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Foreword

Dear readers,

Studying and doing research are especially challenging this year due to the ever-changing health situation in our countries. Communication methods have changed and include more online lectures, Zoom and Webex conferences and less face-to-face meetings due to tough health protocols. But how do “international students”, who are studying or doing their PhD in another country cope with this situation? How do they manage to apply for visas, open bank accounts and integrate into their host universities’ processes and into everyday student life under such conditions?

We asked four of our DAAD scholarship holders who recently took up their studies or research activities at different German universities to share their experiences of preparing for their studies and life in Germany. Maybe their stories will be useful and inspiring to those of you who are planning to continue your studies or academic career at a German university or university of applied sciences!

The role of digitalization in higher education, especially in international university cooperation and accreditation was the guiding topic of our webinar series “Towards Digitally Responsive Higher Education: Challenges, Good Practices and Learning Models from Southeast Asia and Europe” which we recently conducted together with the Ministry of Education and Culture/DIKTI. We hope the report from this important event will be of interest to you.

Any comments and suggestions regarding the topics of this newsletter are, as always, welcome.

Best wishes, have a wonderful start into the new year 2021, and stay healthy.

Thomas Zettler
Director of DAAD Regional Office Jakarta

Preparing Your Study / Research in Germany During the Pandemic



Photo: Olivia Deskarina/AS Jakarta

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the world in 2020, and many students who are planning to continue their study / research in Germany ask themselves: "Is it still possible for me to pursue my degree in Germany?"

In this edition, we interviewed 4 of our scholarship holders who are currently studying or doing research in Germany to share their experiences while preparing for their study and departure to Germany. Here are our interviews with them; hopefully, the interview can inspire you with your current plan.

First of all, could you introduce yourself to us, and tell us which DAAD Scholarship you were awarded?

Willy Kristianto Yappy (WY): My name is Willy Kristianto Yappy, and I am currently studying for my PhD in the Experimental Neuropsychology Unit at Universität des Saarlandes. I am an awardee of DAAD Research Grants: Doctoral Programme.

Fara Qamara Elmyra (FE): Hello, my name is Fara Qamara Elmyra. I graduated from the Civil Engineering Department in Syiah Kuala University, Aceh, Indonesia. In 2020, I got a DAAD-ASFE Scholarship and I started my master's degree in Germany in October. I am studying at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Weimar. My study programme is Natural Hazards and Risks in Structural Engineering (NHRE).

Tefilla Pelafu (TF): Hi! Thank you for the interview. I am honoured. My name is Tefilla, and right now I am studying for my master's degree in architecture. Previously, I gained my bachelor's degree from Universitas Indonesia and worked in an architectural firm in Jakarta. I have always wanted to continue my education in Germany since my exchange program in Darmstadt. DAAD has helped me to fulfil my dream by awarding me a study scholarship for postgraduates in the field of architecture. I am currently pursuing my Master's Degree in Anhalt University of Applied Sciences. I am profoundly grateful.

Pricilia Purnama (PP): Hallo, I am Pricilia Purnama. I did my Bachelor's in International Relations at Catholic Parahyangan University. After graduating in 2015, I worked as a Program Coordinator with the Trade Union Rights Centre and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. In 2019, I got the DAAD Helmut-Schmidt Program (Public Policy and Good Governance) Scholarship at University of Duisburg-Essen.

Preparing Your Study / Research in Germany During the Pandemic

How has the current pandemic affected your preparation to continue your study / research in Germany (For example: visa application, correspondence with the university, etc.)?

WY: The current pandemic has affected my preparation more than anything; the chain of events that has led to where I am now, has been significantly more challenging.

One example is the German language course that I had to attend as a part of the program. The language class was changed to an online-only course due to the current situation, and I had to attend it from Indonesia. Since the class was conducted in Germany, I had to deal with the time differences between Germany and Indonesia. Another challenging part was related to the technical equipment used in the language class. The lecturers did not use a professional microphone, so listening to the lecturers was challenging for me. Because I had to stay in Indonesia longer, I also had to postpone my resignation from work. Therefore, I could not fully concentrate on learning German. Nevertheless, I am trying to improve my German by looking for another course that I can attend here.

