

Application requirements

- The main selection criteria for ZEF's Graduate School are:
 - Academic qualifications (an excellent master or equivalent degree: G.P.A. higher than 3.0 in the American system, or a grade higher than 2.0 in the German system or equivalent);
 - relevant work experience;
 - excellence of the research proposal.
- The age limit is 32 years.
- English is the spoken and written language of the entire program. Foreign students can attend a two-month German language course prior to the study program, starting on August 1 each year.
- The Graduate School starts on October 1, annually.
- The application deadline for DAAD scholarships for the courses starting in the subsequent year is August 30.
- Applicants for other scholarship schemes or candidates with funds of their own can submit their application at any time.

Applying for the Bonn interdisciplinary Graduate School for Development Research (BiGS-DR) involves two steps:

- Online registration at www.zef.de.
- Submission of all required application documents.



Contact

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Donors

The main donors of BiGS-DR are the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), State Funds of North Rhine-Westphalia, Robert Bosch Foundation and the Volkswagen Foundation.



Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung
Center for Development Research
University of Bonn

Bonn Interdisciplinary Graduate School for Development Research

BiGS-DR



www.zef.de

*Capacity building for
the developing world*



Bonn Interdisciplinary Graduate School for Development Research (BiGS-DR)

The BiGS-DR of the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, founded in 1999, is unique in Germany and Europe in terms of interdisciplinary set up, internationality (students from more than 70 countries), and size (around 140 students per year).

The host institute, the Center for Development Research (ZEF), is a trans-disciplinary set up scientific institution with three departments representing three main research areas:

- Political and Cultural Change (ZEF a)
- Economic and Technological Change (ZEF b)
- Ecology and Natural Resources Management (ZEF c)

ZEF's trans-disciplinary research tackles issues relevant to the developing world, such as land use, water management, biodiversity, sustainable energy, and health.

The City of Bonn as a location offers a broad network of international science centers, United Nations organizations and research as well as development policy institutions, enabling students to participate in joint conferences, workshops and to benefit from infrastructure and interaction with staff.

Program set-up

The program aims at educating highly qualified scientific staff, advisers, and managers for both the private and the public sector in a development-oriented context. BiGS-DR offers a broad and interdisciplinary approach to development research, in addition to a sound training in theories and methods of selected disciplines. Practice-oriented field research is to be carried out in developing countries or development related institutions. Combining

theories, methods, and practical experience in the areas of social, economic, and ecological change enables students to explore new fields and be competitive on an international job market.

Target group of BiGS-DR

The main target group consists of young scientists from all over the world with an outstanding master's or equivalent degree in economics, political science, agricultural and resource economics, engineering degrees, geography, mathematics, natural science or agriculture. Candidates preferably have work experience in national or international research institutions, governments, or the private sector. Interest in interdisciplinary research is a prerequisite.

Degree

After completing the graduate program at ZEF the students obtain a doctoral degree, granted by the respective university faculty affiliated to ZEF. Students may pursue their doctoral study under direct supervision of ZEF professors but can also be associated with ZEF while being supervised by a professor from another university.

Time frame

The complete study period is limited to three years. In the first six to 12 months the students participate in a course program at ZEF and work with their supervisors on their research plan. Subsequently, the students travel abroad to carry out their field research - taking one to two years - provided that their research proposal has been approved by their supervisors. After doing their field research the students return to ZEF and a final period of six to 12 months for writing their doctoral theses completes the program.

The course program

The course program in the first year consists of a set of block courses, given by ZEF professors and senior researchers, as well as by professors of the University of Bonn and guest professors from Germany and Europe. The courses provide students with interdisciplinary skills and disciplinary knowledge as well as with tools for their development-related field research. The courses are organized in three modules:

- **Module I:** A two-month interdisciplinary course.
- **Module II:** Disciplinary courses in economics, social sciences, and ecology.
- **Module III:** Courses on specific topics or specific training for individual students provided in laboratories.
- **Special short courses:** Mathematics and statistics, remote sensing, geographic information systems, intercultural seminar.

Tuition and scholarships

Currently, ZEF raises no tuition for the program. However, students need a scholarship or a proof that they have adequate financial resources for the whole study period of three years. Living costs in Germany are put at approximately 800 Euros per month, and research costs for the field research at around 20,000 Euros.

ZEF awards a limited number of scholarships for candidates from developing countries, made available by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and other donors. In addition, individual arrangements to support students with their field research are possible.

Short-term stipends are also available for doctoral students who are interested in participating in a particular ZEF doctoral course only (see ZEF homepage www.zef.de for the up-to-date course program).