



ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus-Senftenberg, and University of Buea organise the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

in the framework of the

DAAD programme SDG Alumni Projects: Knowledge and Practice for Development

Making Alumni Networks Digital - E-Learning Africa (MANDELA)

17 November 2023 - 16 February 2024: Training Seminar – *online*21 - 27 May 2024: Training Seminar – *in presence*, University of **Buea, Cameroon** *followed by the*

Participation in the e-Learning Africa 2024 conference

Education Fuels Innovation, Investment Amplifies Skills: Africa's Vibrant Leap Forward

29 – 31 May 2024 in **Kigali, Rwanda**

Seminar aims and content

With the integration of e-learning tools and new technologies as a part of digitalisation, education is one of the sectors which has transformed in the past few years. The COVID-19 pandemic posed a huge challenge to education systems all around the world, but also acted as a catalyst to include digital skills, digital literacy and e-learning didactics, and development of effective online learning and teaching activities in higher education institutions. However, the general unpreparedness to remote learning in higher academic education institutions, limited broadband connectivity, gaps in digital skills and infrastructure resulted in involuntary college dropouts in the early stages of the pandemic. This specifically affected the education sector in Africa and in Europe. For example, in Cameroon alone, 345,000 learners from higher education systems involuntarily dropped out of their studies owing to the lockdowns imposed by the government. Post-pandemic, academic institutions across the world focused on building a foundation of digital skills, e-learning methodologies, and digital infrastructure, especially to train learners and educators to ensure lifelong learning especially in the environmental and development sectors.

To this end, the project aims to address digital transformation in environmental education and e-learning technologies for climate change adaptation by offering specialised capacity building seminars to environmental educators, practitioners, and professionals in academia, NGOs, and development organisations. The seminar addresses digital transformation in environmental education to foster innovation and facilitate development particularly in the continent of Africa. If appropriately directed by public policies and knowledge sharing practices, digitalisation in environmental education can address food insecurity, climate extremes, desertification, malnutrition, poverty and thereby enhance the implementation of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The technical content of the seminars (online and in presence) will include presentations and exchanges on e-learning methodologies, ethics in e-learning, co-designing learning journeys, deployment of virtual excursions for environmental studies. This will enable the participants to explore and engage on digital innovations for environmental education in specific domains such as climate change adaptation, sustainable agriculture practices, water security, food security, desertification and droughts, rural development, and natural resource management.

The training seminars, online and in presence, and the participation in the eLearning Africa 2024 conference will build capacity of alumni participants in the field of e-learning and environmental education, promote exchange between the participants and facilitate regional and international cooperation. It will stimulate and





promote ideas of joint research and teaching activities while building long-term ties with German higher academic institutions. The programme of the seminars will include presentations from Brandenburg Technical University's e-learning team along with case studies from e-learning experts from the United Nations, local NGOs working on climate change adaptation, desertification, and droughts. In addition to that, the selected alumni participants will engage in workshops, brainstorming sessions, networking sessions, group discussions, and opportunities to present their research during the in-person training seminar at University of Buea, Cameroon in 2024.

The training seminars and participation in the eLearning Africa 2024 conference are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the programme SDG Alumni Projects: Knowledge and Practice for Development (www.daad.de/sdg-alumni-projects). This SDG Alumni project is organised and hosted by the Chair of Public Law, in particular Environmental and Planning Law, of the Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus-Senftenberg.

The costs are mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The training seminars and the conference participation are scheduled in the run-up to the eLearning Africa 2024 conference. The eLearning Africa conference https://www.elearning-africa.com/conference2024/ is an annual knowledge sharing and networking-event for digital education, training, and digital skills on the African continent. It is a global forum that provides opportunities to e-learning experts, partners, and practitioners to share their experiences, expertise, knowledge and new trends in digital education. It also serves as a premier platform to connect practitioners, private sector, academia, and like-minded professionals in the e-learning from different domains. In 2024, the thematic focus of the eLearning Africa conference is "Education fuels Innovation, Investment Amplifies Skills: Africa's Vibrant Leap Forward". Through the eLearning Africa 2024 conference, the alumni participants will gain insights on opportunities and challenges of e-learning, proven best practices and e-learning strategies, and a connection to pan-African e-learning community.

