. **Malnutrition**, on the contrary, presents significant threats to human health, productivity and quality of life. Today the world faces a double burden of malnutrition that includes both undernutrition and overweight, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Furthermore, **food security** defined as “a measure of the availability of food and individuals' ability to access it in the amount necessary for an active, healthy life”, shapes a number of public health challenges and objectives.

Another priority on the global development and well-being agenda is **sustainable nutrition** defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as “those diets with low environmental impacts that contribute to food and nutrition security and to healthy life for present and future generations. Sustainable diets are protective and respectful of biodiversity and ecosystems, culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair and affordable; nutritionally adequate, safe and healthy; while optimizing natural and human resources.”

In the context of sustainable food production, one of the key solutions to high quality and nutritious foods is the **organic production** that ensures safe, non-toxic and highly-nutritious products, while protecting the environment (soil, water and farmers) from adverse effects of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers common in conventional agriculture.

The main goal of this International Germany Alumni Seminar which builds on two consecutive

elements – (a) course in Heidelberg and (b) participation in the world's leading trade fair BIOFACH 2021 – is to facilitate a better understanding of opportunities sustainable and organic food production can offer in the low- and middle-income countries.

The **overall objective** of the “Sustainable Nutrition and Public Health” **course** in Heidelberg is to provide participants with a basic understanding of nutrition epidemiology with a focus on sustainability in low- and middle-income countries.

The main **objectives** for participation in the trade fair **BIOFACH 2021** are to learn about the key trends and opportunities in the organic food production, familiarize with the market and global developments, and establish contacts and potential partnerships.

The seminar and trade fair participation are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the program Alumni Special Projects (www.daad.de/alumni-special-projects). The International Germany Alumni Seminar is organized and hosted by the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH) at University Hospital Heidelberg. The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Proposed programme

Over the course of 6 days, - through input sessions, group work, individual assignments and group discussions, - the **seminar in Heidelberg** will focus on the following topics:

- essential concepts of nutrition epidemiology: major global trends, effective research tools, available solutions and opportunities;
- key concepts of sustainable nutrition, incl. how organic food production can contribute to food security in low- and middle-income countries;
- observational and experimental study designs for nutrition research in public health: basic skills for measuring and evaluating the scope of the problem, and planning or commissioning research projects;
- sustainable nutrition in the frameworks of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Food Security and Sustainable Diets.

A visit to a regional organic farm, discussions with the course facilitators and social events provide additional opportunities for learning, knowledge exchange and networking.

The seminar in Heidelberg (**10 - 15 February 2021**) will be followed by the participation in the BIOFACH 2021 trade fair (<https://www.biofach.de/>) in Nuremberg (**17-20 February 2021**).

Full attendance (100%) in the course, active participation in group assignments and timely submission of individual assignments, as well as the participation in the trade fair BIOFACH 2021 are mandatory.

Participants' profile

You are eligible to apply if you:

- are a German university Alumna/us from a developing country listed as the [DAC list countries](#)
- carried out research or studied in Germany for at least 3 months and
- are currently living and working in a DAC listed country.

You should have:

- (1) **a proven background in academic fields relevant to** the intersection of health and nutrition, as well as public health, community health, health policies, health and agriculture, and other intersectoral topics shaping health and wellbeing of populations
- (2) **professional experience and personal interest in one of the following areas:** research, education, government work, civil society organizations, policy making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders
- (3) **the requirements to act as a potential multiplier** who will present the seminar results and trade fair insights in your home country and thus disseminate the acquired knowledge, as well as develop ideas and projects for regional implementation
- (4) **adequate English language proficiency** which is essential to actively participate in the seminar and discussions

Eligibility for repeated participation in Alumni Special Projects:

Repeated participation in the DAAD program Alumni Special Projects is limited to a maximum of 2 participations within 4 years. The decision on repeated participation is based on the year of participation, not the year of application.

Cost coverage

The organizers cover the following costs:

- International return ticket to and from Frankfurt International Airport (lowest possible economy class airfare) up to a maximum amount of € 800,00
- Train tickets (2nd class)/ shuttle: Frankfurt International Airport to Heidelberg
- Travel health insurance (max. € 30)
- Visa costs
- Accommodation and meals during the stay in Heidelberg for the seminar
- Transport for the excursion
- Transport from Heidelberg to Nuremberg
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the trade fair stay in Nuremberg
- Entrance fees for the trade fair BIOFACH 2021

- Transport from the hotel in Nuremberg to Frankfurt International Airport departure airport

Please note: Flights with the maximum cost of € 800,00 will be arranged by the local travel agency in Heidelberg. All other costs, such as transport costs from your home town to your airport of departure / arrival, or travel costs for visa application in your home country have to be covered by yourself.

Please keep in mind that living expenses are only covered partly during your stay in Heidelberg and Nuremberg.

Extensions of stays before the seminar / after the trade fair are only possible up to 5 working days and upon submission of a comparison of flight ticket prices before you start your travel. You will have to pay any difference between the flight ticket prices for the official arrival / return date (see below) and your actual date of travel before / after your extension. You must also cover by yourself any additional travel costs, subsistence costs and other additional costs of your extension.

Extensions beyond 5 days must be of an official nature which you need to justify, e.g. through visits to universities, organizations, institutions, companies etc. and with details about contact persons and a day-to-day programme of activities. These extensions must be approved by DAAD before you start your travel. Decisions by DAAD are made on an individual nature based upon your justification, your programme etc.

For any extension you need to organize your accommodation by yourself, and, very importantly, you have to make sure to have a valid health insurance for the extension days.

Travel dates:

Arrival in Heidelberg	9 February 2021
Seminar in Heidelberg	10 - 15 February 2021
Travel to Nuremberg	16 February 2021
BIOFACH 2021 in Nuremberg	17 - 20 February 2021
Departure from Nuremberg	21 February 2021

Application procedure

Please send your application with the subject line "BIOFACH_your name_country" to Ms Jamila Nabieva at jamila.nabieva@uni-heidelberg.de, with the copy to Ms Anna Munz at anna.munz@uni-heidelberg.de latest by **27 September 2020**.

Your application consisting of **ONE PDF** must include the following sections:

- The completed [application form](#);
- A **letter of motivation**, stating your motivation for participation and your special interest in the topic, a short description of your present duties / position, what this seminar will bring to your professional and / or personal development, and how you can be a multiplier of the knowledge gained in the seminar and at BIOFACH 2021 upon your return to your home country;



HEIDELBERG
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL

Heidelberg Institute of Global Health | Im Neuenheimer Feld 365 | 69120 Heidelberg

- A **short CV with passport size photograph** and **relevant documentation of alumni status**;
- A scan of your **passport**;
- An **overview** of seminars, workshops or conferences attended in Germany after finishing your studies in Germany.

Please name your PDF file “Last name First name_Country” (e.g. Nabieva Jamila_Tajikistan).

Please note: Completeness of personal data mentioned in the online application form will affect your eligibility as a participant.

With your application, you agree that your data (name, organization, email) can be stored by the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health and that you might appear on pictures that can be published in association with the seminar in Heidelberg or participation in the BIOFACH 2021.

With your application, you commit to participate in the whole program (seminar in Heidelberg, BIOFACH 2021 trade fair in Nuremberg and any mandatory social events).

After the review by the local organizing committee in Heidelberg and DAAD, all applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process in the second half of **October 2020**.

For further questions, please contact seminar coordinators:

Ms Jamila Nabieva at **jamila.nabieva@uni-heidelberg.de**

Ms Anna Munz at **anna.munz@uni-heidelberg.de**

Heidelberg, August 2020

With financial support from the



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service