I also experienced some administrative problems when I tried to open a German bank account to receive my scholarship fund. Only a small number of bank employees work in the branches these days; meanwhile, there are a lot of people trying to make an appointment. When I tried to make an appointment to open a new bank account in October, the bank could only give me an appointment on 20th November 2020. This kind of problem happened several times; in the first two months of my stay, I tried five banks in total, two online-only banks, and three regular banks. I was finally able to open an account, ironically, in a bank which happened to have a branch in my university. My suggestion is to always try to open a bank account in a branch within your university; oftentimes, they are more student-friendly.

Even after signing a contract with a bank, I didn't immediately receive a bank account, ATM card, or access to mobile/internet banking. I signed my contract on Thursday, two weeks ago. I could start using the account for manual deposits/withdrawals/transfers at the local branch near me on Friday. My mobile/internet banking details were sent to me by post on Monday. Two days later, on Wednesday, the mobile/internet banking service went live but it was unusable because my ATM card came on Friday, along with my TAN. Even now, I am still waiting on some details of my account, 12 days after signing.

FE: Many things have been affected due to this situation. First of all, the German course I took. We were supposed to learn German up to B1 level in the Goethe-Institut Jakarta. But, after 2-3 weeks when we had obtained A2 level, we were transferred to an online course. I thought it would only be for 2 weeks (as was firstly announced) or at longest one month. In the end, my course was delivered online until I had reached B1. For my visa application, my friends and I almost didn't get to apply for our visas because the German Embassy didn't accept any visa applications. In the end, they made an exception for students who had already been admitted. Luckily, my visa application could be processed and it actually only took 2-3 working days to be issued. As for applying to the university, I didn't face many difficulties. I applied to 2 universities through Uni-Assist and I was supposed to send my hard-copy documents to Germany. But due to the current condition, the universities told me that I did not need to send the documents, I just had to bring them with me on enrolment day. After I got to Germany, the first thing I had to do was make an appointment to process my city registration documents. After I had registered, I could open a bank account. I got an appointment 3 weeks after I had arrived and on the same day I managed to open a bank account. I didn't have much difficulty opening a bank account. I just needed city registration documents and my passport. Other than that, I did not have any difficulty, thankfully.



Photo: Tefilla Pelafu

Preparing Your Study / Research in Germany During the Pandemic

TF: At first, I was anxious about this, because everything became very uncertain. I also had to do COVID-19 tests before entering Germany. Would I get my visa? Would I be able to study in Germany instead of having online classes in Indonesia? These kinds of questions were always in my head. It was hard to get the appointment for the visa. I always kept myself updated about it by checking the website. After months of waiting, I finally got the appointment. Thankfully, for DAAD Scholarship holders, it was easier and faster to obtain the visa. My university does a hybrid mode in teaching (on campus and online classes). Therefore, I was able to enter Germany with a valid reason. It took some time and more effort, but in the end it all worked out.

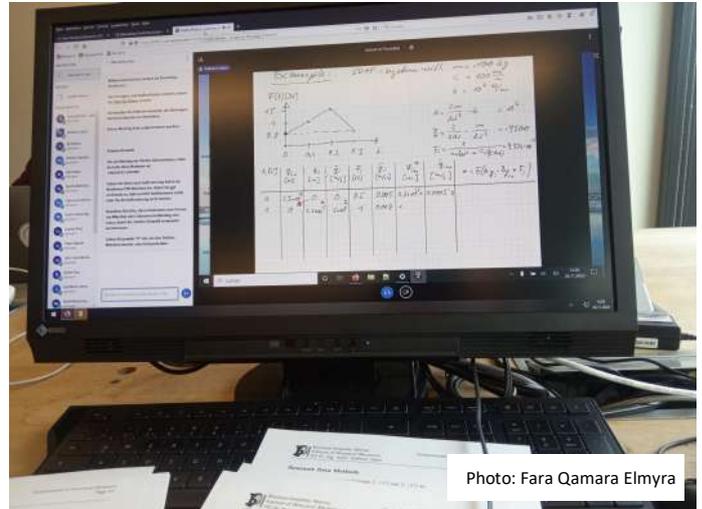


Photo: Fara Qamara Elmyra

How has the start of your semester been affected by COVID-19 and what are the consequences for your studies/research (For example, for your classes at the university, experiment preparations, group work, research projects, etc.)?

