

Living and Studying in Göttingen

The Georg-August-Universität Göttingen was founded in 1737. More than 40 Nobel laureates have lived, studied, researched, or taught in Göttingen. The University's high international reputation today builds on a unique combination of innovation and academic tradition. The University of Göttingen has about 25,000 students and is one of the leading academic institutions in Germany. Its research groups focusing on agricultural and development economics are unique in a European context in terms of size and quality.

The City of Göttingen has around 130,000 inhabitants and offers a very high quality of life. University campus, city center, and the train station are all within a few minutes' walking distance. Flair and atmosphere in the historical city center are characterized by students, street cafés, a high density and diversity of bars and pubs, and an attractive choice of cultural and sporting opportunities. Compared to other German or European cities, the cost of living in Göttingen is relatively low.

The City is located in Lower Saxony in the center of Germany. Due to very good train connections, all major places within Germany can be reached within 2-4 hours.

Are you looking forward to kissing the Gänseliesel?



One of the nicest traditions in Göttingen: Kissing the Gänseliesel without falling into the water basin is the "final hurdle" before receiving the PhD degree. This makes the Gänseliesel the most-kissed girl of the world.

Professors Involved in GlobalFood

- ▶ Matin Qaim (Speaker)
- ▶ Meike Wollni (Vice Speaker)
- ▶ Bernhard Brümmer
- ▶ Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel
- ▶ Marcela Ibanez
- ▶ Claudia Keser
- ▶ Stephan Klasen
- ▶ Oliver Mußhoff
- ▶ Achim Spiller
- ▶ Ludwig Theuvsen
- ▶ Xiaohua Yu
- ▶ Maximo Torero (IFPRI)



The first batch of GlobalFood PhD students with their professors and coordination team

Contact

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Research Training Group "GlobalFood"

RTG 1666: Transformation of Global Agri-Food Systems:
Trends, Driving Forces, and Implications for Developing
Countries

About GlobalFood

Global agri-food systems are undergoing a rapid transformation towards higher-value products, higher quality and food safety standards, and a higher degree of international and vertical integration. This is largely driven by changing consumer preferences and new opportunities for the agri-business sector arising from globalization processes. Developing countries in particular face technical and institutional constraints, potentially impeding successful participation in emerging value chains. This will have implications for poverty and rural development. The innovation of the GlobalFood Research Training Group (RTG) is to take a broad interdisciplinary perspective.

GlobalFood combines expertise from the following units of the University of Göttingen:

- ▶ Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development
- ▶ Department of Economics
- ▶ Courant Research Center "Poverty, Equity, and Growth in Developing Countries"

All research and training activities are planned and implemented in close cooperation with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington DC, USA. GlobalFood started in 2011 and is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The Program builds on the broad experience of the Göttingen and IFPRI researchers involved and their partners around the world.

"The RTG fosters international collaboration and gives opportunities to work on cutting edge topics and with leaders in my field. I especially like the IFPRI collaboration and the way the program is structured - you are required to take some courses on campus but with the flexibility to take classes in other departments and universities as well. While the program is in English and you get to work with people from different countries, I also find it the perfect opportunity to learn a new language."



Nelissa Jamora (Philippines), PhD student in the RTG working on issues of international price transmission

Research Areas

GlobalFood is structured into four interlinked research areas, which cover different stages of international agri-food supply chains. While research area A ("Restructuring of global supply chains") focuses on intermediate stages, such as trade and retail, research area B ("Consumer preferences and nutritional implications") takes a closer look at consumption. The remaining two research areas (C: "Linking smallholders to markets" and D: "Impacts on rural development") concentrate on agricultural production and marketing in developing countries, with special emphasis on how small farms can be linked to emerging value chains and impacts on welfare and rural development.

Different stages of supply chains are analyzed with an integrative perspective



A Restructuring of global supply chains **B Consumer preferences and nutritional implications**

GLOBALG.A.P.
The Global Partnership for Good Agricultural Practices

C Linking smallholders to markets

D Impacts on rural development



The PhD Program

The objective of GlobalFood's training program is to enable participating junior scholars to perform top-class research in an international and interdisciplinary environment, publish their work in leading journals, and acquire other relevant skills to increase their competitiveness in job markets for scientists and academics.

The training program is organized jointly with IFPRI under the umbrella of the Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences (GGG).

Each PhD student is supervised by a thesis committee that gives guidance, critical feed-back, and support. Numerous international networking opportunities are provided, while academic independence is promoted. PhD students submit their dissertation and obtain their degree within a period of three years (six semesters).

General Structure of the Training Program

Semester 1	2	3	4	5	6
Proposal development	Proposal refining & field work preparation	Field work	Data analysis & paper preparation	Data analysis & paper preparation	Paper refining & thesis submission
Doctoral seminar, colloquia & soft skills			Doctoral seminar, colloquia & soft skills		
Compulsory and elective teaching modules			Research sojourn (IFPRI etc.), conferences		

Funding

The RTG has DFG funding for 12 PhD positions and 1 Postdoc position. In addition, the RTG welcomes PhD students with own scholarships, who are interested and qualified to work on topics related to GlobalFood.

"The PhD Program of GlobalFood has exceeded my expectations. The program has helped me to develop my research acumen and equipped me with contemporary skills and knowledge required to pursue a successful career in research. In addition, the University of Göttingen provides a real international environment where I am meeting students from different countries and learning a lot from their company."



Debosree Banerjee (India), PhD student in the RTG working on gender issues in agricultural supply chains