

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

Two scholarships for Visiting Researchers from Central Asia

for research stays at the IAMO in Germany, financed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) project [“CAWAMNET II - Central Asian Water Conflict and Migration Network”](#). The scholarships are targeted at researchers affiliated with institutions in Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, for conducting collaborative research with the two project coordinators Dr. Kathleen Hermans and Dr. Nodir Djanibekov. Each scholarship is designed for a duration of up to three months, scheduled to take place between June and September 2024.

Topic and aim of the research visit

Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan experience high levels of water scarcity. Water scarcity is primarily caused by domestic water use, mainly thanks to soaring irrigation, and is further amplified by climate change-induced droughts and extreme evapotranspiration. Water scarcity has been a source of tension 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 disputes – or cooperation – in Central Asia is scarce and virtually nothing is known about how this affects migration in the region.

We invite researchers of diverse qualification levels, from graduate students to senior researchers, to apply for the visiting researcher scholarships at IAMO. During the research stay at IAMO, each candidate is invited to select one of the following research topics based on their expertise and interest. Depending on qualifications, candidates may choose to either develop a competitive research proposal for doctoral research or collaborate on generating a joint scientific publication utilizing available micro-level datasets. The specified subjects are:

Subject 1: Farmers’ adaptation strategies to climate change and water scarcity in Central Asia.

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

The visiting researchers will contribute to the Academic Conference in October 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, jointly organized by IAMO and the Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT).

What we expect

- Commitment to conducting high-quality research in collaboration with IAMO colleagues;
- Academic degree or equivalent in agricultural economics, development studies, environmental sciences, geography, or related fields;
- 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/or 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;
- Active and effective cooperation in developing high-quality journal publications;
- Three-months research scholarship at a monthly rate from 934 EUR to 2125 EUR, conditional upon the candidate's qualification;
- Travel expenses for the journey to Halle (Germany) and the return trip will be reimbursed up to the limit set by the donor. Additionally, office space and free guesthouse accommodation at IAMO will be provided for the duration of the research stay;
- Participation in the two-day academic conference of the CAWAMNET II project in October 2024 in Tashkent;
- 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 subjects mentioned above;
2. Curriculum vita (CV);
3. Copies of all relevant transcripts and certificates¹ 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 emailed 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 2024**.

The selection will occur via an open application process, with qualifications determining the final choices. 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 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/>.