



Call for Sessions and Abstracts

Symposium 2026 in Berlin:

The DAAD Global Health Centres – Five Years of Impact, Five Years of Vision: Transforming Knowledge into Practice

BACKGROUND

The DAAD Global Centres Symposium 2026 will be held from **September 29 – October 1st**. To adapt to the target groups of the 2026 event (no advanced doctoral students in 2026 at the Centres that could respond to a call for proposals early in the year), we changed its concept compared to our conference in 2024. Instead of a conference centered on research presentations (as in previous years) we will host a **symposium**. This event will have **two different foci**:

First, it will highlight each center's achievements over the past five years, outline goals for the next five years, and reflect on lessons learned as well as on how the newly generated knowledge can be translated into practical application. This part will be joined by donor representatives, embassies and other external audience that we want to inform about the programme's outcome.

Second, the symposium will consist of a scientific part, where plenary formats like round table discussions and others can take place. A poster session and at least one keynote lecture are planned as well. A particular emphasis will be placed on workshops and other interactive formats, in which smaller groups collaborate to achieve a specific outcome or produce a concrete result. For the new cohort of PhDs starting their PhD as of mid-2026 (as decided by the Advisory Board, primarily the ones being in Germany/Europe at that time), a retreat will be included to exchange on existing research ideas, learn from peers and senior level researchers, and connect PhD of the different Centres.

An **internal project team meeting** to support working-level discussions will mark the end of the event.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

DAAD will finance the participation of

- the new PhDs and Postdocs that should participate in the PhD Retreat
- all active participants (within Sessions or with Posters)
- up to 3 additional international team members per Centre (in prior agreement with DAAD)
- Germany-based political stakeholders (embassies, funders, health-related stakeholders, other donors, etc)

Additional participants from the Global Centres financed by the projects themselves are very welcome.



MODALITIES – SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The Global Health Centres and their representatives are invited to submit proposals for (1) Whole Sessions and (2) Individual Presentations to be held during the DAAD Global Centres Symposium 2026. The guidelines for submitting proposals are as follows:

1. WHOLE SESSIONS

With this call, we invite the **Global Centres Teams, including their scholars and alumni**, to submit proposals for possible whole sessions, organised by groups of scholars/alumni/project teams. External partners can be co-organizers, but only proposals with a coordinator of the Centres themselves (staff or alumni/scholarship holders) are valid.

A. WORKSHOPS

Workshops or similar formats where smaller groups work together on a certain topic instructed by the organisers of the session. A broad range of topics is possible, please feel free to propose whatever you consider as relevant for the Centres and the Programme. Sessions aiming at producing products (such as policy papers) or similar outputs will be selected on a preferential basis. (length of session: up to one day)

B. PLENARY SESSIONS

Roundtable or other formats as **plenary sessions** for the main symposium, where in part - additionally to the scientific audience - political stakeholders (embassies, funders, health-related stakeholders, other donors, etc) will be present/invited. We will select 1-3 sessions dedicated to/including active participation of stakeholders as well as sessions directed to the scientific audience. (length of session: up to 90 min)

PROPOSALS FOR WHOLE SESSIONS SHOULD PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. Title of the session
2. A description of the planned format (approx. 50 words)
3. Name of the coordinator including contact details
4. Name, academic title, position, and institutional affiliation(s) of each active participant (i. e. including the Global Centre for Health and Pandemic Preparedness, if applicable)
5. An abstract of the theme/session content (approx. 250 words)
6. In case of workshops: information on maximum number of participants, prerequisite knowledge of the participants and the desired outcome of the workshop (approx. 50 words)
7. Desired length of the session (for workshops: up to one day; for plenary sessions: up to 90 min)

Formats in which two or more Global Centres/different initiatives and/or academics of various disciplines cooperate are especially welcome and encouraged. Each Global Centre should submit at least one proposal for a session, but not more than three (as coordinator).

At the same time and place, the conference of the Global Centres for Climate and Environment takes place. Proposals for overlapping sessions to be included in both programmes are welcome.



2. INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS (Posters to be presented in Pitching Sessions)

Scholars and alumni of the Centres, as well as other Centres-affiliated researchers at or below postdoctoral level, are invited to submit proposals for a poster to be presented during a pitching session accompanied by a brief oral contribution of about 3 minutes.

The posters will be grouped into the following thematic categories:

1. Epidemiology and Surveillance of Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases (Preparedness, Response and Post-Crisis Care)
2. Advanced Laboratory Diagnostics, Treatment, Disease Monitoring, Vaccination and Infection Control (AMR)
3. Community Engagement, Ethics and Social Sciences
4. Digital Health
5. Biosafety and Biosecurity
6. Health System Preparedness

ABSTRACTS FOR INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS SHOULD PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. Name, academic title, position and institutional affiliation(s) (including the Global Centre for Health and Pandemic Preparedness), email address/contact details
2. Title of the presentation (max. 20 words)
3. Thematic category to which the presentation belongs (one or more from the thematic areas 1–6 listed above or “Other”)
4. Abstract of the presentation, including background, objectives, design or methods, results, conclusions or alternative headings that correspond to the format of the submission (max. 250-300 words, text only, no graphics or pictures)
5. List of authors (if applicable)
6. A short academic biography of the presenter (200 words)
7. Agreement to digital publication of abstract and biography in conference proceedings? (Yes/no)

Everyone may hand in several proposals, but maximum one proposal per person can be selected.



TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION AND SELECTION OF PROPOSALS

The deadline for submissions is **Sunday, 22nd February 2026**. Submissions will be possible via a portal; the link can be found from beginning of 2026 at www.daad.de/globalcentres/conference.

The DAAD will notify you in May 2026 whether the Academic Advisory Board has selected your proposal for the conference.



LANGUAGE

All proposals must be submitted in **English** language.