WY: Because my Doctoral study is research-based, I don't have a fixed schedule that is directly affected by COVID-19. Still, of course, my department has moved most of our meetings online. We have a room complete with our desks, computers, and accounts which only two individuals can use at the same time. Other departments which have more staff per-room have arranged alternate day use. So, for example, if there are 4 individuals in the room, some will come on Monday and Wednesday, and others will come on Tuesday and Thursday.

FE: The university has tried to make our semester as normal as possible. I have had both online and face-to-face classes. This year, the number of students who got admitted were around half the amount of students from last year. Because there are not a large number of us, they have split us into a few small groups and we take turns in joining in with the face-to-face classes on campus. While some of us are attending the lectures on campus, the lecturer also makes live streaming through the university website for students who are attending the class online at the same time. It is basically a hybrid type of class. The hardest part in this type of studying is that we have classes both online and face-to-face on the same day with only 15 minutes break in between. For example, I have one face-to-face class in between 2 online classes. Since it is impossible to go to campus right on time to attend the face-to-face class, I must be near the university after the first class. It is inconvenient because we could attend online classes in the dorm, but we must be near the campus all day. It would have been better to have had face-to-face classes all day rather than having online classes in between.



Photo: Pricilia Purnama

PP: I received my visa in February and initially planned for departure in March. But because my departure was delayed until October, I had to apply for a new visa. Both DAAD and my university were highly supportive during the whole process. They readily provided me with all necessary information and documents, not only for my visa application but also for my arrival in Germany.

Personally, the biggest challenge during the preparation period for me was learning German online. It was my first time learning German, and doing it online certainly slowed me down in learning the nuances of the language, such as daily expression, word preferences for certain situations, etc. The course was super intensive. I had classes from Monday to Friday and one tutorial session from Tuesday to Thursday. At first, I found it difficult, since I was not allowed to use English at all starting from the fourth week of the class. But my teachers and my tutor were so kind and encouraging. They used various tools and assigned different types of assignments and accommodated our suggestions throughout the course. There were also instances where we just talked to each other about ourselves during some parts of the class. Looking back now, I think I was able to get through the waiting period because I was enjoying the German class so much.

Preparing Your Study / Research in Germany During the Pandemic



Photo: Tefilla Pelafu

TF: I am incredibly lucky that my university does a hybrid mode, because I know some of my friends are still studying online this semester. I can study on campus and meet my friends and professors. However, because of the new lockdown in Germany, some of the classes have been moved to online mode. For group work, it is still possible to meet in person because during the lockdown, two households can meet. I do really hope that next semester all the classes will be held on campus since it is less tiring and more fun, especially when it comes to studying architecture.

PP: My semester started a month later than initially planned. Most of my current classes are online. This is also the case for group work and research activities. The university has done its best to maintain a certain level of “normality”; for instance by having an orientation week, seminars, access to the library and student cafeteria, etc., but unfortunately there are regulations and limitations related to the COVID-19 situation here. So, most on-campus functions are now online, or are available for an extremely limited number of students with prior appointment.

For now, I have only one class on campus. Seventeen of us use the lecture room which has the capacity for hundreds, and we must wear masks for the duration of the class. In the lecture room, we are only allowed to sit in predetermined seats and are required to complete the contact-tracing form every time we attend the class. We are also obliged to report to the campus if we show symptoms of COVID-19.

How do you personally cope with the COVID-19 situation in your everyday life in Germany; especially considering the fact that social meetings are possible only on a very limited scale or with bureaucratic problems?

WY: Currently, Germany is in a partial lockdown, so I can not process my residency card in the Foreign Office / Ausländerbehörde because it is still closed. Having said this, everything has worked surprisingly well. The International Office of Universität des Saarlandes helped me to register myself in the City Hall, and it only took one week before my Tax-ID arrived by post.

Regarding social meetings, it has been a unique experience for me. Yes, going out to meet with people might be prohibited, but due to this condition, I have got the chance to know my housemates better. In my guest house, we have one big communal kitchen, and usually, two of us will be there, cooking, and chatting. Since I live in a guest house for international students, I have had the chance to get to know the other international students. Some of them come from China, Taiwan, Iran, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Chile. Chatting in the kitchen has been a unique moment for us.

