



Partnership with
Africa Foundation
e.V.



German-African Scholarship Exchange Programme

An initiative of former German Federal President Dr. Horst Köhler



Call for Papers



You are interested in German-African Political Affairs?
You are a student or young academic between 21 - 28 years?

Send your motivation letter + CV + essay by **1 April 2013**
Further information: www.german-african-partnership.org



Germany: August 2013
Namibia: March 2014

Call for Papers

“Go Africa... Go Germany...” fellowship programme 2013/2014 in Germany and Namibia

The Partnership with Africa Foundation e.V. (Stiftung Partnerschaft mit Afrika e.V.) is granting a fellowship to students and young professionals from Germany and Southern Africa. It will enable them to take part in a five-week exchange programme to be held in August 2013 in Germany and continued in March 2014 in Namibia.

By organising a five-week exchange programme – which, on the original initiative of the former Federal President Dr. Horst Köhler, is implemented for the seventh time – the Partnership with Africa Foundation e.V. intends to help overcome the lack of knowledge that exists between African reality and German perception and, vice versa, between German reality and African perception. The personal, intercultural encounter between young and upcoming academics and the interdisciplinary exchange are aimed at promoting advanced professional training and at acquiring multipliers for a German-African future that is based on the spirit of partnership.

The fellowship holders are invited to take part in an education programme that will encompass talks with political decision-makers, journalists, academics, and other personalities from civil society and business from both countries. Participants are moreover given the opportunity to take part in political and cultural events and excursions. Thereby, participants contribute towards implementing the programme by assisting in organising lectures and facilitating group discussions. In addition, they will also work on a common study paper focussing on an academic subject. The latter will be prepared during the programme phase in Germany and written between September 2013 and April 2014. As members of a vibrant Alumni network, the participants are moreover highly encouraged to stay involved after the programme by developing and implementing German-African partnership projects.

The programme is directed at students and young graduates from Germany and Southern Africa and will be held in English. Applicants should be between 21 and 28 years old and be studying or have a degree in political science, modern history, international relations, economics, business administration, African studies, cultural studies, media and communication studies, law, or equivalent academic programmes. The number of participants is limited to 24, twelve from Southern African countries and twelve from Germany. Please note that there will be an obligatory preparatory seminar for German participants from 21 to 22 June 2013. A further condition for receiving a grant is that applicants must be able to participate for the entire period. A willingness to take part in an intensive and compact programme schedule as well as continued commitment is expected.

Subject to the granting of funds, all basic programme costs will be covered. However, the Partnership with Africa Foundation e.V. is neither able to cover the German participants' costs for obtaining visas nor for vaccinations. The acceptance of African participants to the programme only becomes final when the German Embassy in the participant's home country has issued the relevant visa. It is not possible to legally claim participation in the programme.

Interested individuals are welcome to apply to the Partnership with Africa Foundation e.V. by submitting an essay comprising a maximum of three A4 pages (approx. 6.000 characters) written in English. The essay focusing on one of the three topics outlined below must be accompanied by a letter of motivation comprising no more than one A4 page, a curriculum vitae in tabular form, and a photograph. The following information must be provided: surname, first name, gender, date of birth, profession and/or field of study, place of study, place of work, and place of residence. Applicants are also asked to issue a declaration stating that they wrote the essay without any help from third parties. Direct and indirect citations must be marked and referenced as such and the source must be named. Plagiarism will disqualify an applicant from consideration.

Please e-mail your full application package (essay, letter of motivation, CV incl. photograph) to the Partnership with Africa Foundation e.V. at goafrica@german-african-partnership.org by 1 April 2013.

In regard to the application essay, you may choose any one of the following topics (Cluster I, II or III). In each case, all three questions must be answered within your essay.

(I) A Common Culture of Remembrance?

As a former colony, Namibia shares a painful history with Germany. Particularly during the war of 1904 to 1907, the German military committed atrocities against the Herero and Nama peoples. Long characterised by silence of both the German and the post-independence Namibian governments, the countries' approach to their colonial past is said to have changed with the formal apology by then-German Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, in 2004. At the commemorations of the centenary of the Herero uprising in Okakarara, Namibia, she stated: "I ask you to forgive us our trespasses. Without a conscious process of remembering, without sorrow, there can be no reconciliation – remembrance is the key to reconciliation".

- 1) Elaborate on the chances and pitfalls of symbolic justice. How do you assess the impact of Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul's statement on German-Namibian relations?
- 2) Public memory is often an issue of contestation. As much as it is able to produce and tell a shared narrative of the past, it might also function as a tool of highly 'selective memory'. Deliberate on the latter term and, more specifically, on either the German or Namibian experience.
- 3) What could Germans and Namibians do today to build a partnership in coming to terms with their common past and to strengthen an inclusive culture of remembrance in both countries?

