

## DAAD MERIT-Ukraine Project 2025 - 2029

### **Application, Selection and Scholarship Award Procedures for Participants from Partner Universities within the DAAD funded project MERIT-Ukraine**

The project MERIT-Ukraine, led by Leibniz University Hannover (LUH) in collaboration with the National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute" (KPI) and Lviv Polytechnic National University (LPNU), aims to establish a sustainable German-Ukrainian academic partnership in the fields of Energy Technology, Power Engineering, Mechatronics, Robotics, and Artificial Intelligence. In the context of the ongoing war against Ukraine, this initiative addresses urgent and socially relevant topics that are crucial for sustainable cooperation and essential for Ukraine's recovery, as well as for European security and integration.

Driven by LUH's Faculties of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Mechanical Engineering, the MERIT-Ukraine project aims to leverage their advanced infrastructure and educational expertise to address sustainability and climate challenges. A primary goal of MERIT-Ukraine is to initiate exchange within Masters' programmes in Renewable Energy, Electric Power Engineering, and AI-driven Mechatronics and Robotics, thereby facilitating academic collaboration in teaching and learning. This project is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Federal Ministry for Research, Technology and Aeronautics (BMFTR). Scholarships are available for participating students and academics.

A public announcement regarding the offered scholarships, along with the corresponding deadlines, is published on the project webpage of the International Office (IO) at Leibniz University Hannover (LUH) at <https://www.uni-hannover.de/de/universitaet/internationales/weltweite-kooperationen/merit-ukraine>. Additionally, the scholarships will be announced by the project partner universities:

- At LNPU on the website of the Center for International Education: <https://lpnu.ua/merit-mint-ukraine>
- At KPI on the website of the Academic Mobility Office: [https://mobilnist.kpi.ua/main\\_eng/creditna-mobilnist-eng](https://mobilnist.kpi.ua/main_eng/creditna-mobilnist-eng)

Besides, the call for scholarships and project participation will be announced via social media, and information will be disseminated to departments, dean's offices, faculties, student boards through mailing lists and newsletters and via other social media like Facebook and Instagram.

The application and selection processes for scholarships and mobilities are managed by the IO of LUH in cooperation with the partner institutions and based on principles of academic quality, adhere to the EU Inclusion and Diversity Strategy by implementing the following:

- financial support for participants from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- accessibility measures for participants with disabilities, including physical, digital, and learning.
- Tailored support for female participants and other vulnerable underrepresented groups in STEM fields to foster diversity.

At both Lviv Polytechnic National University (LPNU) and the National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute" (KPI), an official Selection Commission is responsible for the pre-selection of candidates in a transparent manner. The partner universities are also responsible for the nomination

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the candidates for individual exchange. The results will be discussed and confirmed by the joint MERIT-Ukraine selection panel. In some cases, additional interviews for applicants with faculty members of the receiving institution can be arranged if deemed necessary.

**The selection of scholarship holders and participants for academic mobility** relies on clear and transparent criteria, in accordance with the guidelines for selection procedure and awarding of scholarships at LUH, KPI and LPNU. The selection process is designed to ensure academic quality and promote inclusivity and diversity. A joint MERIT-Ukraine selection panel, including one representative from central administration of each out of three universities as well as at least one representative of the relevant faculties/institutes, will assess written applications to ensure fairness, considering the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting	Total weight
Personal Motivation	30 %	60%
Language & Preparation	20 %	
Social need, engagement, diversity	10%	
Average grade (GPA)	10 %	40 %
Expert recommendation	30 %	

**Scholarship applications for students and doctoral students participating in individual (online) exchange** should be submitted in writing and must include the following documents:

- An application form for a DAAD scholarship, as provided by Leibniz University Hannover (LUH).
- A motivation letter detailing personal motivation, expectations, the relevance of project participation, its benefits, and a description of the scholarship need, including socio-economic situation or other relevant aspects such as social engagement and diversity.
- Proof of language proficiency in the language of instruction (English or German), with a minimum requirement of B2 for English and B1 for German according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), if applicable.
- A letter of recommendation or reference from a university lecturer.
- A PDF of an application form detailing academic background and average grade/GPA, from the registration link provided by the LUH.
- A copy of the Learning Agreement confirmed by the academic coordinator of the faculty/institute, if relevant.

As for the **teaching and/or research staff**, the selection for individual mobility is based on qualification and such criteria as university degree, relevant language skills, and teaching and/or research experience relevant for the thematic fields of the project. A staff mobility agreement must be prepared and signed before

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the exchange by all sides, as it serves as the basis for the mobility funding. Besides, the selected candidates should provide the fact sheet with personal details that is relevant for the mobility management.

