



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

40 years scientific & technological cooperation

Germany and Australia





Dr. Georg Schütte (r.), State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, welcomed the Australian innovation delegation headed by Chief Scientist Dr. Alan Finkel (l.) at his official residence in Berlin in April, 2017“.

Science and research relationship

Australia and Germany share a long-standing science and research relationship going back to 1976, when the Australia-Germany Treaty on Science and Technology Cooperation, was signed on 24 August 1976 and came into force on 25 October 1976.

The connection between Australia and Germany is much older and dates back to the days of the German explorer Ludwig Leichardt, who in the mid 1800s undertook several expeditions into Australia's interior.

Since then the bilateral relationship has increased significantly despite the large distance between the two countries.

Currently, 572 cooperation agreements between German and Australian universities are in existence.

While the exchange of scientists was the focal point at the beginning, over the years the cooperation has been continuously intensified towards joint research projects with industry participation.

These numerous links lead to over 15,000 publications between 2011 and 2015. This means that Germany and Australia are among the top 5 publication partner of each other.

Government activities

Since 1953 the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH) has awarded more than 600 research fellowships and research awards to Australian postdoctoral and experienced researchers and 118 Feodor Lynen fellowships to young German postdoctoral researchers to work in Australia.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) supports more than 1000 students and scientists at various career levels each year. In 2014, the DAAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Universities Australia (UA) on funding joint mobility projects. So far 170 projects have been funded.

The German Research Foundation (DFG) funds currently two International Research Training Groups between Giessen University and Monash University as well as between the University of Bonn and University of Melbourne. These projects aim at joint training of PhD students.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) also supported. also supported three German universities to establish a research presence in Australia.



The German research vessel SONNE docked in Fremantle in West Australia on 5 June 2017.



OPEN-SHIP EVENT: The German research vessel SONNE in Fremantle on 5 June 2017.

BMBF and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS) jointly supported 35 projects in the areas of photovoltaics, health research, biodiversity, geo- and marine sciences, nanotechnology, ICT.

The Australian Academy of Science supports the participation of early career researchers at the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings.

The Australian research funding system provides significant support for international collaboration, including with Germany, through its competitive programs. Key initiatives include the Global Innovation Strategy, the Cooperative Research Centres Programme, and schemes administered by the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Australia now is a long standing initiative of the Australian Government to showcase the creative excellence, diversity, and innovation of Australian life in one focus country each year. Germany has been selected as this year's focus country for a wide-ranging programme of activities which will showcase Australia's creativity, diversity and innovation across a broad spectrum of the arts, including dance, theatre, music, and visual arts, as well as science, technology and sports.

To strengthen and intensify the bilateral relationship, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the then Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott decided to establish the Australian-German Advisory Group in 2014. The group formulated 59 recommendations in 2015 to enhance the already trustful and long-lasting relationship. Around one third of the recommendations target the areas of education, science and innovation and are in various stages of implementation.



Delivery of the final report of the German-Australian Advisory Group.

For more information please visit:

www.kooperation-international.de/laender/ozeanien/australien/

www.science.gov.au/international/CollaborativeOpportunities/Pages/default.aspx



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