

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Spatial Development and Infrastructure Systems, Institute for Natural Resources Technology and Management (ITT), is organizing the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar 2026

Transition for Sustainability in Global Partnerships

The seminar follows the concept of blended-learning:

Online phase: 24th September – 1st November 2026 and

Attendance phase: 09th – 13th November 2026 in San Luis Potosí, Mexico

Seminar aims

The main focus of our seminar lies on the development of high potential competencies in **systems thinking, transformative leadership**, and collaborative project development while addressing real-world sustainability challenges. The seminar fosters international exchange and collaboration among alumni from diverse disciplines and professional backgrounds, encouraging participants to apply and transfer the acquired knowledge within their institutions and communities.

The Alumni Seminar is offered by **the Faculty of Spatial Development and Infrastructure Systems (F12)** at TH Köln, Germany, hosted by the **Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, Mexico**, and funded by the **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**. As an institutional Germany Alumni activity organized by TH Köln, previous participation in other DAAD SDG Alumni Projects **does not affect** eligibility for this program.

Tentative Alumni Training Seminar Program

Online Phase (24th September – 1st November 2026), 4- 6:30 pm (CEST*) (German time)

Five thematic workshops and one opening session including: (1) expert input on systems thinking, transformative leadership and sustainability transitions, (2) self-learning and reflection assignments, (3) coaching and interdisciplinary working groups, and (4) the preparation of a **Transition Challenge Poster** for presentation during the presence phase.

Presence Phase in San Luis Potosí (09th – 13th November 2026)

Projects developed during the online phase will be further refined through (1) expert input sessions, (2) collaborative working groups, (3) interactive workshops and discussions, (4) conference project presentations, (5) networking activities with alumni, researchers and practitioners, and (6) technical visits, excursions and cultural activities.

Monitoring Phase (December 2026)

Following the presence seminar, participants will take part in online monitoring and reflection activities to evaluate the learning process, share experiences from implementing their projects and identify opportunities for continued collaboration within the international alumni network.

Please note:

- The final program of the training seminar will be published once all applications have been reviewed.
- **Participation in the entire program is mandatory:** online training seminar phase, attendance phase in San Luis Potosí, México; social activities and monitoring phase.

Traves dates to the attendance phase seminar in Mexico

- Arrival in San Luis Potosí:
07/08.11.2026
- Attendance phase in San Luis Potosí:
09.11.2026 - 13.1.2026
- Departure from San Luis Potosí:
14.11.2026

Eligibility criteria for participation

This Alumni Training Seminar addresses alumni of German universities and research institutions (Germany Alumni) who:

- are citizens of countries listed on the [OECD DAC list](#) ('developing' countries – 2024-2025),
- have graduated from one of the Master's programs offered by the **Faculty of Spatial Development and Infrastructure Systems (F12)** at TH Köln (NRM, IWRM, REM, TERMA, ENREM or IWRM-MENA);
- **OR** have carried out research or studied in Germany for at least three months;
- Currently living and working in their home country or elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Cost Coverage

TH Köln will cover the following costs for the Alumni Training Seminar in **San Luis Potosí, Mexico**:

- Round-trip international airfare ((booking to be defined))

- Accommodation and partial living expenses (including breakfast) during the attendance phase.
- Travel health insurance (up to **€15 during attendance week**) and **visa fees**.
- Local transportation during the attendance phase.
- Transportation and entrance fees for official excursions and technical visits.

Please note:

- Participants are responsible for all other costs, including transportation to and from the departure airport, travel costs related to obtaining a visa, and personal expenses.
- In the event of a self-inflicted no-show, any costs incurred must be covered by the participant.
- Living expenses are only partially covered during the attendance phase.
- Extensions of stay for private reasons are possible for up to **five (5) working days**, subject to prior approval. Any additional costs, including fare differences, accommodation, subsistence, and other travel-related expenses, must be covered by the participant.

Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted in **English as a single PDF file** and include the following documents:

- Completed application form (available at: <https://th-koeln.sciebo.de/s/xgFY5F3CdPy3MYn>)
- One-page motivation letter** outlining your motivation for participating in the seminar, the sustainability challenge you wish to address, your expected contribution, and how you intend to apply the acquired competencies in your professional context.
- Transition challenge abstract** presenting the sustainability challenge or transformation project you wish to develop during the seminar.
- Short CV (preferably Europass) including a passport-size photograph.
- Documentation confirming your Germany Alumni status (e.g. Master's degree certificate).

Please note:

- The PDF file should be named **LastName_FirstName_Country** (e.g. *Perez-Arriaga_Ana_Colombia*).

Please submit your complete application (as one single PDF) latest by 15th September 2026 (23.59 CET) to following link: <https://th-koeln.sciebo.de/s/jEDBw4Dd9tLaGTz>

After the review by the local organizing committee in TH Köln, all applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process in the until **20th September, 2026**.

For further questions, please contact us via E-Mail: alumniseminar-ITT@th-koeln.de