(II) Consumer Protection and Empowerment

Today, consumers are challenged by increasingly complex amounts of information as well as ever-wider choices of products and services in a globalised market. Yet, there is a growing awareness that empowered consumers are essential in a socially and environmentally sustainable economy. Consumers can play a pivotal role in a wide variety of topics, such as environmental protection, sustainable agriculture, fair trade, labour standards, intellectual property rights, or sustainable financial markets.

Consumer protection policies are traditionally subject to private and public regulation. But recently, consumer education, improved access to information, and the use of market-based mechanisms are increasingly promoted as a means to empower consumers. For example, the European Union's legislative approach aims to "empower consumers and build their confidence by giving them the tools to participate actively in the market, to make it work for them, to exercise their power of choice and to have their rights properly enforced" (former EU Commissioner John Dalli, 2012). With the South African Consumer Protection Act entering into force in 2011, this approach also gained momentum in Southern Africa. The Southern African Development Community, too, recognised the opportunities involved and notably encouraged its members to safeguard consumer rights.

- 1) Compare the state of consumer protection and empowerment in Namibia and Germany. Identify and discuss possible explanatory factors for similarities and differences.

- 2) Food has always been a key issue for consumer protection organisations around the world. In the context of German and Southern African politics, evaluate different means of consumer education in the realm of food, such as labelling and social media advocacy.
- 3) In the context of consumer protection and empowerment, compare the approach and mandate of both the European Union and the Southern African Development Community. Discuss risks and opportunities of regional economic integration in this regard and justify your assessment.

(III) Social Protection and Basic Rights

Overcoming social inequality is one of the key challenges for societies around the world. Namibia is classified by the World Bank as an upper-middle-income country, yet large parts of its population suffer from social inequality. The country has one of the most unequal income distributions in the world, as Gini-coefficient and HDI levels can attest. Germany, too, is facing rising social inequality as living standards of the poorest households have stagnated, while those of the rich significantly increased. Ongoing debates about a minimum wage, decent pensions, or the persistent growth of a “lower class” in society make this evident.

Both Namibia and Germany are trying to tackle the problem. Thus, the German Basic Law guarantees the fundamental right to a subsistence minimum that is in line with human dignity. According to the Federal Constitutional Court, this obligation – together with the principle of the social welfare state set out in Article 20 of the basic law – assures to each person the material prerequisites indispensable for his or her physical existence and for a minimum of participation in social, cultural and political life.

Similarly, respect for human dignity (Article 8) and the possibility for redress of socio-economic disadvantages stemming from past discrimination (Article 23(2)) are deeply seated in the Namibian constitution of 1990. Yet, the “promotion of the welfare of the people” (Article 95) is merely stated as a guiding principle of state policy. The justiciability of economic and social rights within Namibia’s domestic legal system remains an issue of contestation.

- 1) Compare the state of social and economic inequality within the societies of both Germany and Namibia.
- 2) Evaluate the approach to guarantee social standards by law. Give examples from both German and Namibian jurisdiction and analyse their efficacy.
- 3) In 2008, a pilot project to provide basic income grants was started by Namibian non-governmental organisations. Are basic income grants a successful model to counter social inequality? Justify your assessment.

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible to apply?

The fellowship is directed at students and young graduates from Germany and Southern Africa. Applicants should either be studying or have a degree in any of the following subjects or the equivalent: Political science, modern history, international relations, economics, business administration, media and communication studies, cultural studies, African studies or law.

Students and graduates of a subject that corresponds to any of the subjects mentioned above are also eligible to apply, provided they can furnish proof of the subject studied.

2. Is there an age limit applicants have to observe?

Yes, applicants should be between the age of 21 and 28 by time the application deadline elapses.

3. Are individuals who are currently studying or working abroad eligible to apply?

Yes, they are welcome to apply.

4. What documents must be submitted with the application?

Applicants are kindly asked to enclose the following items with their application:

- an essay comprising a maximum of three A4 pages (approx. 6.000 characters) focussing on one of the three thematic areas specified within the Call for papers,
- a declaration stating that applicants wrote the essay themselves without any help from third parties,
- a curriculum vitae in tabular form with one photograph,
- and a letter of motivation comprising no more than one A4 page.

All documents must be submitted in English.

5. To what address must documents be sent?

Please e-mail your complete application to goafrica@german-african-partnership.org.

6. What is the deadline for the submission of applications to the Partnership with Africa Foundation e.V.?

The deadline for applications is 1 April 2013, 23:59 pm Central European Summer Time.

7. Can applicants freely select the topic of their essay?

No, the topic of the essay must be selected from one of the options detailed on the Call for Papers and reply to the entire set of corresponding questions.

8. When will the programme take place?

The obligatory preparatory meeting for German participants will take place from 21 to 22 June 2013. The German part of the exchange programme will be held in August 2013 and the African part in March 2014 (exact dates will be announced in due course).

9. Do I have to attend all phases of the exchange programme?

Please note that once the selection results are issued and you bindingly accepted your invitation to participate in the exchange programme, the attendance of both the German and African programme phase as well as the preparatory meeting (only German participants) is obligatory. This is, inter alia, because travel arrangements and bookings are made far in advance.