Eligibility criteria for participation

This seminar targets alumni of German universities / research institutions who

- are citizens of countries in the African Union listed on the OECD DAC list (https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2)
- spent at least 3 months in Germany on professional errands (study, training, teaching, research)
- currently live and work in their home countries / in countries in the African Union listed on the OECD DAC list.

Successful applicants have

- (1) **demonstrated academic background** in e-learning, environmental education, and climate change adaptation or related fields,
- (2) **professional experience and personal interest** in higher education, research, development, governance, policy making, and the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders,
- (3) **potential to act as multipliers** who will disseminate training seminar contents and results in their home countries / regions / academic institutions and thus inspire and trigger ideas and projects for regional implementation,
- (4) **adequate English language proficiency** to actively participate in the workshops and discussions.

<u>Eligibility for repeated attendance at SDG Alumni Projects:</u> Alumni are eligible to participate in up to two SDG Alumni Projects <u>within four years</u>. The year of participation, not the year of application, is decisive for the calculation: This rule does not apply for attendance in a completely digital SDG Alumni Project.





Cost coverage

- International return ticket to Douala/Yaoundé and from Douala/Yaoundé (lowest possible economy class airfare up to a maximum grant of € 900 (in case the flight budget does not allow for a full flight reimbursement)
- Airport transfer from Douala/Yaoundé to Buea, Cameroon and from Kigali, Ruanda
- Local transport in Buea on excursions and from Buea to the eLearning Africa 2024 conference in Kigali
- Accommodation and contribution to subsistence for the stays in Buea and Kigali (partly covered)
- Registration fees for the eLearning Africa 2024 conference
- Visa costs
- Travel health insurance (max. 35 Euro)

Please note:

Any other than the above-mentioned costs <u>must be covered by the participants</u>, i.e., particularly:

- Transport between your participants place of residence and the national airport.
- Travel costs associated with participants' visa application in their country of residence.
- Local transport in Buea and Kigali for private errands not associated with the seminar.

In case of a self-inflicted no-show, the costs must be covered by the participant. Rebooking's can only be considered in exceptional cases and only after consultation.

Extensions of stays before or after the official programme are possible for up to 5 working days <u>upon</u> <u>submission of a comparison of flight ticket prices before booking the ticket</u>. Any additional cost incurred (airfare, travel, accommodation, subsistence, other) by deviating from the official arrival / return date (see below) must be borne by the participants. Participants must organize their accommodation for extension periods themselves and must make sure have sufficient health insurance coverage.

Extensions beyond 5 days may be granted by DAAD **only upon prior application** and **only for official purposes** (e.g. professional visits to universities, organizations, institutions, companies). Such extensions must be applied for well in advance and approved by DAAD beforehand. They must be substantiated by official invitations, agreed work plans and schedules of visits by the respective host organisations. Plans for such extensions must be communicated well in advance – possibly already with the application for this SDG Alumni Project.

Travel dates		
21	May 2024	Arrival in Buea, Cameroon
22 - 27	May 2024	Training seminar in Buea, Cameroon
28	May 2024	Travel from Buea, Cameroon to Kigali, Rwanda
29 - 31	May 2024	Participation in the eLearning Africa 2024 conference
1	June 2024	Departure from Kigali, Rwanda

Attendance is compulsory from the first day of the online seminar, the training seminar in Buea to the last day of the eLearning Africa 2024 conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

The online training seminar will take place from 17 November 2023 - 16 February 2024.

Application procedure – deadline

Applications (in English language) must include the following documents in one single pdf file:

a filled application form: The form is available on https://www.b-tu.de/fg-umweltrecht/projekte/daad





Applicants should emphasize their motivation and professional / personal benefit of participation in the application form and illustrate how they plan to apply and disseminate the gained knowledge.

