

The University of Göttingen has position openings for

2 Doctoral Researchers in Agricultural Economics / Development Economics / Food Systems Economics

(all genders welcome)

to join the Research Training Group (RTG) 2654 “Sustainable Food Systems” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The two positions are immediately available. The regular working hours are 65% (currently 25.87 hours per week) with a limited contract of three years. The salary is in accordance with the German public service salary scale E13 TVL (65%). These are qualification positions for junior researchers pursuing a PhD degree.

Food and agriculture are key elements of many global challenges such as poverty, undernutrition, obesity, climate change, and biodiversity loss. It is obvious that the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be achieved without major changes in food production, distribution, and consumption. What types of change are useful and how they can be implemented politically, economically, and socially are open questions that will be addressed in “Sustainable Food Systems”. The RTG is implemented in cooperation with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington DC and KU Leuven in Belgium.

One of the two positions is located in Subproject A4 “Agriculture, climate change and ecosystem services”. Subproject A4 specifically will look into the implications of restricting beef production to pasture land that cannot otherwise be used to feed humans, in Germany and the EU. The other position is located in Subproject A2 “How sustainable are sustainability standards?”, but will work more broadly on sustainable food production in a developing country and evaluate the trade-offs between different sustainability dimensions, e.g., food security/nutrition and environmental outcomes.

Successful candidates will have an outstanding Master’s degree (or equivalent) in food and agricultural economics, development economics, general economics, sustainability studies, or related social sciences disciplines, strong analytical skills, experience with relevant statistical methods, proven interest in topics related to sustainable food systems, strong computer skills, and excellent command of the English language. Fluency in German and familiarity with agriculture in Germany would also be important assets for the position in Subproject A4. The positions are based in Göttingen (Germany), but will require international travel for exchange with collaborators and, in Subproject A2, data collection. We also expect successful candidates to be active team players in the RTG. Experience with data collection in an international context will be a plus. As part of our work-life-balance strategy, financial support for childcare costs during travel is possible.

The University of Göttingen is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply in fields in which they are underrepresented. The University has committed itself to being a family-friendly institution and supports their employees in balancing work and family life.



The mission of the University is to employ a greater number of severely disabled persons. Applications from severely disabled persons with equivalent qualifications will be given preference.

Please submit your application electronically no later than 15 December 2021 via the Online Application Portal. Further details about the RTG and the link to the application portal can be found on our website (www.uni-goettingen.de/sustainablefood).

Please note: With submission of your application, you accept the processing of your applicant data in terms of the data-protection law. Further information on the legal basis and data usage is provided in the Information General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/hinweisdsqvo>.

Further questions can be addressed to:

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