

## Application requirements

- The main selection criteria of ZEF's Doctoral Studies Program are:
  - Academic qualification: an excellent master's 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 for applicants 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 ZEF Doctoral Studies Program starts on October 1, annually.
- The application deadline for DAAD scholarships is August 30 - for enrollment in the subsequent year.
- Applicants for other scholarship schemes or candidates with own funds can submit their application at any time.

Applying for the ZEF Doctoral Studies Program involves two steps:

- Online registration at [www.zef.de](http://www.zef.de).
- Submission of all required application documents.



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## Contact

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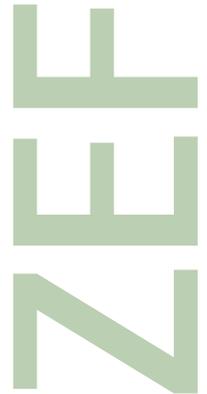
## Donors

The main donors of the ZEF Doctoral Studies Program are: the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), State funds of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Volkswagen Foundation and Foundation fiat panis. In addition, many organizations and governments support our doctoral students financially.



Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung  
Center for Development Research  
University of Bonn

## Doctoral Studies Program



[www.zef.de](http://www.zef.de)

*Capacity building for  
the developing world*



## ZEF Doctoral Studies Program

The Doctoral Studies Program of the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, was founded in 1999. It is unique in Germany and Europe in terms of interdisciplinary set up, internationality (students from more than 80 countries), and size (around 140 students per year).

The host institute, the Center for Development Research (ZEF), is a trans-disciplinary scientific institute. Its three departments cover 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 agenda tackles issues relevant to the developing world such as land use, water management, biodiversity, sustainable energy, and health.

ZEF's location, the City of Bonn, is a hub for international and United Nations organizations, as well as for research and development policy institutions. This setting enables students to participate in joint conferences and workshops and to benefit from cooperation arrangements and interaction with staff.

### Program set-up

The ZEF Doctoral Studies Program 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

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

### Time frame

The time frame of the ZEF Doctoral Studies Program is three years. During the first six to 12 months the students participate in a course program at ZEF and work with their supervisors on their research plan. After their research plan has been approved by their supervisors the students travel abroad to carry out their field research, which takes one to two years. Subsequently, the students return to ZEF to write their doctoral theses, taking six to 12 months.

### Degree

After completing the doctorate 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.

## The course program

The course program in the first year consists of a set of block courses, given by ZEF professors and senior researchers, 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 divided into 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 adequate financial resources for covering the whole study period of three years. Living costs in Germany amount approximately 800 Euros per month, and research costs for the field research 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.

Through its "Dr. Hermann Eiselen PhD Grant" program, the Foundation fiat panis provides funds for selected ZEF doctoral students conducting empirical research on food security and rural development.