



Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology cooperation

FEAST-Germany, mission statement

FEAST-Germany is the Germany-Australia research network

Germany is one of Australia's largest scientific partners. There is a long history of collaboration between the two countries, enhanced by formal intergovernmental links, and by organisations such as the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AVH), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), German Research Foundation (DFG) and others. There is, however, no common resource that provides the opportunity for German and Australian researchers to meet, interact, share experiences, and learn from each other.

FEAST-Germany intends to fill this gap by working closely with key stakeholders in both countries. It will be a distributed network of members in Australia and Germany interested in all disciplines of research (academic, applied, and industrial), who work together in a coordinated manner to promote the results of successful German–Australian collaboration, and to provide information or assistance to those interested in such collaboration.

Objectives of FEAST-Germany

- Open new avenues for contact between researchers, other people and organisations from the public and private sectors having strong interests in research and/or the outcomes of research between Australia and Germany;
- Reinforce awareness of current research activity and encourage opportunities for researchers in Australia and Germany to work together on collaborative research projects;
- Encourage researchers and research students to advance in their career through access to a broader range of ideas and facilities.



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Canberra

FEAST-Germany's added value

- Researchers meet, interact, share experiences, and learn from each other;
- Engagement with international participants from Australia, Germany, and beyond;
- Direct communication on current research activity and new opportunities;
- Access to a broad range of people, organisations and research disciplines;
- Reduce boundaries between sectors such as universities and industry;
- For stakeholders and network leaders: a resource centre to facilitate and bolster their missions;
- Ability to focus support and attention on technical impediments to collaboration, and future shared priorities.

www.feast.org/germany

Characteristics of the network

- Its regular operation is based on a discussion forum designed to maximise the rate of transmission of knowledge and activities created upon members' demand and existing available resources;
- The formal organisation consists of regional chapters of key contact persons in Australia and Germany;
- The network is managed by the FEAST Secretariat in liaison with the German Embassy in Canberra;
- Participation is open, but also based on a commitment to contribute to the network's activities.

A key factor in the growing use of networks by the research community is a fundamental shift within the nature of research itself from 'individual' or 'team-based' to a highly diverse pattern of groups, or 'networks'. These loose associations of researchers come together to study a particular problem, often resolving it, and moving on to address new issues. FEAST has promoted a further type of network, based on a country as the focal point. There are good reasons why researchers use this network, whereas at first glance it appears outside their immediate spheres of interest. Firstly, many researchers have long standing relationships with one or two countries that they wish to maintain for a variety of reasons. Secondly, the choice of country with which to work often depends on subjective factors such as family history, where one did a post doctoral fellowship, or indeed where one had a holiday. Thirdly, researchers usually want to turn a relationship with their colleagues in another country into a concrete research activity, something which can only happen through the alignment of both nations' research policy systems and funding instruments. Finally the use of the national network provides the ability for the network leaders, FEAST, and the Embassy to focus support and attention on an identifiable group of researchers, giving real added value to the activities of the network.



European Commission



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Science and Training