Preparing Your Study / Research in Germany During the Pandemic



Photo: Tefilla Pelafu

How do you personally cope with the COVID-19 situation in your everyday life in Germany; especially considering the fact that social meetings are possible only on a very limited scale or with bureaucratic problems?

FE: The basic thing I do is wearing a mask when I am outside. Here, we are obliged to wear a mask inside buildings, around university, and inside public transportation. But when walking outside, many people do not wear masks. Even so, I still wear one unless I am the only one walking in the area without people around me. I always bring my own disinfectant wherever I go. I am also limiting myself by not going to big scale gatherings other than for study purposes.

TF: It was a bit sad for me in the beginning since I had just started my master's degree because it would be great to be able to make new friends and meet them regularly. The shops close earlier too. However, I am starting to get used to it and am happy to know after a while I will be able to hangout more with my friends again. I encountered some problems with registration, and it was stressful. I could not open an online bank account and could not buy a SIM card because the system could not read my passport. However, as I said earlier, with effort, everything worked out in the end.

PP: I'd like to think that I am a very lucky person. My university has been greatly helpful in supporting me throughout these past months, particularly during the first days of my arrival in Germany. They provided not only information on dealing with bureaucratic matters, but also helped me move into the dorm and settle down, and naturally, they also helped me to understand what is expected from a master's student here.

The university also held a get-together in October just before the current social restrictions were enforced, so I was able to meet once with all my classmates. Meeting people, who I previously had only met in a group chat certainly helped me get to know my classmates better and to not feel alone navigating the bureaucratic delays I was experiencing.

So, it is safe to say that in addition to trying to focus myself on enjoying my studies, my friends and I also rely a lot on each other in coping with the current situation.



Photo: Pricilia Purnama



Photo: Fara Qamara Elmyra

Preparing Your Study / Research in Germany During the Pandemic



Photo: Willy Kristianto Yappy

Do you have any recommendations for fellow students to succeed with online learning and to keep up their motivation?

WY: During this period (partial lockdown), it is always a good idea to have a regular schedule and clearly defined targets. Due to the current situation, it is easy for us to feel unmotivated, especially when you do not have a regular schedule or a clear target. Having a consultation with your professor/ supervisor - if you're on the doctoral program- can help to arrange your (research) schedule and things that you have to do during weekdays.

I would also suggest investing in a good quality microphone and headset for online meetings. I have had a hard time understanding the words people say, and people also have had some trouble understanding what I have said due to the quality of my headset.

Last week, on Sunday afternoon, I felt unmotivated. I had sat in front of the laptop for hours, read books for my research and saw the same four walls; it made me bored. For a break, I decided to go outside and walk along the Saar river (which is close to my apartment), to see some ducks that usually swim on the river. From there, I walked under the Wilhelm-Heinrich-Brücke onto a pathway to another bridge, the Alte Brücke, on the south side. I could see lots of boats. I also found people

doing outdoor activities; for example, fishing, walking around, riding bikes, walking their dogs, and jogging. I ended up walking almost 3 km before I went back home; it definitely helped me feel refreshed.

It might be hard to be motivated when you are socially distanced from one another. But walking around in parks or doing outdoor activities (while always wearing masks and maintaining social distance) is an excellent way to keep us motivated. I feel lucky that Germany offers a lot of outdoor space where I can walk around and explore.

FE: Honestly, doing online learning is a big challenge for me, especially for academic study. But all I can say is that we must face and fight this with big motivation. And my motivation is that we should not be dragged down by this situation because we have already come so far. We have passed all the hard steps to get the scholarship. Our next step is to study with the goal of finishing it on time. Our motivation should be bigger than COVID. Fight, guys!

Preparing Your Study / Research in Germany During the Pandemic

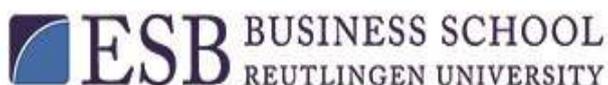
TF: I know it can be hard to do only online learning and how unmotivating it is. To keep the motivation going, I always look forward. Think of the opportunities that you will have after gaining the degree and how this pandemic makes us become more resilient and independent. We are a tough generation. We adapt and overcome. Moreover, I am sure we will see improvements in the situation soon. It is always a good idea to have some friends who are in the same struggle as you. We can always organize something outside the class to get to know our friends/classmates better. Hence, we can motivate each other more. Having a great and proper studying space (especially one with direct sunlight) can be so helpful. Another thing, besides doing online classes and staying inside all day long, we should do other activities outside too. Do some sports or other leisure activities. It can make you feel less tired and can bring fun into your life. I wish you all good luck and we can certainly do this!!!

