

GIZ's International Students Programme at Universities for Applied Sciences

COACHING FOR SUCCESS



Challenge

In a globalized world, newly industrialised and developing countries are especially interested in having access to the best available knowledge for the future decision makers in industry and politics. Studying and training overseas has become a key success factor for many countries, especially in key sectors such as engineering.

Germany has several Universities for Applied Sciences (UAS) with a very high reputation in the field of engineering, excellent technical facilities as well as intensive cooperation with the private sector.

In 2013, more than 250,000 international students had chosen to study at German institutions, making Germany the third most popular study destination worldwide. Although the number of enrolments has grown, the main challenge to deal with remains to foster successful completion of studies. The dropout rate amongst foreign students is 46 percent. German-wide surveys on study's success identify three main reasons for dropouts:

- 1. Insufficient pre-university education and preparation in the home country** resulting in study performance problems and lack of motivation.
- 2. Inadequate financial support.** Dropouts could be directly linked to a shortage of funding to cover cost of living during the studies in Germany.
- 3. Lacking of tailor-made mentoring and supervision for foreign students.**

Our approach

Having a broad and proven expertise in the area of human capacity development, GIZ offers a holistic approach for minimizing dropout rates of foreign students.

Guaranteeing adequate pre-university preparation

In order to enrol at German UAS, foreign students need a higher education entrance certificate. This is a precondition for successful Programme's implementation. In close cooperation with relevant German partners, GIZ provides advice in this regard. If qualification for university entrance is not automatically possible, additional preparation courses (e.g. in the country of origin) will be required. They are to be conceptualized and implemented together with German and local partners.

Considering that study language at UAS is mostly German and that adequate language preparation fosters academic integration and success, GIZ advises on required language level as well as on implementation of intensive courses before starting studies.

In close cooperation with partner UAS, GIZ provides an intensive guidance on the optimal subject choice. This early and thorough guidance aims at increasing motivation during studies and reducing the number of students who change the subject or university.

Providing advice on the relevance of ensuring students living costs

Before starting cooperation, GIZ advises its clients to ensure the financing of students' living costs, for instance, via a scholarship system appropriate for the German context.

Providing intensive mentoring and supervision during the whole study period

From students' arrival in Germany until their graduation at UAS, GIZ provides high qualitative mentoring services. They aim at fostering students' academic success, social integration and further development as independent and self-confident professionals. GIZ's mentoring and supervision Programme includes, among others, the following:

- **Arrival preparation and application process.** In cooperation with Programme partners, GIZ takes care of arrival formalities, application process for students' enrolment at UAS and of accommodation for the first term.
- **On-Arrival-Training.** To foster the cultural, social and academic integration of students, GIZ organises a tailor-made On-Arrival-Training right after students' entering Germany. This includes an **Integration Seminar** that focuses on German life and culture as well as on studying at UAS; and the **German for Science and Technology Course**, which aims at repeating relevant lessons from the pre-university education, reinforcing knowledge on relevant subjects during the first term at UAS as well improving technical language skills.



- **Continuous monitoring of study performance.** To guarantee the best support for foreign students during their stay in Germany, GIZ subcontracts tutors, who are responsible for monitoring study performance and providing advice services at each of the partner UAS.
- **Exam preparation courses.** To foster overall academic success, these support measures are offered exclusively for Programme' participants, either individually or in small groups.
- **Individual and confidential mentoring and coaching.** In case of burdening life circumstances, lack of motivation and crisis situations, GIZ provides adequate support and advice.
- **Additional courses and trainings for further professional development.** In order to strengthen foreign students' skills as well increase study success, GIZ organizes further courses that address challenges foreign students face. They are conceptualized considering the specific needs of the target group and implemented under high quality standards.

GIZ - the right partner in Germany and worldwide

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a federally owned German company operating in more than 130 countries worldwide in the area of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ promotes complex reforms and processes of change in different sectors and is strongly engaged in international education work around the world. With GIZ's longstanding international experience in management of complex projects and multi-stakeholder processes, it ensures transparent incorporation of interests and strengths of involved partners as well as creation of synergy effects in order to increase efficiency and achieve strategic goals of its donors or clients.

Published by:
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Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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An example of best practice: The Malaysia Programme at Universities for Applied Sciences (UAS) in Baden-Württemberg

Each year between 30 and 50 Malaysian students holding scholarship from the Malaysian government come to Baden-Württemberg. They undergo a special academic preparation in Malaysia, supplemented by an Intensive German Language Course.

After entering Germany, students immediately attend an On-Arrival Training to foster their cultural, social and academic integration at UAS. Beginning with the summer term, scholarship holders enroll at 13 UAS in Baden-Württemberg and complete their Bachelor degree after 7 semesters.

Since 1999 and with the financial support of the Malaysian government as well as the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts in Baden-Württemberg, GIZ has been successfully implementing a mentoring and coaching Programme for Malaysian scholars. GIZ is responsible for the overall Programme management, provides intensive and personalized support to Malaysian scholars during their whole stay in Germany and acts as the central contact point for all involved parties: Programme's sponsors, partner universities, subcontractors, scholarship donors and students.

Since the arrival of the first students more than 650 Malaysian scholars have started their studies in Baden Württemberg. Thanks to the excellent and hard-working students and the exceptional support made possible under this Programme, the graduation rate of Malaysian scholars is more than 90 percent per intake. Many graduates are among the year's best of their respective university and have been awarded academic excellence prizes.