- a **short CV** with relevant documentation of alumni status
- an **abstract (max. 1 page) on the subject of** "Modernizing E-Learning for Climate Change Adaptation to enable Africa's leap forward in a changing climate" (font type "Arial" 11pt, 1.5 line spacing)
- a short description of applicants' present duties / position and of professional goals, indicating envisaged field of activities and duty level
- an **overview** on seminars, workshops or conferences visited in Germany after completion of studies in Germany.

The PDF-file should be named 'Last name_First name_country' (e.g., Shetye_Niyanta_Germany) and must be sent via email to:

niyanta.shetye@b-tu.de

latest by 31st October 2023.

Please note: Completeness of personal data in the online application form and concerning further documents will affect eligibility.

Applicants will be notified upon review by the selection committee and DAAD approx. mid of November 2023.

For further questions, please contact Niyanta Shetye (<u>niyanta.shetye@b-tu.de</u>)

Cottbus, October 2023

Supported by the











Annex 1: Agenda of the "Making Alumni Networks Digital – E-Learning Africa" project.

Phase 1: Life-Long-Learning component: Online seminars for alumni participants on e-learning and environmental education, particularly on climate change adaptation.

Since 1991, the Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus-Senftenberg is determined to address present and future challenges through a strong focus on sustainability and innovation. With interdisciplinary research, innovative teaching, knowledge, and technology transfer and further training, the BTU is looking for approaches to solving global problems in the international as well as in the national, regional, and local levels. These include challenges in the areas of energy, health, the environment, IT-based networks, and communication, as well as cultural and social issues. Our interdisciplinary exchange among the engineering, natural, human, and social sciences promote creativity and opens up new solutions. These are our guiding principles and our values which has stood the test of the Coronavirus pandemic.

BTU's programme does not just include in-depth seminars environmental education in the era of e-learning, but also has a space for practitioners coming from NGOs, development organizations, local governments to underscore the practical challenges, good practices, lessons learnt, future trends, and innovation from field experiences and projects on e-learning specifically on climate change adaptation. The programme is tailored to have an online seminar focus in 2023 and 2024 which smoothly transitions to the in-person phase in a way that Alumni participants are methodologically trained, develop networks, act as multipliers, and are introduced to German higher academic institutions throughout the project duration. This way, Alumni coming to Buea and Kigali can share their views and research in the interest of BTU's research, spark connections with the wider consortium audience, and make relevant connections to kickstart their new projects and act as multipliers in their own respective countries.

Sr. No.	Agenda November 2023 - February 2024 - Phase 1: ONLINE Seminar Sessions: Lifelong learning component of Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus-Senftenberg		
	Date/Time	Topic/Event	Responsibility
1.	Friday, 17 November 2023 from 10:00 to 12:00 CET	Day 1 Welcoming Seminar Kick-off and welcome, a brief introduction of the project, project objectives, logistics for travel and accommodation, and introduction with the Project team. A general introduction to BTU's Alumni groups and activities will also be offered.	Prof. Dr. iur. Eike Albrecht, Mr Niyanta Shetye, Mr Steven Kramm and Miss Benaissa Zampaligre Paloute. – Department of Public Law, in particular, Environmental and