PP: In addition to regular zoom meetings with family and friends, having enough rest and exercising regularly, I always try to allocate 10-15 minutes screen-free time during my study hours. And when possible, at least once a week, I take a 20-30 minutes' walk outside to refresh my mind.

Also, do not hesitate to reach out to the professors if you have any relevant questions and doubts about their class. It might take some time for them to reply, but in general they do not mind answering your questions or setting up zoom meetings to discuss your questions



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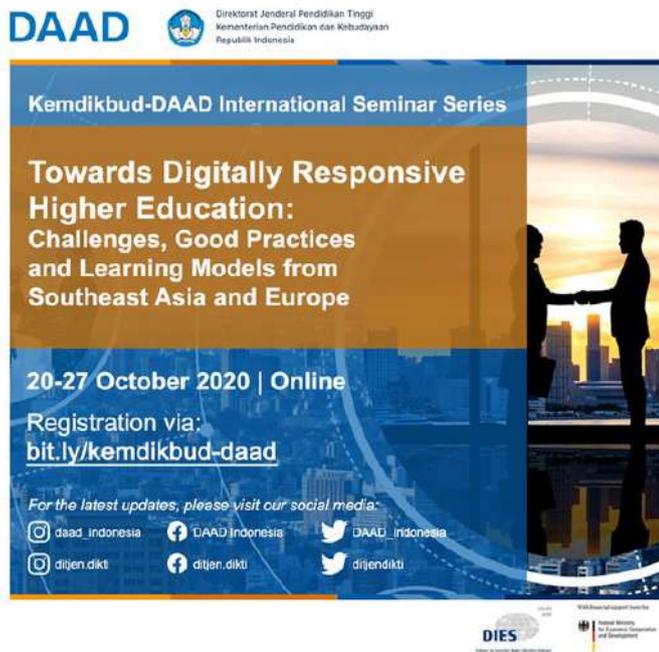
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Towards Digitally Responsive Higher Education: Challenges, Good Practices and Learning Models from Southeast Asia and Europe

(by DAAD Regional Office Jakarta Team)



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Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan
Republik Indonesia

Kemdikbud-DAAD International Seminar Series

Towards Digitally Responsive Higher Education: Challenges, Good Practices and Learning Models from Southeast Asia and Europe

20-27 October 2020 | Online

Registration via:
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DIES



Kampus Merdeka

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
"Future Higher Education Initiatives in Indonesia - Throughout Covid-19 Era and Beyond"

Keynote Speaker:
Prof. Ir. Nizam, M.Sc., Dkt., Ph.D.
Director General of Higher Education
"Opening Ceremony, Opening Remarks"

Speakers:

- Dr. Yuto Kitamura
The University of Tokyo
"Internationalisation in the New context"
- Prof. Peter Mayer
Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences
"International Experiences in Higher Education"
- Prof. drh. Aris Junaidi, Ph.D.
Director of Learning and Student Affairs
"Indonesian Higher Education Policies and Experiences"
- Dr. Oliver Vettori
Vienna University of Economics and Business
"Digital Learning for Future Higher Education in the Disruptive Era"
- Mr. Johnson Ong Chee Bin
Member of AUN-QA
"Quality Assurance of Digital Learning in the Disruptive Era"

Tuesday, October 20, 2020
12.00 - 16.00 WIB

Langgasa Layanan Pendidikan Tinggi
Rektor/Ketua/Direktur PT
Wakil Rektor/Ketua/Direktur PT
Penanggung Jawab Penjaminan Mutu

REGISTRATION
<http://ringkas.kemdikbud.go.id/Data/SeminarAI>
Up to October 17, 2020

ZOOM | DITJEN DIKTI

On 20 – 27 October 2020, DAAD and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia (MOEC Indonesia) conducted a series of online seminars on higher education and digitalisation titled “Towards Digitally Responsive Higher Education: Challenges, Good Practices and Learning Models from Southeast Asia and Europe”. The increasing salience of digitalisation and its accelerated implementation in the higher education sector during the Covid-19 pandemic pushes actors in External Quality Assurance (EQA) to explore new terrain to ensure that the quality of learning does not suffer due to changes from the traditional mode of delivery. Furthermore, it presents higher education institutions with opportunities to innovate in teaching and learning, and opens up new avenues for sustainable international cooperation in situations that make traditional forms of mobility implausible. The seminar series addresses these opportunities and challenges through an exchange of practices between higher education practitioners from Europe (Austria, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands), Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore), and Japan.