**The scholarship award process** begins with the International Office (IO) of Leibniz University Hannover (LUH) sending a written confirmation to the applicant. Alongside this scholarship notification, the applicant receives a document titled “Confirmation of Acceptance.” This document outlines the duration and amount of the scholarship, as well as the rules and regulations governing the funding. Prospective scholarship recipients are given time to accept the scholarship by completing, signing, and returning the “Confirmation of Acceptance” document to the IO. Once this document is received, the IO provides templates and documents’ list that are required to arrange the payment and to ensure that scholarship holders receive their funding upon arrival in Hannover or after the start of online mobility and exchange. The International Office of LUH, in collaboration with partner universities, is responsible for facilitating mobility and providing supporting activities before, during, and after the mobility period. Coordinators for international cooperation within each faculty and institute manage the organisation of mobility periods for students and staff at their respective locations.

As all participating universities have adopted the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), it will be used for semester exchanges, and other types of exchange, where relevant. **The recognition and transfer of obtained results and credits** are conducted in accordance with the Learning Agreement, which is signed by representatives of the partner universities and academic mobility coordinators before the mobility period begins. This confirmed Learning Agreement assures the recognition of academic results after the completion of the mobility period, with recognition being handled by the partner universities involved in the project. The outcomes of staff mobility can be acknowledged as part of the annual university teachers' rankings and contribute to continuous professional development.

At the end of the mobility, scholarship holders receive a scholarship confirmation from the International Office (IO) of Leibniz Universität Hannover (LUH). This confirmation details the duration, type, and subject of the stay, as well as the funding source, and describes the main results. Selected scholarship holders are required to prepare relevant experience reports at the end of the funding period. These reports will be published on the project webpage (<https://www.uni-hannover.de/de/universitaet/internationales/weltweite-kooperationen/merit-ukraine>) to showcase the results and experiences of the scholarship holders.

### **Taking diversity into account:**

The project actively fosters diversity and inclusion by promoting academic exchange and collaboration between Ukrainian and German institutions in the fields of Renewable Energy, Electric Power Engineering, and AI-driven Mechatronics and Robotics. By engaging Ukrainian students and faculty, the project ensures continuity in education despite the war, providing an inclusive learning environment that supports academic and professional growth.

The project upholds the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion, in line with LUH’s Diversity Concept from 2025: <https://www.chancenvielfalt.uni-hannover.de/de/diversity-management>. As part of LUH’s Diversity Management, it sets development goals, concrete actions, and university-wide initiatives to

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create an inclusive, barrier-free environment that values the diverse experiences and backgrounds of students and staff. It prioritises gender equality by offering equal opportunities for male and female students and researchers, incorporating special formats to encourage participation in engineering fields.

Through curriculum development, mobility programs, and interdisciplinary teaching modules, the project fosters international knowledge exchange, embedding cultural diversity and cross-institutional cooperation into the academic framework while promoting intercultural competence and inclusive learning experiences.

The digital dissemination of information and the extensive use of online formats play a crucial role in removing barriers, making academic resources, workshops, and research opportunities more accessible to a diverse audience. By offering hybrid learning formats, online collaborations, and virtual participation options, the project ensures inclusivity for students and researchers regardless of geographic, financial, or physical limitations.

The scholarships are open to all applicants, actively promoting equal opportunities. They are awarded based on both academic performance and diversity-related criteria, fostering an inclusive academic environment. Students from all backgrounds, including those from disadvantaged socio-economic situations, first-generation college students, individuals with migration or refugee experiences, and students with disabilities or chronic illnesses, are encouraged to apply.

Scholarship recipients will have access to LUH's advisory services and support centers for assistance with individual concerns, inequality issues, and conflict resolution, ensuring a fair and inclusive academic environment.

All partners attach great importance to diversity, interdisciplinarity, internationality and the establishment of visible partnerships. They are put into practice in everyday university life in teaching, research and management. Through active exchange and collaboration between LUH and its Ukrainian partners, opportunities for diversity can be mutually explored, fostering a dynamic environment for learning and knowledge sharing on inclusive practices and strategies.

Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute (KPI) promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion through a comprehensive policy that ensures equal access to education, research, and career opportunities for all students and staff. The university is committed to preventing discrimination and harassment, guaranteeing equal pay, and fostering a gender-sensitive and inclusive academic environment. KPI also prioritises accessibility for people with disabilities, supports parents balancing work and family life, and implements strict measures against modern slavery and exploitation. To uphold these principles, KPI conducts awareness programs, training, and policy evaluations, collaborating with public and international partners to continuously enhance inclusivity and fairness within the university community: <https://kpi.ua/en/policy/edi>

The university's regulations on academic mobility guarantee equal opportunities, social equity to all groups of students. In 2020 the University has developed "Regulations on the organization of inclusive education at the Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute" (the full text of the Regulation could be found by the link [https://osvita.kpi.ua/sites/default/files/downloads/Regulations\\_inclusive\\_edu.pdf](https://osvita.kpi.ua/sites/default/files/downloads/Regulations_inclusive_edu.pdf)) to ensure the full involvement of applicants with fewer opportunities in the educational process. A Working Group on inclusive and digital education has been created to ensure all equal opportunities for studying at Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. In case of assistance and psychological support, students can always address the Office of Social and Psychological Work of the Student Social Service and get a professional consultation from a psychologist.