2.	Friday, 17	Day 1	Mr Daniel Ebert – Alumni
	November 2023 from	Virtual tour of BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg	office of BTU Cottbus- Senftenberg.
	14:00 to 15:00 CET	A virtual tour of BTU-Cottbus-Senftenberg will be offered to all participants with the Information, Communication, and	And
	13.00 021	Media Centre (IKMZ) visiting areas will be Co-Lab innovation	
		hub Cottbus, Audimax of BTU for in-person lectures, BTU Library, BTU's state of the art E-learning facility which	Mr Niyanta Shetye
		includes WACOM tablets, teleprompter, lights, cameras,	
		audio equipment, and video editing software for instant editing and color grading.	
3.	Friday, 24	Day 2	Mr Andreas Brandt – e-
	November 2023 from	Introduction to digital learning ecosystem of BTU Cottbus- Senftenberg.	Learning department of BTU Cottbus and Miss e-
	10:00 - 12:00 CET	Summary of digital BTU learning and teaching ecosystem: e-learning platform (BTU Moodle), BTU campus app, BTU e-library and UBICO, BTU Media portal, Camtasia and similar licenses, and the general digital ecosystem and infrastructure at BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg. This presentation will also include successful e-learning projects	Learning department of BTU Cottbus
		and distance learning projects such as World Heritage Online Studies masters courses, and experiences from COVID-19 pandemic.	
4.	Friday, 1 December 2023 from 10:00 to	Day 3 Technicalities of designing a e-learning course on BTU-Moodle. Introduction to the technical aspects of BTU-Moodle,	Mr Andreas Brandt – e- Learning department of BTU Cottbus
	12:00 CET	evaluation methods available, H5P use, and BTU Media portal for storing asynchronous lectures.	
		Also comes with 2 asynchronous Moodle basics for lecturers which will be made available for Alumni participants through BTU's Moodle.	
5.	Friday, 8 December 2023 from 10:00 to 12:00 CET	Day 4 Lessons learnt from designing, conducting, and implementing a two-year distance "World Heritage Studies Online" Master course.	Prof. Britta Rudolf, Miss Narine George, or Michelle Venne e-Learning department of BTU Cottbus.
		Summary of lessons learnt and challenges along with	
		teacher trainings required by the BTU Cottbus Senftenberg to run a two-year master's course on "World Heritage Online	And Miss Narine George: World Heritage Online
		Studies" – funded by the DAAD	Masters study coordinator.
6.	Friday, 15 December	Day 5 Introduction to Environmental and Resource	Prof. Dr. iur Eike Albrecht, and, and we need a
	2023 from	Management studies masters' course and its	student who can also
	10:00 to 12:00 CET	implementation during the COVID-19 pandemic Case study of "Advanced Studies of International Environmental Law"	present their findings ☺, and Niyanta Shetye.



		Includes didactic and pedagogic methodologies used by professors, academic staff, online teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown- student perspectives, challenges and solutions, and changes made to the BTU learning and teaching ecosystem to accommodate the changes.	
7.	Friday, 5 January 2024 from 10:00 to 12:00 CET	Day 6 Online live and recorded excursion to Spreewald Biosphere - A nature walk explaining the type of ecosystem. https://en.unesco.org/biosphere/eu-na/spreewald Teaching environmental education in nature and using sound, video, and comments to interact with students and generate their interest.	
8.	Friday, 12 January 2024 from 10:00 to 12:00 CET	Day 7 Introduction to climate change adaptation and the need to include it in higher education curricula - An NGO perspective. WOTR (W-CReS) presentation on ecosystem-based adaptation and lessons learnt from knowledge exchange among practitioners and academia.	Arjuna Srinidhi /Sahanna Hegde- Project Officer at Watershed Organisation Trust.
9.	Friday, 19 January 2024 from 10:00 to 12:00 CET	Day 8 Best practices of designing innovative learning journeys on climate change and maintaining an "online learning community". Experiences from NGO based in Germany on creating, delivering, and maintaining climate change learning journeys and a learning community as a part of a EU funded projects "Flourish – A climate Resilience Learning Journey". https://we-are-one-resilient-earth.mn.co/feed	Laureline Simon Krichewsky – Chief Executive Officer of One Resilient Earth gGmbH.
10.	Friday, 26 January 2024 from 10:00 to 12:00 CET	Day 9 Designing and deploying e-learning courses on droughts for a multilingual and international cohort. – Case study of the UNCCD's e-learning platform. Didactic methodologies, technology, and Moodle design used, and evaluation modes for an international cohort for e-learning courses on "Droughts and You".	Dr. Richard Byron-Cox from the Capacity Building Marketplace of the UNCCD
11.	Friday, 2 February 2024 from 10:00 to 12:00 CET	Day 10 Designing study courses for inclusive education. Digital Divides and Environmental Education post COVID-19 pandemic.	Waked, Daisy or Binte Md Salleh, Atiqah Fairuz from the Education department of the UNU-FLORES.





