

Agricultural Economics and Related Sciences (Ph.D. Programme)

Institutions

The program is jointly organized by the Justus-Liebig-University of Giessen and University of Hohenheim

The "Ludoviciana – Ludwigs – University" of Giessen was founded as one of the first universities in the German speaking world. In the 17. century, the typical protestant University was divided into four faculties: Theology, Law, Medicine and Philosophy. The university received international reputation by the well-known agro-chemistry and plant nutrition scientist Justus von Liebig and the physics Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen with there revolutionary contribution to scientific progress. After the second world war the agricultural and veterinary schools became own faculties of the university. Today, the university has about 22,000 students of which about 10 % belong to the new founded faculty Agriculture, Food Sciences and Environmental Management. The new organised Master program allows the students to specialise in: Plant Production, Animal Production, Agricultural Economics and Environmental Protection.

The University of Hohenheim was founded by King Wilhelm I of Württemberg as an Institution for Agricultural Teaching and Research in 1848. From the start, it had a worldwide reputation as a key academic agricultural institution. In 1967 Hohenheim gained university status and today it has some 5 000 students. About a fifth are enrolled in courses on Agricultural Sciences and Agricultural Biology, thus representing approx. 25 % of the total of students in these subjects throughout Germany. The University is located in a campus surrounding the old Hohenheim Palace. Short distances between all campus facilities make the orientation for new coming students easy and promote a familiar atmosphere.

Course focus

This Ph.D. programme is offered to candidates from tropical and subtropical countries. It is intended to provide suitable candidates with the opportunity for acquiring the Dr .agr. (Ph.D.). The programme is carried out in collaboration with the Universities of Giessen and Hohenheim.

a. Improvement of Ph.D. theses and more efficient Ph.D. training

The training of potential researchers and managers in developing countries should be increasingly oriented toward the conditions and needs of those countries and should at the same time insure a level of training that is standard in developed countries.

b. Time limit to finish Ph.D.

The time required for finishing a Ph.D. is restricted to a maximum of 3 ½ years (excluding language courses) to economically use universities, donors and employed home institutional resources.

c. More intensive and improved research and research cooperation

The cooperation between the Universities of Giessen and Hohenheim and universities and research institutions in developing countries will be intensified and the research topics should be increasingly related to the reality in the tropics and subtropics.

Structure and Contents

There is a clear structure of the programme, which includes German language course, Subject courses, Dissertation Planning, Field work, Data analysis and Completion of the Dissertation.. The dissertation covers an important problem of agricultural development at micro or macro level or a related field, like environment or rural development of the original country of the candidate. The aim is to qualify the candidates as researchers and teachers, who are then able to analyse the (changing) problems of the own country in a systematic way and to derive well founded development strategies. Most of the former students act today as multiplier at universities or other institutions in there home country. This objective is supported by many ongoing co operations and continuing exchange activities after the study in Giessen or Hohenheim.

Target group

Young scientists from Africa, Asia, Latin America with two years experiences after M. Sc. degree Applications are invited primarily from universities and national and international research institutions for staff development, but applications from M.Sc. degree holders already employed in government, administration, consultancies, international agencies and industry are also accepted

Course language

English

Entry requirement

Outstanding M.Sc. or M.A. in agricultural economics, economics, environmental sciences or rural development. Good knowledge of the English language. TOEFL with a minimum of 550 points (or IELTS - band 6.0) is required. Candidates are expected to have relevant working experience after finishing the Master Study, such as at least 2 years' work as a scientist at an institute of higher education or at a research institute in the home country. Preference is given to candidates whose employers offer a reintegration guarantee. Candidates have to be less than 32 years old at the beginning of the German language course.

Before entering in the Ph. D. work the candidates must in the first year of the programme:

(1) to pass a German Language Course exam (2) to pass the exam of the course work in agricultural economics at Giessen or Hohenheim Universities.

Degree/Certificate

Dr. agr. (Ph.D.)

Course begins

June (every year)

The programme:

a) German language course at the University of Hohenheim starts in June | every year (duration 4 months)

b) Course work at Giessen or Hohenheim starting September (duration 4 months) in economic theory, development strategies, farming systems, project planning, management, computer applications, farming analysis, regional planning, environmental economics and policy, rural development.

c) Research design, literature review, theoretical and methodological preparation of research and field work (3 months)

d) Field work in the home country (8 months)

Ph.D. students will go to their countries of origin for the following purposes:

- to create a basis of information for the dissertation
- to promote contacts with native institutions
- to insure a cultural link between the candidates and his/her home country

Since the time required for collecting information depends of the type of research, the period of stay may vary from 3 to 12 months. A close collaboration between Giessen/Hohenheim and the home institution/university is supported by selecting a second supervisor from the home university and by a visit of the supervisor from Giessen/Hohenheim in the home country of the Ph.D. student in this period.

e) Analysis and Problem Solving Strategies (21 months)

After returning to the University of Giessen/Hohenheim, processing of information and analyses of past development and current situation related to the research problem and objectives is needed. This is followed by future impact modelling and testing of alternative strategies to assess future problem-solving activities.

f) Writing of the Dissertation and Examinations (6 months)

During this period the candidates are simultaneously encouraged to publish articles and to submit posters and papers in international workshops and symposia. The dissertations are published and are therefore easily accessible to the international research community.

Course duration

42 months for those holding the DSH or adequate German knowledge

46 months including German language course

Application deadline

31st October each year at the German Embassy

15th November each year at the university

Remarks*The package*

The candidates selected are offered a package which includes the scholarship, funds to cover other costs, acceptance by the faculty as well as availability of a supervisor. Since scholarships are offered from different institutions the conditions sometimes may differ. Candidates are also encouraged to find a sponsor or funding organisation and scholarship through own activities. For any support in such activities, please contact the Programme Office in Giessen/Hohenheim. A list of German institutions providing scholarships can also be provided.

Topic of thesis and language

The final decision on the topic of the thesis is taken jointly by the candidate and the supervisor. The research should fit into the overall research programme of the supervisor. The language in the courses and seminars as well as of publications including Ph.D. thesis is English. Very good English is a precondition for writing the Ph.D. thesis. Both, field of research and level of English knowledge are most important selection criteria of the candidates.

Continuos Cooperation

It is in the philosophy of the programme to support continuing relations and establish cooperation between the University of Giessen/Hohenheim and the doctoral graduates as well as the respective institutions in which they work.

Sandwich programme

In addition to the programme to attain a Ph.D. from Giessen or Hohenheim University, a Sandwich component of this programme is established at the University of Giessen and Hohenheim. This is a collaboration with Ph.D. programmes in universities in Africa, Asia and Latin America to support local Ph.D. programmes.

For further information contact

Prof. Dr. S. Bauer

Projekt- und Regionalplanung

Universität Giessen

Senckenbergstr. 3

D-35390 Giessen

Tel. (++49/641) 99 - 37310

Fax (++49/641) 99 - 37319

Siegfried.Bauer@uni-giessen.de

<http://www.uni-giessen.de/Regionalplan/daad/daad.htm>

Universität Hohenheim (490C)

Prof. Dr. W. Doppler

D-70593 Stuttgart

Tel. (++49/711) 459-2514

Fax (++49/711) 459-3812

doppler@uni-hohenheim.de

<http://www.uni-hohenheim.de/490c/>

Application Formula:

http://www.daad.de/imperia/md/content/en/deutschland/formulare/forschungsstipendium_en.pdf