



DNA for ECRs

Doitsu-Nihon Academy for Early Career Researchers
powered by DAAD and Kyoto University

Building Meaningful Connections: A Guide to Collaborative Networking for Researchers

- **Date:** June 20-21, 2025
- **Location:** Kyoto University
- **Language:** English

**Apply by
Sunday,
May 25!**



Who can participate?

- German DAAD scholarship students in Japan
- Kyoto University students (BA to PhD) interested in Germany

Organizers



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



In cooperation with





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Building Meaningful Connections: A Guide to Collaborative Networking for Researchers

Feeling overwhelmed by advice to “just network more” without practical guidance on where to begin? Don't be! Networking is more than just exchanging business cards—it's about cultivating meaningful professional relationships that foster collaboration and community. These connections can help you discover exciting research opportunities, establish productive partnerships, and enhance your research impact. But let's face it, building authentic relationships across different cultures and disciplines is challenging. You might feel uncertain about where and how to start and doubtful of your interpersonal skills as an early career researcher. This is exactly why we've designed this workshop for you! Join us for a 2-day interactive session to discover practical approaches to relationship-building and collaborative networking, equipping you to thrive as a researcher, collaborator, and valuable member of the global scientific community.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the session, you will be able to:

- Identify common relationship-building challenges and strategies to overcome them
- Discover practical approaches for establishing sustainable professional connections
- Develop clear and confident communication to engage various audiences
- Practice newly acquired skills with instant feedback from peers and the facilitator

Expected Commitment:

Participation in the full program is required and last-minute cancellations are only allowed in case of emergency or illness. Seats are limited to eight each for DAAD and Kyoto University. Participation is free for all selected participants.

Workshop content created by *the phd whisperer*





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Program

Friday

- 13:30-13:45 Check-in
- 13:45-14:00 Welcome & Introduction
- 14:00-18:00 Workshop

Saturday

- 10:00-12:00 Workshop
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch (included)
- 13:30-14:00 Session with DAAD and Kyoto University
- 14:00-15:30 Workshop

Trainer: Dr. Irina Filonova

Dr. Irina Filonova is the founder of "[the phd whisperer](#)", an evidence-based coaching and training company specializing in the professional development of global PhDs. With over 50 training engagements worldwide, Irina covers topics ranging from mastering networking and interpersonal skills to leveraging AI tools and science leadership. Previously, she worked as an

academic developer at OIST in Japan, helping scientists from over 40 countries overcome workplace and career challenges.



Dr. Filonova's unique background includes linguistics and literature, a B.S. in Biology and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences (Neuroscience) from the USF Medical School, USA. In her spare time, Irina enjoys running her own business and sharing invaluable insights on communication, confidence, careers, and leadership. For more information, visit her LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/irinafilonova/>