12	Friday, 9 February 2024 from 10:00 to 12:00 CET	Day 11 Using simulation games as a mode of evaluation for Advanced Studies of International Environmental Law Case study from BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg and the Chair of Public Law on "COTTCOP" – Digital Cottbus Climate Agreement 2020 to develop understanding of environmental decision-making processes.	
13	Friday, 16 February 2024 from 10:00 to 12:00 CET	Day 12 Online excursion near Mount Cameroon (near Buea) organized by University of Buea Teaching environmental education in nature and using sound, video, and comments to engage with students.	University of Buea
14	. Friday, 8 March 2024 from 13:00 to 16:00 CET	Day 13 Information session with question and answer regarding travel, accommodation, food, and logistics for Buea and Kigali.	

Phase 2: In-person training seminars and workshops on designing e-learning courses on climate adaptation issues.

The in-person training session is where the alumni participants will be introduced to the BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg and University of Buea and will build long-term ties with the universities, small and medium sized businesses, and development cooperation in the sector of climate change adaptation. This will be achieved through training seminars, in-person trainings, e-learning tandems, brainstorming activities to upgrade existing e-learning infrastructure, and Alumni networking. During the in-person training session, the alumni participants will be given seminars and lectures and will also participate in excursions around the region to give them an overview of the region, climate impacts, and local stakeholders involved in climate adaptation around Buea.

Sr. No.	Agenda 2024 – Part 2: In-Person Training Seminar: Designing E-Learning Courses on Climate Adaptation in BUEA, CAMEROON		
	Date/Time	Topic/Event	Responsibility/ Speaker/Moderation
1.	Tuesday, 21 May 2024	Day 1 Arrival of the Alumni and BTU staff in Buea, Cameroon	
2.	Wednesday, 22 May 2024 from 9:00 – 11:00	Day 2 Welcoming Seminar: Kick-off and welcome, a brief introduction to University of Buea and the programme of the training sessions.	Professor George Chuyong, Prof. Nkwatoh Athanasius Fuashi, Niyanta Shetye, Steven Kramm - Faculty 5 of the BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg



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3.	Wednesday, 22 May 2024 from 11:30 – 13:00	Day 2 Lecture: Introduction to Climate Change and Climate Adaptation	Steven Kramm – Chair of Public Law, in particular Environmental and Planning Law and Center for Law and Administrative Sciences.
4.	Wednesday, 22 May 2024 from 14:00 – 15:30	Day 2 Seminar: Climate Change Awareness and Education - New frontiers in e-learning for climate change adaptation.	Niyanta Shetye – Chair of Public Law, in particular Environmental and Planning Law and the Chair of Environmental Planning.
5.	Wednesday, 22 May 2024 from 15:30 – 17:00	Day 2 Networking Session	Open for all Alumni participants, Staff of BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg and University of Buea.
6.	Thursday, 23 May 2024 from 9:00 – 10:30	Day 3 Lecture: Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Legal Frameworks in Cameroon	Mosua, Iyassa – Technical Advisor at GIZ Cameroon
7.	Thursday, 23 May 2024 from 11:00 – 12:30	Day 3 Lecture: Introduction to University of Buea's digital learning ecosystem and e-learning capacity needs and gaps of University of Buea.	Professor George Chuyong – Head of eLearning University of Buea
8.	Thursday, 23 May 2024 from 13:30 – 15:00	Day 3 Seminar: E-Learning tandems / E-learning battles Between the Alumni participants' universities, BTU Cottbus Senftenberg and University of Buea.	Steven Kramm – Chair of Public Law, in particular Environmental and Planning Law and Center for Law and Administrative Sciences.
9.	Thursday, 23 May 2024 from 15:00 – 16:30	Day 3 Lecture: Building Climate Resilience for Food and Water Security through education: streamlining University of Buea's curriculum for Cameroonian environmental challenges.	Mosua, Iyassa – Technical Advisor at GIZ Cameroon
10.	Friday, 24 May 2024 from 9:00 – 11:00	Day 4 Brainstorming Session: "Modernizing Existing E-Learning Infrastructure at University of Buea"	Open for all Alumni participants, staff of University of Buea and BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg
11.	Friday, 24 May 2024 from 11:00 – 12:30	Day 4 Brainstorming Session Learning Strategies and Techniques for E-Learning Courses - identifying book chapters and sections on "Unleashing the e-learning potential of Cameroon"	Open for all Alumni participants, staff of University of Buea and BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg



