

Announcement and Call for Applications for the DIES - INTERNATIONAL DEANS' COURSE LATIN AMERICA 2020/21

The [German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#), the [German Rectors' Conference \(HRK\)](#), [Saarland University](#) (Germany) and the [University of Alicante](#) (Spain), in cooperation with the [Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation \(AvH\)](#), are jointly organizing the DIES-International Deans' Course for Latin America (IDC LA).

This intensive training course is part of the DIES program (Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies) which has been jointly coordinated by the DAAD and HRK since 2001 (www.daad.de/dies/en).

Saarland University and the University of Alicante are the academic coordinators of the course. Both institutions have been cooperating for a long period of time, including projects for the evaluation, development, and improvement of university management in Latin American higher education institutions.

Note: Despite the restrictions in most countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to organize a new edition of the DIES IDC LA. Depending in the situation in the second half of this year, the course will be adapted to the availability for the travel at that time. If necessary, some parts of the course, or even the whole course, will be taught online.

Course Content, Methodology and Schedule

The key objective of the course is to bring together a group of about 25 newly elected Deans and Vice-Deans from Universities in Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru in order to enable the participants to tackle the challenges of holding a deans' position.

Issues such as Strategic Faculty Planning, Financial Management, Quality Management and Human Resources Management will be key parts of this course, which will also include a soft skills workshop. The course will be conducted in English and Spanish.

Methodology will be strictly practice oriented and mainly based on case studies. Personal experience as a university manager will greatly contribute to this course and active participation will be necessary. Participants are expected to develop a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for their own faculty, which will comprise the characteristics and strategies for the faculty, the role of the dean and the underlying administration and procedures in the thematic areas of the course. In this framework, participants will develop and work on concrete measures to implement the strategy in their own faculty. The basic elements of the SAP will be introduced in the first part and the continued work on the SAP will be supported by distance coaching and via online webinars (Part II). Part III will offer participants the opportunity to reflect on the implementation of their faculty strategy and other reform projects discussed by the participants during parts I and II.

The following list shows the dates of the different modules (depending of the situation **onsite** or **online**) and webinars in-between

Module 1: 22nd to 26th November 2020. Option A: in Saarbrücken, Germany (plus necessary travel time); option B: online.

Module 2: 29th November to 3rd December 2020. Option A: in Alicante, Spain (plus necessary travel time); option B: online.

Webinars: Online seminars between January and February 2021.

Module 3: 22nd to 26th March 2021. Option A: in Latin America (plus necessary travel time); option B: Germany - if Module 1 had to be implemented online (plus necessary travel time); option C: online.

Note: We will choose between the two options before 16th October 2020 for Module 1 and 2. The location of module 3 will be selected before 12th February 2021 in the case the module can be taught onsite.

As all parts of the International Deans' Course are interconnected, participants need to confirm that they will be able to attend all of them prior to the acceptance to the course.

Participants' Profile

- Participants hold preferentially the position of a Dean or Vice-Dean and are ideally working not longer than 2-3 years in this position. Applicants who hold other positions, such as Vice-President of Head of Department, should describe their area of responsibility. Applicants from administrative units are not eligible.
- Participants are aged preferably between 30 and 50 years.
- Active and excellent English and Spanish language skills (speaking and writing) are indispensable.
- Participants should hold a PhD.
- Being a DAAD alumnus is not compulsory but will be considered an asset.
- International experience is considered a plus.
- Participants from universities of the following countries are eligible to apply: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

Funding

During the modules and webinars, participants will be guests of Saarland University and the University of Alicante. The following **expenses** will be **covered** by funds of the DAAD provided through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development **in case the modules can be taught onsite**:

- Travel costs (according to DAAD regulations): For Module 1 and 2: Flight to Germany, transfer to Spain and return flight from Spain, ground travel in Spain and Germany; for Module 3: flights within Latin America.
- Accommodation and joint meals during the presence phases in Europe and Latin America.
- Emergency health insurance during the presence phase in Europe.

Expected co-funding: Participants' home institutions are expected to pay a one-time tuition fee. If the course can be done onsite, the tuition fee will be **500 €**. If, on the other hand, module 1 and 2 must be developed virtually, the cost will be **250 €**. In addition, participants must cover local transportation in their home countries, visa costs and possible additional per diems for the duration of the workshops.

Application and Selection Procedure

Applicants should apply at: <https://www.idc-latinamerica.com/content/international-deans-course-latin-america-call-20202021>

Please apply no later than 15th July 2020.

The following supporting documents, as pdf files, are required:

- **Cover letter** (1-2 pages maximum);
- **Organizational chart** of the university (showing the section where the candidates are working in);
- **Recommendation letter** from university top management including confirmation of tuition fee coverage. Due to the restrictions that universities are currently under due to the pandemic, in case this document cannot be obtained, it can be delivered later. To complete the application, it will be sufficient to send an email from the university's address certifying the support of the applicant's participation;
- **Proof of excellent English proficiency** (e.g. TOEFL; Cambridge Certificate) is not necessary but will be a voluntary asset. Phone interviews will be organized with shortlisted candidates to guarantee the requested proficiency. Spanish proficiency will be also required for Belize.

Applications must be submitted in English.



The selection committee is composed of high-profile higher education management experts. All applicants will be informed about the result of the selection process in June 2020.

Contact Details

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