

DAAD Spring School 2026
Heidelberg, 25 October 2025

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CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Mission: Future Education

**Spring School on Sustainability and Democracy in
STEM Teacher Education**

Heidelberg, Germany | May 13–17, 2026

Our Mission: A Learning Journey from Disciplinary Knowledge to Transformative Teaching

Are you studying to become a teacher in a STEM subject? Are you interested in how science and education can shape a more sustainable and democratic future?

Then the Spring School ‘Mission: Future Education’ is for you.

What is it about?

Hosted by Heidelberg University at the [Haus der Astronomie](#), the Spring School brings together teacher education students from Germany and international partner institutions to explore how sustainability and democratic responsibility can be meaningfully connected to subject-specific knowledge in STEM fields.

Framed as a mission-based learning journey, the program supports participants in translating disciplinary insight into future-oriented teaching through interdisciplinary exchange, creative learning formats, and co-design sessions.

What to expect?

- A Mission Briefing inspired by the “Overview Effect”: understanding global challenges from a planetary perspective
- Scientific and didactic input on planetary boundaries, civic agency, and sustainability in STEM
- Guided Learning Labs to develop teaching ideas and materials in small teams
- Dialogue-based workshops, excursions (e.g. Klima Arena), and reflective sessions under the stars
- International peer learning and networking

Who can apply?

The Spring School is open to students in teacher education programs (Bachelor study programmes / M.Ed.), especially in STEM subjects such as geography, physics, or computer science. Eligible applicants include students from Heidelberg University, Heidelberg University of Education (PH), and partner universities such as Teachers College (Columbia University), the University of Jyväskylä, PUC Valparaíso, and 4EU+ Alliance.

Participants will work in international, interdisciplinary teams and contribute actively to the mission. Prior experience with sustainability or civic education is welcome, but not required.

Funding and academic recognition

Participation is free of charge. During the Spring School, two meals and drinks are provided each day.

Support for travel and accommodation costs (€250 per person) is available for international students from partner institutions. Further funding may be available from your own institution, please contact your International Office for more information.

All participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance, the workload of the Spring School amounts to 2 ECTS. Academic recognition may be possible within selected modules (e.g., sustainability qualification track or STEM didactics) at your home institution. For Heidelberg students: please contact the organizers for further details. International participants: please contact your home university's academic office.

Application process

To apply for participation in the Spring School 2026, please submit a motivation letter (max. 250 words) outlining your interest in the Spring School and your educational goals. Places are limited; applications will be reviewed in a competitive selection process by the organising team.

Please send your motivation letter as a PDF (including your name, university, and degree programme) by 15 December 2025 to: lehramt-international@heiedu.uni-heidelberg.de.

All applicants will receive a decision by the beginning of January 2026. Your registration will become binding upon receiving written confirmation from the organising team. If necessary, a waiting list will be maintained.

Contact

For questions about the program, funding, or application, feel free to get in touch:

Dr. Kathrin Foshag – foshag@heiedu.uni-heidelberg.de

We look forward to your application!

The Spring School is part of the DAAD-funded project [*Empowering STEM Educators: Future Literacies in International Teacher Education*](#).