12.	Friday,	Day 4	Professor George
	24 May 2024 from 13:30 – 15:00	Seminar Best-Practice for E-Learning Methods in Environmental Sciences from University of Buea. – Increasing the adoption rate of digital learning and teaching in developing countries.	Chuyong – Head of eLearning University of Buea.
13.	Friday, 24 May 2024 from 15:00 – 16:30	Day 4 Seminar Design and Application of Learning Management Systems (LMS) and Online-Assessment Methods	Steven Kramm – Chair of Public Law, in particular Environmental.
14.	Saturday, 25 May 2024 from 9:00 – 10:30	Day 5 Seminar Ethics of e-learning Ensuring Inclusiveness and Accessibility in Online Courses on Environmental Sciences – in an era of rapid and uneven digitalization in education sector.	Niyanta Shetye – Chair of Public Law, in particular Environmental and Planning Law and the Chair of Environmental Planning.
15.	Saturday, 25 May 2024 from 11:00 – 12:30	Day 5 Workshop How to Conduct Online Excursions – theory to practice	Niyanta Shetye – Chair of Public Law, in particular Environmental and Planning Law and the Chair of Environmental Planning.
16.	Saturday, 25 May 2024 from 13:30 – 15:00	Day 5 Workshop Discussion of the contents of future Cooperation and Content of the cooperation agreement between BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, University of Buea, and GIZ Cameroon. Discussion on potential cooperation between Alumni representing academic institutions, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, University of Buea, and GIZ Cameroon.	Open to all Alumni participants and staff of BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg and University of Buea.
17.	Saturday, 25 May 2024 from 15:00 – 16:30	Day 5 Closing Ceremony	Open to all Alumni participants and staff of BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg and University of Buea.
18.	Sunday, 26 May 2024 from 9:00 – 19:00	Day 6 Excursion to Mount Cameroon	15 Alumni participants, Professor George Chuyong – Head of eLearning University of Buea, Niyanta Shetye, and Steven Kramm – Chair of Public Law, in particular Environmental and Planning Law.





19.	Monday, 27 May 2024 from 9:00 – 16:00	Day 7 Sightseeing in Buea and a cultural programme in the University of Buea	Alumni participants get a cultural experience in Buea by visiting the city and meeting students.
20.	Tuesday, 28 May 2024 from 9:00 – 16:00	Day 8 Departure to Kigali	All Alumni participants, staff of University of Buea and BTU Cottbus- Senftenberg

Phase 3: Networking component: Participation in the e-Learning Africa 2024 conference.

The e-Learning Africa Conference is a dedicated knowledge and networking-event annually organized by the DAAD that provides the opportunity to its global partners to share with the international community the experiences, expertise, knowledge, and achievements in the areas of e-learning techniques, tools, and, methodologies for promoting sustainable development. It also serves as a premier platform connecting global practitioners, academia, and like-minded professionals in e-learning from different domains. Through the annual conference, the Alumni participants will gain insights on opportunities and challenges of e-learning, proven best practices and e-learning strategies, a connection to pan-African community of e-learning, and access the vast network of e-learning professionals. Furthermore, the alumni participants and the BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg will also gain professional development and access to certified courses in teacher training to improve teaching, learning, and assessment with sustainable and innovative strategies. The agenda of the e-Learning Africa 2024 conference is available here:

https://www.elearning-africa.com/conference2024/programme_programme.php