



Factsheet on your project proposal: ASA Academia

Would you like to improve the integration of sustainable development at your university or institution of higher education by implementing specific projects? Are you looking for young students from Germany and a country in Africa, Asia, Latin America or South-Eastern Europe to support you with your international sustainability projects? You can submit project proposals for the 2021 ASA Programme until 15 September 2020!

The ASA Programme is a learning and capacity-building programme dedicated to development education. It is aimed at young people who want to understand global interdependencies, who ask critical questions and who want to foster a fair world. Mutual learning and responsible social action for sustainable development and fair global interaction are at the heart of the programme.

The ASA Programme is offered by Engagement Global – Service for Development Initiatives and is primarily financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ). It is co-funded by eight German states: Baden-Wuerttemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony and Hessen.

How the programme is run

ASA Academia (formerly ASA-University Cooperation) is offered by the ASA Programme in cooperation with academic education and research institutions. It focuses on innovative research and applied science promoting sustainability. Universities, institutions of higher education and their partners from the scientific community and civil society are invited to propose future projects that can be realised in the *basic* as well as in the *global* format.

The project phase is at the heart of participants' programme cycle. They spend six months working within the project; three months in Germany followed by three months at a partner institution in Africa, Asia, Latin America or South-Eastern Europe.

Follow-on seminars, which last several days and are based on the concept of Global Learning, are an integral part of the ASA Programme. They cover subject knowledge of development policy and methods of group, educational and project work. They also offer training of social skills and personal competences. The seminars bring a practical slant and allow those attending the ASA Programme to get to grips with development policy issues in global contexts and to try out innovative methods of educational work. They provide opportunities for those attending to explore their own role in the project and to include their own ideas. Participants can shine a light on issues relevant to them from different angles, take a critical look at the content and question it in terms of diversity.

Afterwards, participants reflect on their learning experiences and explore ways of integrating them in their own surroundings and future civic commitment. They return to universities and institutions of higher education as change agents, organise events, hold lectures, write project-related theses and, in so doing, contribute their experience and impulses towards education and research.

Project examples

- Research on sustainable afforestation in Costa Rica's tropical regions
- Renewable energies and the sustainable city in Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam
- Development of a prediction model for famines in Brazil with data analysis methods
- Development and introduction of a management study programme in Germany and Senegal

"A tailor-made development policy upgrade: The practical relevance and the programme's network, universities and their partners receive clear added value that anchors their education and research activities in the context of global sustainable development through the seminars in the ASA cycle, thus enabling synergies and creating new international perspectives."

Christoph Grammer, Baden-Wuerttemberg State Ministry

Who are the ASA participants?

Basic format:

People between 21 and 30 years who study in Germany or have completed their dual/school-based vocational training are eligible to apply to the ASA Programme. German citizens studying abroad and interested students whose Bachelor's degree was earned within the last 18 months are also eligible. A team of two ASA participants residing in Germany complete both project phases and participate in the ASA seminars together.

Global format:

An international team is made up of two ASA participants from Germany and two from the respective partner country in an African, Asian, Latin American or Southeast European country, who participate in

both project phases and ASA seminars together. Participants from the partner countries are between 21 and 35 years and are in direct contact with the project partner in the partner country.

Why should you become a partner of the ASA Programme?

The ASA Programme facilitates a joint experience of learning and civic engagement in an interconnected and changeable world which can be shaped. We would like to join forces with you and other partners from civil society, research and business to encourage those attending our Programme to play their part in meeting global challenges in line with the Agenda 2030 adopted by the United Nations.

- As a partner organisation you profit from qualified and committed young people who support your project. They are eager to learn from you while contributing their own experiences, skills and ideas.
- By discussing global issues with the participants, you can set important impulses for the participants' future involvement. After the ASA project, they usually remain active in the field of sustainable development and promote society's understanding of global interdependencies.
- You profit from the ASA Programme's global network of partners and alumni.
- Offering a project in partnership with another organisation can contribute to an extension and consolidation of your international cooperation activities. The common project – from proposal to implementation – opens up opportunities to establish or further develop a project partnership.
- You can get, if required, a detailed report from the participants and an evaluation of results of the project after its conclusion.

Contribution of the ASA Programme

- Upon request, we advise you on how to develop and elaborate your project proposal.
- We advertise the programme to applicants in Germany, manage their application process, and select engaged young participants for your project through a tried-and-tested process.
- We support the participants' learning and preparation process through seminars lasting several days, where participants receive the close support of tutors. (See Programme cycle).
- Participants will receive a scholarship and insurance coverage from the ASA Programme. The ASA Programme will also cover the costs for the ASA seminars and proportionate travel costs incurred in connection to the project phase and the ASA seminars.
- ASA global: we cooperate with you to help those attending the programme from the partner countries with the process of obtaining a visa for a 90-day stay in Germany.

“Applied research is very important for an SME that develops models in the field of sustainable tropical agriculture and forestry. At the same time, our pioneering work in science is an exciting research topic. The university cooperation helps us align these interests and finance research that promotes sustainable economic activity and exhibits direct practical relevance.”

Simon Mader, Querdenker GmbH, ASA project partner

Your contribution

- You develop the project proposal jointly with your partner organisation. The ASA Programme will be happy to assist you.
- Following a pre-selection process by the ASA Programme, you select the participants from Germany.
- You support the participants with travel formalities (e.g. visa application).
- You support the project team professionally and organisationally in the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the project phase in your country. You also provide the required material resources. The ASA Programme cannot provide any assistance for this, neither financial nor material.

The following additionally applies to ASA Academia global:

Partner institutions in a country in Africa, Asia, Latin America or South-Eastern Europe:

You are responsible for acquiring and selecting applicants in your country. Please note that English is the language used in the seminars. Participants need to prove that their English language skills correspond to the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

Partner institution in Germany:

You support the acquisition and selection of applicants in Germany. You also assist participants from the partner country with travel formalities (e.g. booking of flights, visa application), provide accommodation, support communication during their stay and co-fund the stay of participants in Germany (see Financing).

Financing

Project phase in Germany (in *global* format):

Those attending the Programme from Germany and from the partner countries receive up to € 843,- per month during the three-month project phase in Germany. In the global format, the ASA funds cover just some of the outlay required for the project phase in Germany. Additional costs, including flight costs for the participants from the partner countries, must be covered by the German partner institution. The German partner institution also pays out the bursaries to the participants from the partner countries. For this purpose, the funds are transferred by Engagement Global under a cooperation and transfer agreement.

Project phase in a country in Africa, Asia, Latin America or South-Eastern Europe:

Participants from Germany receive a partial scholarship from the ASA Programme of a total of € 2.100,- on average to cover the costs of living in the partner country as well as a travel allowance. In the *global* format participants from the partner country receive a stipend of € 700,- on average for the project phase in their own country.

ASA Academia programme calendar

15 September 2020: Submission deadline of your project proposal

By 2 October 2020: Examination of proposals and project selection by the ASA Programme

By 15 December 2020: Selection of participants from the partner countries (global format only)

20 November 2020 to 10 January 2021: Publication of selected projects on the ASA website; interested and eligible young professionals and students can apply

January and February 2021: Selection of participants

April to June 2021: Participants attend two seminars in Germany

Between April and October 2021: Three-month project phase in Germany

Between July 2021 and January 2021: Three-month project phase at the partner institution in a country in Africa, Asia, Latin America or South-Eastern Europe.

February and March 2022: RENEw seminars for participants from Germany:

Participants review the project phase(s), exchange their views about future engagement opportunities and find ways to establish networks.

Imprint

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