

Skills4Abroad

prepare – connect – support



Our training centre: Campus Kottenforst in Bonn-Röttgen

Context

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Academy for International Cooperation (AIZ) has for many years provided training for experts and managers who work abroad in the context of German international cooperation.

The demands of working abroad in German international cooperation have continuously become more challenging and complex. In addition to traditional preparation measures, factors like networking and support for foreign assignments now have an increasingly important part to play. The varied training courses offered by Skills4Abroad help experts setting out for foreign assignments to cope with these demands.

Objective

We get participants ready to face the changes and challenges that their work in international cooperation involves, enabling them to pursue their foreign assignments competently and effectively. The Skills4Abroad programme offers professional, cultural, and personal content, while emphasising the following points:

- Our quality learning formats are cutting-edge and practice-oriented.
- The activities meet the needs of the sending organisations and their experts setting out on assignments.
- We offer the right mix of digital and in-person formats, in preparation for and while working abroad, and individual learning activities.
- Our location at Campus Kottenforst provides ideal conditions for learning with its unique environment and green surroundings.
- Likewise, learning comes just as easily in the digital space of the Online Campus.



Practice-oriented learning activities in small groups

Approach

The learning opportunities in German and English include around 25 courses on diversity and international context, personal safety and (mental) health, language and communication, management and consulting, accompanying partners and family. Participants learn in small groups, in practical and innovative ways.



Digital learning on our Online Campus

Diverse (digital) training, information and networking activities, as well as interactive learning stations and the media and services of the campus library complement the courses. These activities and services can be used in a flexible manner, individually or with instruction. Two formats exist (Learning 4 Development and Time 2 Learn) that support participants as they learn about topics of their own choosing.

Up to 40 days of training are available to participants free of charge, and they can access the programme 6 months prior to their assignment, and up to 24 months after their departure. Training sessions are held in-person at Campus Kottenforst in Bonn-Röttgen, or digitally on our Online Campus. We provide participants with

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help and advice in selecting courses, during the booking process and afterwards, so everyone ends up at the right place at the right time.

A holistic approach is essential. That is why our activities address both professional and private matters. Besides the courses that focus on experts and managers we also offer most of our courses to accompanying partners. In addition, convenient all-round packages for the whole family are available at the training centre, including free accommodation, meals and childcare.

Results

We link adult education and HR development standards to the needs of international cooperation. As well as promoting participants' personal and professional development, we enhance the personal safety of seconded experts and the effectiveness of their work.

The Skills4Abroad programme has a significant influence on the success of foreign assignments. Every year, between 1,500 and 2,000 experts come to us from over 35 seconding organisations. As such, we make an important contribution to the implementation of German development cooperation and its long-term viability.

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