

zeppelin university

bridging
business culture politics



International Germany Alumni Training Project 'Reframing Colonial Legacies'

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Zeppelin University (Germany) and the University of Cape Coast (Ghana) are organizing the international Germany alumni training project 'Reframing Colonial Legacies' funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) from 2025 to 2026. We hereby invite international Germany alumni from countries in Africa and Europe to apply for 22 places.

Project overview and aims

The return of the Benin Bronzes by Germany to Nigeria in 2022 marked a symbolic step towards decolonization and sparked debates about ownership and cultural responsibility. The calls for the restitution of stolen artefacts, such as those made by Ghana's Asantehene, highlight the urgent necessity of reassessing colonial legacies.

The academic training project 'Reframing Colonial Legacies' explicitly addresses colonial legacies and their lasting impacts as a current debate in foreign cultural policy. The project provides participants with skills to critically examine and reframe colonial legacies, decolonial memory culture, and power-critical international collaboration. It also promotes the transfer of knowledge between academia and practice. By fostering sustainable international cultural cooperation, the project encourages transcultural dialogue and supports active engagement with colonial legacies. The aim is to discuss new approaches to proactively shape social debates and enable alternative processes of decolonization that contest existing power dynamics between academia and cultural practice.

The following topics will be addressed and discussed in the training:

- Colonial history and memory culture between Ghana and Germany (including field trips to slave castles and museums in Ghana)
- Germany's foreign cultural policy with regard to colonial legacies
- Restitution of cultural properties
- Feminist approaches in memory culture and cultural policy
- Decolonial international cultural relations
- Cultural mediation of colonial objects and architecture with augmented reality (AR)
- Colonial gaze and transcultural production and cooperation

Formats of the training project

- **Online training course:** Scheduled for 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th September, 2025. The online training course will focus on decolonial and feminist approaches in memory culture and cultural policy, with a particular emphasis on African knowledge systems and memory cultures.
- **Study trip on colonial legacies to Cape Coast, Ghana:** Scheduled for 2nd to 9th November, 2025 (including travel days). Participants will explore colonial history and memory culture on-site (e.g. Cape Coast and Elmina slave castles) and engage in discussions on cultural policy, decolonial approaches and cultural mediation.
- **International hybrid conference, Zeppelin University:** Scheduled for April 2026. The final conference at Zeppelin University will serve as a culmination of the project, bringing together alumni, scholars, and practitioners to present and discuss project outcomes and decolonial perspectives.
The in-person participation in the conference will be limited to selected participants who take an active role in presenting the outcomes of the training.

All three formats consist of theoretical and practical units as well as excursions to transfer academic knowledge into practice.

Availability and participation in all days of the online training course and study trip are mandatory.

Who can apply?

The project targets international Germany alumni, which according to the DAAD, are professionals and academics who carried out research or have studied in Germany for at least three months or received a degree at a German university and who are currently living and working in their home countries outside Germany. Alumni from countries in Africa and Europe can apply. According to the funding guidelines, German citizens are not eligible to apply.

You should have:

- a proven background in academic fields relevant to the topics of cultural studies, memory culture, decolonial studies, applied research and related fields
- professional experience and personal interest in the topics of the project
- a potential to act as a change agent or multiplier within your community or professional network
- fluency in spoken and written English
- a collaborative mindset and willingness to share knowledge with peers

Application process

Your application (in English language) should emphasize your motivation and professional benefits you expect to gain. You should illustrate how you are planning to apply the gained knowledge in your professional context and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career. The following documents are required during the application procedure:

- Short letter of motivation (1-2 pages)

- CV including the list of publications, if applicable
- Written proof that you carried out research or have studied in Germany for at least three months

Please upload your application preferably under the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/BfRY21fK5m>

For further questions, please contact Dr. Madinatu Bello, Department of Theatre and Film Studies (mbello@ucc.edu.gh) and Dr. Özlem Canyürek (oc@canyuerek.com).

Application deadline is 15th March 2025.

Later applications will not be considered. After the review by the selection committee, the invited participants will be notified in the beginning of April 2025.

Cost coverage

DAAD will cover costs for international travel, accommodation and meals during the study trip in Ghana and the final conference in Germany, transport during field trips in Ghana and visa fees. Please note that you are responsible for covering any other costs not listed above, such as transport costs between your place of residence and the airport as well as travel costs for visa application in your country of residence. No individual scholarships will be provided outside of the expenses covered by DAAD.

Further information on the project:

<https://www.zu.de/lehrstuehle/cultural-media-policy-studies/?moreId=2>

Academic board and project team

Zeppelin Universität

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Meike Lettau (meike.lettau@zu.de)

Juniorprofessur Cultural and Media Policy Studies

Dr. Özlem Canyürek, External scientific advisor (oc@canyuerek.com)

University of Cape Coast

Prof. Dr. Eric Debrah Otchere, Department of Music and Dance (eric.otchere@ucc.edu.gh)

Dr. Madinatu Bello, Department of Theatre and Film Studies (mbello@ucc.edu.gh)

The project is funded by the DAAD with funds of the German Federal Foreign Office.



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



Federal Foreign Office