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Lviv Polytechnic National University implements its Policy of Gender Equality and Personal Development to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all employees and students, regardless of gender, religion, social status, or beliefs. The policy aligns with Ukrainian law and promotes gender balance in employment, leadership, research, and education, while also supporting work-study-life balance and personal development. It emphasizes equal career opportunities, protection against discrimination and harassment and the integration of gender considerations into university regulations. By fostering an inclusive and supportive academic environment, LPNU strengthens its commitment to human rights, equality, and professional growth: <https://lpnu.ua/sites/default/files/2022/pages/19397/policy-gender-equality-and-personal-development.pdf>

Lviv Polytechnic Institute has actively promoted diversity through structured initiatives over the years. The Resource Center for Educational Information Technology provides assistive learning technologies for visually impaired students, while the International "Integration" Centre for Professional Partnerships advances inclusive education through research, policy integration, and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations: <https://lpnu.ua/en/news/lviv-polytechnic-expanding-opportunities-inclusive-education-policy>. The "No Limits" Accessibility Services, established in 2017, to implement the right to higher education for persons with disabilities and chronic disease: <https://old.lpnu.ua/en/news/2019/no-limits-services-accessibility-learning-opportunities-university>. In 2024, LPNU further introduced the "Without Limits" inclusive educational space, offering advanced adaptive learning environments for students with visual impairments, mobility challenges, and veterans: <https://lpnu.ua/en/news/inclusive-space-without-limits-opened-lviv-polytechnic>

### **Climate-sensitive exchange organisation:**

The project will be carried out in accordance with the climate protection guidelines of LUH, defined by the Integrated Climate Protection Concept (ICPC), which prioritises sustainable mobility, resource efficiency, and energy-conscious practices, supported by the National Climate Protection Initiative of the Federal Ministry for the Environment: <https://www.sustainability.uni-hannover.de/en/green-office/mission-und-leitgedanke/climate-protection-concept>.

For on-campus meetings, workshops and mobility stays in Hannover, the project participants will be informed about the highly advanced public transport system, which supports climate protection with CO<sub>2</sub>-free trams, electric and hybrid buses, and innovative energy storage solutions: <https://www.uestra.de/unternehmen/nachhaltigkeit/oekologische-nachhaltigkeit>. The LUH university premises including the International Office and both faculties involved have very good location with easy access to public transport stations. All project participants will be encouraged to choose sustainable travel options, attending any project related meetings. During the workshops and meeting in Hannover, the meals will be offered at the canteens of Studentenwerk Hannover that pays much attention to sustainability and uses products from the region as far as possible or from sustainable certified sources: <https://www.studentenwerk-hannover.de/en/food/sustainability>. If catering would be needed, the project team will prioritise sustainability by sourcing catering from local providers, emphasising seasonal and predominantly vegetarian or vegan options to reduce the environmental footprint. Catering will follow sustainable practices by eliminating single-use plastics, serving meals on reusable university dishes, and using glass water bottles for better recycling.

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As part of the cultural activities, the project team from IO will provide guided tours through the campus and city, complemented by interactive digital tours via the Action-bound app. While in Hannover, the guest from partner institutions will receive digital brochures with detailed public transport and biking routes to major sightseeing attractions, along with information on bike-sharing apps. These measures minimise the need for printed materials and reduce emissions while promoting an eco-friendly and sustainable cultural experience.

Due to the travel restrictions, resulting from the war in Ukraine, currently there is no air connection with Ukraine, so only the travelling by train and busses is possible. We will encourage project participants to travel green to reduce per-person emissions.

The Ukrainian project partners, KPI and LPNU, actively integrate sustainable practices into their operations, further supporting the project's commitment to eco-conscious objectives. KPI actively implements its environmental policy through energy-efficient infrastructure, waste reduction, and sustainable resource management. Key measures include energy-efficient construction, modernization of heating and lighting systems, promotion of clean energy, and the development of green spaces, while sustainability is integrated into research, education, and community engagement to foster long-term environmental awareness and interdisciplinary solutions: <https://kpi.ua/en/policy/climate>

LPNU integrates climate management into its academic programmes, fosters interdisciplinary research on sustainability, and implements energy-efficient infrastructure improvements. Through projects like CLIMAN (<https://lpnu.ua/en/climan>), the International Summer School on Climate Adaptation (<https://lpnu.ua/en/news/university-runs-international-summer-school-technological-and-economical-aspects-climate>), and participation in the 8th International Congress on Sustainable Development (<https://science.lpnu.ua/ecocongress-2024>), LPNU advances climate change mitigation, eco-innovation, and sustainable resource management.

Thus, the project organisation is designed to be climate-sensitive in order to keep the ecological footprint as low as possible. Planning meetings and consultations are mainly held online, which not only saves resources but also enables efficient communication between the participating institutions. Most materials within the cooperation are primarily distributed digitally. The travel will be kept to a minimum and take place primarily in order to visit laboratories and get practical experience in the corresponding learning environment.