

RESEARCH AND EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES IN GERMANY

Funding Organizations Present

Their Programs for FIU Faculty and Students | Feb. 6, 2026



German Delegation with FIU Faculty, FIU Humboldt Fellows, and Graduate Students

German Academic Exchange & Funding New Pathways for Students and Faculty at FIU

On February 6, FIU Global and the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs (SIPA), welcomed the *Germany Research and Innovation Tour of Florida*, a five-day initiative designed to connect Florida’s academic community with leading German institutions, and representatives from major German funding organizations. The tour’s Miami visit—its final and most significant stop—offered FIU students, faculty, and researchers direct access to opportunities for study, research, and collaboration in Germany.

Distinguished German Delegation

Coordinated by the German Embassy in Washington D.C. and the German Consulate in Miami, FIU welcomed a high-level delegation from top German research and academic institutions, including:

- **Christian Strowa**, Director, DAAD USA/ Canada & German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) New York
- **Paul Evans**, Vice President for External Affairs, Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience
- **Bettina Schuffert**, Program Officer, German Research Foundation (DFG) North America
- **Jessica Strattard Hamilton**, Vice President of Advancement, American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AFAvH)
- **Christofer Burger**, Consul General of Germany in Miami
- **Jenny Bonitz**, Head of Cultural Department, German Consulate Miami

The Delegation met with FIU leaderships to explore pathways for collaborations, mobility, and institutional partnerships.



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Hilary Landorf, Hon. Christofer Burger, Birgitta Rausch-Montoto, Lukas Danner, and Bertina Schuffert

FIU Hosts and Organizers

This major event was coordinated through the combined efforts of FIU Global and FIU leadership:

- **William Anderson**, Associate Vice President for Research
- **Renee Price**, Associate Dean, University Graduate School
- **Alla Mirzoyan**, University Graduate School
- **Hilary Landorf**, Vice President of Global Learning Initiatives
- **Birgitta Rausch-Montoto**, FIU Global Director and Fulbright Program Campus Liaison
- **Lukas Danner**, Associate Director, Faculty Administrator, FIU Global

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence (MFJMCE) was also represented by **Director Markus Thiel** and **Associate Director Christine Caly-Sanchez**, strengthening FIU's presence in transatlantic engagement.

Roundtable: Strengthening Transatlantic Academic Ties

The roundtable opened with introductory remarks by Hon. Christofer Burger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami, and

Birgitta Rausch-Montoto, FIU Global Director and Fulbright Program Campus Liaison. Their welcome was followed by presentations outlining each organization's mission and available funding opportunities. Delegates underscored the growing importance of transatlantic cooperation amid today's shifting geopolitical landscape and discussed expanding pathways for student and faculty mobility, including greater access to Germany's robust research networks in fields such as the sciences, health, and climate research. Participants also highlighted the breadth of Germany's research ecosystem and the significant opportunities offered through programs such as the DAAD, DFG, the Humboldt Foundation, and the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience.



German Delegation and FIU leadership

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Christian Strowa, Director, DAAD USA/Canada & German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) New York

A New Milestone: Germany–Florida Agreement

Delegates also celebrated a major development: the **new declaration of intent between Germany and the State of Florida**, only the second agreement of its kind between Germany and a U.S. state. Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Christofer Burger announced that this partnership supports collaboration across several strategic areas:

- aerospace
- higher education
- health and life sciences
- artificial intelligence
- cybersecurity
- automotive innovation
- arts and culture

The agreement opens the door for expanded academic programs, institutional partnerships, and new forms of cultural and scientific exchange.

Networking & Celebration

The event concluded with an open networking session allowing FIU students, faculty, and administrators to connect directly with the visiting delegation, and learn about the funding and collaboration opportunities spanning academic levels and disciplines—from student exchange and internships to doctoral, post-doctoral, and faculty research partnerships.

FIU Humboldt Fellows Whitney Bauman, Emanuel Mora Macias, and Misak Sarsian were standouts during the open networking session, offering enthusiastic first-hand insights and heartfelt endorsements of the Humboldt programs. Their reflections underscored the value of transatlantic scholarly exchange and highlighted the profound impact these opportunities have had on their research and professional growth.

Guests also enjoyed a special celebratory cake honoring the ongoing partnership between **DAAD** and **FIU**, marking a sweet conclusion to a day dedicated to international collaboration.

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Christine Caly, Lukas Danner, Hilary Landorf, Markus Thiel, Gitta Montoto, Christian Strowa

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For more information and view PowerPoint presentations for each funding organization and exchange opportunities in Germany, please click the links below



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFG-German Research Foundation - German Center for Research and Innovation New York • DAAD & DAAD Website • American Friends of the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation • Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation • MAX PLANCK Florida Institute for Neuroscience
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► To view pictures, [click here](#)



Christian Strowa, Jessica Strattard Hamilton, Birgitta Rausch-Montoto, Jenny Bonitz, Bettina Schuffert, Paul Evans, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez