

The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) in Halle (Saale) offers

Two scholarships for early-career researchers

for two three-months research visits at the IAMO in Germany, financed within the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) project [CAWAMNET - Central Asian Water Conflict and Migration Network](#). The scholarships are targeted at graduate students from Central Asia, including the countries Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, for developing their own PhD research proposals under the supervision of the two project coordinators Dr. Kathleen Hermans and Dr. Nodir Djanibekov. The envisaged period for the research visits is 1 July till 30 September 2023.

Topic and aim of the research visit:

Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan experience high levels of water stress. Water scarcity is primarily caused by climate change, including intensified droughts and extreme evapotranspiration, as well as increasing domestic water use, mainly thanks to soaring irrigation. Water scarcity has been a source of tensions across the entire region. Besides, it can aggravate rural poverty and contribute to rural out-migration. However, empirical evidence on the precise linkages between climate change, water scarcity as well as water conflicts – or cooperation – in Central Asia is scarce and virtually nothing is known about how this affects migration in the region. During the research visit to IAMO, each candidate is expected to develop a competitive research proposal for conducting doctoral research on a related topic to bridge this research gap. The proposal shall address one of the two following subjects:

Subject 1: Water users' strategies to manage water scarcity and conflict in Central Asia

Subject 2: The role of water scarcity and conflict in (im)mobility dynamics of rural populations in Central Asia

The selected candidates are expected to present the final PhD proposals at the CAWAMNET workshop in September 2023 at IAMO. The final proposals shall be submitted to a potential funding agency, e.g. DAAD, to secure funding for a full-fledged PhD study at IAMO.

What we expect:

- Strong commitment to planning, designing, and implementing doctoral research at IAMO, including field research in Central Asia;
- Master's degree or equivalent in agricultural economics, development studies, environmental sciences, geography, or related fields graduated not longer than five years before the application deadline;
- Very good knowledge of qualitative or quantitative analytical methods;
- Knowledge of the agricultural sector, water management, climate change and migration topics in Central Asia;
- Empirical research experience in Central Asia related to the proposed research subjects is of advantage;
- Fluency in English reading, writing, and presenting;
- Communication skills in Russian and one of the Central Asian languages are desirable;
- Openness to integrate into international and multidisciplinary teamwork at IAMO;
- Candidates who originate from one of the five Central Asia countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and are currently residing in one of these countries are eligible to apply.

What we offer:

- A unique research and qualification opportunity within a diverse and motivated team of scientists that value interdisciplinary research, while placing great value on diversity of age, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, physical ability, religious belief, and ethnicity;
- Supervision and support in developing highly competitive PhD proposals;
- Research scholarship at the monthly rate of 861 EUR for three months;
- Full coverage of travel costs for coming to Halle (Germany) and return, and free accommodation at the IAMO premises for the period of the research visit;
- Participation in the two-day research workshop of the CAWAMNET project in September 2023;
- In case of a successful evaluation of the PhD proposal by an external funding agency, enrolling in the IAMO's Graduate School as a PhD student;
- Becoming part of an emerging research network on Central Asia's climate change, water governance and human migration.

Application:

Interested candidates should send a set of application documents in the English language that include:

1. Letter of motivation (maximum 1 page), please explain your specific research interests and indicate your preference concerning the two above-mentioned subjects;
2. Curriculum vita (CV);
3. Copies of all relevant transcripts and certificates as well as English language certificate, if the master's/diploma thesis was not written in English;
4. Electronic copies of master/diploma thesis and (co-) authored scientific publications, if available;
5. Names and contact information of two academic referees.

This set of application documents should be sent by email as a single pdf file to application.agpolicy@iamo.de. Applicants are also requested to submit electronic copies of their master's/diploma thesis or scientific seminar papers. Application deadline: **15 March 2023**.

For further inquiries, please contact Dr. Kathleen Hermans (KHermans@iamo.de) and Dr. Nodir Djanibekov (Djanibekov@iamo.de).

About us:

IAMO is a research institute, a foundation under public law, that pursues basic and applied research in the field of agricultural economics with a focus on the formerly centrally planned economies of Europe and Asia. It offers an excellent infrastructure and a stimulating research environment in an international, ambitious, and multidisciplinary team. IAMO is a member of the Leibniz Association, a German network of non-university research institutes. The city of Halle is located in Eastern Germany, near Leipzig, and offers an attractive and affordable living environment.

Equality of opportunity is part of our personnel policy. Female researchers are strongly encouraged to apply. Disabled applicants with adequate qualifications will be preferentially considered. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews via email.

Please note the data protection information for applicants (m/f/x) in accordance with art. 13 GDPR on data processing in the application procedure under the following link: <https://www.iamo.de/en/top-navigation/data-protection/>.