Held on 20 October 2020, the Kick-Off Seminar “Future Higher Education Initiatives in Indonesia Throughout the Covid-19 Era and Beyond” was opened by Prof. Ir. Nizam, Directorate General of Higher Education (DIKTI) from MOEC Indonesia and Thomas Zettler, Director of DAAD Regional Office Jakarta. Prof. drh. Aris Junaidi, Director of Learning and Student Affairs at DIKTI, MOEC Indonesia, further elaborated on the current education policies in Indonesia including challenges, recommendations and future directions pertaining the implementation of MOEC’s Kampus Merdeka (“Independent Campus”) policy. The seminar also featured presentations from Dr. Oliver Vettori from Vienna University of Economics and Business on the evolution of digitalisation as an add-on to becoming a necessity and how campuses can provide a seamless learning experience that truly blends on-campus and online learning; Mr. Johnson Ong Chee Bin, an AUN-QA Expert, emphasised the need for quality assurance in digital learning, its framework and indicators, while also highlighting several important factors for success in digital learning and recommending strategies to redesign digital learning; Prof. Yuto Kitamura from University of Tokyo, shared recent progress in Higher Education in Asia and the pandemic’s effect on student mobility; and Prof. Peter Mayer from University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück discussed opportunities to amplify collaboration and internationalisation and transform university management to cope with the rapid development of digital platforms.

Towards Digitally Responsive Higher Education: Challenges, Good Practices and Learning Models from Southeast Asia and Europe

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Session 1:
Ensuring Quality in Crisis – Policy, Practice and the Future of EQA

Thursday, 22 October 2020
Time: 13.00 - 15.00 (Jakarta/Bangkok Time | GMT+7)

Registration via: bit.ly/kemdikbud-daad

Speakers:

 Mr. Ronny Heintze Senior Consultant, Commissioner for International Affairs, AQAS	 Prof. Dr. T. Basaruddin Director of BAN-PT, Indonesia and President of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)	 Dr. Yulia Hendri Yeni Associate Professor in Marketing Faculty of Economics, Andalas University	 Prof. Dr. Hazman Shah Abdullah Technical Advisor to the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)	 Ms. Maria Kelo Director of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (EUA)
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Republik Indonesia

Session 2:
**Higher Education Institutions and the Covid-19
'Digitalisation Boost' – Disruption or Opportunity?**

Monday, 26 October 2020
Time: 15.00 - 17.00 (Jakarta /Bangkok Time | GMT+7)

Registration via: bit.ly/kemdikbud-daad

Speakers:

 Mr. Michael Horig Head of Division - Strategic Planning, DAAD	 Ms. Tia Loukkola Director of Institutional Development, European University Association (EUA)	 Dr. Sri Suning Kusumawardani Deputy Director of the Centre of Academic Innovation and Studies, Gadjah Mada University	 Prof. Dr. Aloys Krieg Vice-Rector for Teaching, RWTH Aachen University
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The Kick-Off Seminar was followed by Session 1: “Ensuring Quality in Crisis - Policy, Practice and the Future of EQA” on 22 October 2020, which specifically addressed how regulatory bodies might adapt policies to ensure quality, enhance flexibility, and ensure cross-border online education. The session opened with a short speech from Prof. drh. Aris Junaidi and was followed by presentations from Maria Kelo, Director at ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) who shared how QA Agencies were responding to the current challenging situation, future plans, and various practical approaches to implement online QA assessment, and from Ronny Heintze, Senior Consultant at AQAS (Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programmes), who continued with opportunities and challenges in conducting virtual site-visits and possible future scenarios. It also featured an overview of the Indonesian and Malaysian higher education situation and approaches to QA (such as transitioning to virtual assessments and site-visits) during the pandemic from both countries; these were delivered by Prof. Drs. T. Basaruddin, Director of BAN-PT (National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education, Indonesia) and Dr. Hazman Shah Abdullah, Technical Advisor at AQAN (ASEAN Quality Assurance Network), respectively. Lastly, Dr. Yulia Hendri Yeni from Andalas University Indonesia shared her university’s experience of the AUN-QA online assessment conducted in its two study programmes.

