

Participants of the annual winter school “Lived Sanskrit Cultures 2019”:

“It was fascinating to study the lived practices of Sanskrit learning and expertise in academic and non-academic institutions in Varanasi.” (Ignatz, Würzburg)

“Due to my stay in India, my textual studies were enriched by real life experience and personal encounters.” (Andreas, Würzburg)



“The DAAD fund enabled me to find my own passage to India. The bureaucratic procedure was quick and easy and allowed me to completely focus on my studies.” (Shiqin, Würzburg)

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A New Passage to India

German-Indian Higher Education
Cooperations

Cultures of Learning

Julius-Maximilians-
**UNIVERSITÄT
WÜRZBURG**

2019 – 2023

Chair of Indology
Julius-Maximilians-University
Würzburg

Banaras Hindu University
Indian Institute of Technology – BHU
Varanasi

Cultures of Learning

After the initial successful eight years (2010-2017) the innovative exchange program “A New Passage to India”, administered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and funded by the Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has recently been extended by another four years up to February 2023.



Our project cooperation concentrates on the historically and culturally diverse “Cultures of Learning” in India and Germany. It is firmly grounded in preexisting collaborations, resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the University of Würzburg and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 2017.

Activities

In our joint proposal the topic “Cultures of Learning in academic and non-academic institutions in India and Germany” will be addressed by a whole range of activities:

- Scholarships, study and research stays in Germany and India
- Yearly excursion “Campaigning for Hindi: The Nagari Movement at Benares and BHU” to Varanasi
- Yearly winter school “Lived Sanskrit Cultures” in Varanasi
- Short-term stays of German and Indian university professors
- Workshops in India and Germany on “Indo-German Encounters and the History of Indology”



Yearly winter school “Lived Sanskrit Cultures”

This three-week intensive course is designed to impart a practice oriented training in methods of cultural and religious studies. Its aim is to complement and supplement the approaches of philology and textual studies. It is suitable for students registered in a bachelor or master level program in any University in the field of cultural and religious history of South Asia with a special focus on Sanskrit studies.

Yearly excursion “Campaigning for Hindi”

The two week excursion introduces students of Indology to the origin and development of modern *Khaṛībolī Hindī*. In preparation, the socio-historical process of lingual differentiation will be studied within the framework of colonial educational policies, accompanied by texts of influential 19th and 20th c. Hindi authors from Varanasi. At Varanasi, students will gain authentic insights into present day concepts of learning by interacting with Indian students and visits to educational institutions.