On 26 October 2020, Session 2: “Higher Education Institutions and the Covid-19 ‘Digitalisation Boost’–Disruption or Opportunity?” addressed how higher education managers, teaching, and support staff have responded to the Covid-19 push towards digitalisation through examples from Europe and Indonesia. Moderated by Michael Horig, Head of Division Strategic Planning at DAAD Bonn, the panel discussion and presentations offered experiences from Europe as elaborated by Tia Loukkola, the Director of Institutional Development at European University Association (EUA), where a general overview on the state of play in teaching and learning, and trends such as widening access of education and lifelong learning, micro credentials to make higher education more flexible were discussed; and attention to the social dimension and quality during the pandemic were highlighted against the background of the Bologna Process and its tools and policies (European Standards and Guidelines of QA and others). It also featured experiences from German and Indonesian universities, delivered by Prof. Dr. Aloys Krieg, Vice President for Education at RWTH Aachen University, and Dr. Sri Suning Kusumawardani, Deputy Director of the Centre of Academic Innovation and Studies at Gadjah Mada University, respectively. Both shared their respective university’s experiences in preparing for digitalisation both for teaching staff and students, and explored how digital learning materials and examinations were administered, including alternative assessment strategies and a discussion on the human dimension of e-learning.

Towards Digitally Responsive Higher Education: Challenges, Good Practices and Learning Models from Southeast Asia and Europe



Lastly, Session 3: “Initiatives and Programmes Fostering Cooperation in the Field of Digitalisation”, was held on 27 October 2020. Moderated by Christian Rabl, Special Lektor at the DAAD Regional Office Jakarta, the session addressed new avenues and potential scope for international academic cooperation, and an internationally compatible digital ecosystem to facilitate student mobility and recognition. Starting with an introduction on trends in digitalisation in higher education and digital credential infrastructures, Alexander Knoth, Head of Section – Digitalisation at DAAD Bonn, also offered examples of DAAD cooperation programmes in the field of digitalisation such as International Mobility & Digital Cooperation (IMKD); International Virtual Academic Collaboration (IVAC); and Digital International Programmes (IP Digital). The possibility of internationalisation without papers was then presented by Frederik de Decker, Head of the International Relations Office at Ghent University, as a means to promote sustainability in providing students with intercultural competence despite lack of “traditional” mobility. Delving deeper into digitisation of credentialing systems, Herman de Leeuw, Executive Director of the Groningen Declaration Network presented the rationale behind digitising learner data with examples from China, India, Australia, Singapore, and Japan. Zheng Wei Quah, CEO and Co-founder of Accredify, and Barry Leonardi, Business Partnership Manager for Education (Asia-Pacific) at Flywire, co-presented on digital credentials and how fintech start-ups can support international mobility and credit transfer by producing innovative blockchain-based technology, harnessing the opportunities of digitalisation through issuance of digital credentials, facilitating international mobility and credit transfer, and by improving international students’ experience in times of crisis through three case studies from Brickfields Asia College, Malaysia, and a collaboration between the Governments of Singapore and the Netherlands, among others. Lastly, Dr. Diah Wihardini, Director of BINUS Global at Bina Nusantara University, showed how international cooperation can continue amidst the pandemic through virtual activities and shared lessons learned for institutional transformation and potential solutions.

In case you missed the seminar series, you can watch the recordings of the sessions and download the speakers’ presentations on our website, www.daad.id.

Scholarship Now Open

Study Visits by Groups of Foreign Students

About the Programme

Study trips for groups of a maximum of 15 students accompanied by one university teacher. Individual doctoral candidates may also be funded after consultation with the DAAD. The groups visit at least two German universities where they participate in the academic programme. A cultural programme is to be organised in the evenings and at weekends.

Who can apply?

University teachers from a foreign university are eligible to apply.

Application Deadline: 1 February, 1 May, 1 November

More info about the programme, please visit: daad.de/go/en/stipa10000016

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