



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



## Table of Contents

<b>Master's degree .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>SIA — Sustainable International Agriculture (MSc) • University of Göttingen • Göttingen.....</b>	<b>2</b>

# Master's degree



## SIA — Sustainable International Agriculture (MSc)

University of Göttingen • Göttingen

### Overview

Degree	Master of Science in Sustainable International Agriculture
In cooperation with	University of Kassel
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li></ul>
Languages	English 100%
Full-time / part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>full-time</li></ul>
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	Non-European applicants: 31 January for the following winter semester European applicants: 15 June for the following winter semester
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	Yes
Description/content	<p>The two-year MSc programme in Sustainable International Agriculture (SIA) is a joint study programme of the agricultural faculties of the Universities of Göttingen and Kassel-Witzenhausen. The programme leads to a Master of Science in Sustainable International Agriculture degree. The degree is accepted internationally and qualifies students to progress to a PhD. The study programme is internationally oriented and offers three possibilities for specialisation (profiles):</p> <p>Specialisation in "<b>International Agribusiness and Rural Development Economics</b>"</p> <p>This profile trains students to analyse socio-economic interactions between individuals, resources and markets in agriculture using up-to-date quantitative and qualitative methods. Students acquire the tools they need to contribute to the provision of answers to vital questions ranging from the macro-level (e.g. global hunger, the world trade system) to the meso-level (e.g. the structure and performance of national and international food chains; food safety and quality issues) and the micro-level (e.g. the efficiency of agricultural production, participation and poverty at the household level) in agricultural systems. This prepares you for exciting careers in research, business, national and regional governments and administration, and international organisations.</p>

#### Specialisation in "International Organic Agriculture"

This profile offers students the unique possibility to focus entirely on Organic Agriculture. It includes the broad range of thematic fields from soil, crop and animal science, but also environmental, social and economic science. Students will be asked to examine and assess the validity of literature from the natural and social sciences, statistics and other documents; use state-of-the-art statistical techniques to analyse "hard" and "soft" data; apply laboratory methods, technical procedures and qualitative/quantitative approaches of data collection; interpret and display research data; apply your skills in the context of international and organic agriculture and assessment of agroecosystems. Practical facilities, i.e. research greenhouse, research farm of 340 ha, various laboratories and adequate IT equipment, support individual study profiles. Our aim is to educate young people who will be leaders in science, policy and development, contributing to a more resource-efficient and sustainable development of agriculture worldwide.

#### Specialisation in "Tropical Agricultural and Agroecosystems Sciences"

This profile aims to qualify students to become open-minded, well-trained professionals in sustainable agricultural land use of integrated tropical and subtropical agroecosystems. A wide range of modules in soil, plant, animal and socio-economic sciences as well as method-oriented classes confer skills for in-depth analysis, understanding and possible modification of existing farming systems in the wake of a need for a resource-efficient production of agricultural goods that responds to the challenges of population growth, globalisation and climate change in a site-specific way. A biannual, two-week excursion to a tropical country and participation in ongoing, long-term field research projects of different faculty members allow students to test their skills and apply them under real conditions while collecting credits.

## Course Details

### Course organisation

Teaching focuses on basic methodology, specialised knowledge in the major subjects, capability for interdisciplinary research, and improvement of oral and written communication and presentation skills. Each student will be supported by two members of the teaching staff in the design, implementation, analysis and writing up of the research project. The MSc programme targets highly-qualified, internationally-oriented students of all nationalities who wish to pursue a career in the field of international agricultural and rural development in state, research and non-governmental institutions, agribusiness firms and other private sector institutions.

#### Specialisation in "International Agribusiness and Rural Development Economics"

Four compulsory modules must be taken (24 ECTS): Sustainable International Agriculture, World Agricultural Markets and Trade, Econometrics I, Socioeconomics of Rural Development and Food Security. Five mandatory modules (30 ECTS) must be chosen (among these, at least one methodological module). Six elective modules (36 ECTS) are to be chosen (elective modules can also be chosen from the list of mandatory modules not attended so far).

#### Specialisation in "International Organic Agriculture"

One bridging module and four compulsory modules must be taken: Soil and Plant Science (bridging module), Sustainable International Agriculture, Organic Livestock Farming under Temperate and Tropical Conditions, Organic Cropping Systems under Temperate and (Sub-)Tropical Conditions, Applied Statistical Modelling (30 ECTS). Four mandatory modules (24 ECTS) must be chosen (among these, at least one methodological module). Six elective modules (36 ECTS) are to be chosen (elective modules can also be chosen from the list of mandatory modules not attended so far).

#### Specialisation in "Tropical Agricultural and Agroecosystems Sciences"

One bridging module and four compulsory modules must be taken: Soil and Plant Science (bridging module), Sustainable International Agriculture, Tropical Animal Husbandry Systems, Crops and Production Systems in the Tropics, Applied Statistical Modelling (30 ECTS). Four mandatory modules (24 ECTS) must be chosen (among these, at least one methodological module). Six elective modules (36 ECTS) are to be chosen (elective modules can also be chosen from the list of mandatory modules not attended so far).

The last six months consist of field research and data acquisition in Germany or abroad followed by data analysis and evaluation and the completion of a Master's thesis (in English, by arrangement in other official languages of the EU). Once the thesis has been completed, it must be defended in a colloquium.

A Diploma supplement will be issued	Yes
International elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International guest lecturers</li> <li>• Study trips</li> <li>• Projects with partners in Germany and abroad</li> </ul>
Integrated internships	<p>Internships are not compulsory, but voluntary internships in Germany or abroad can be included in the studies.</p> <p>A study semester abroad (e.g. ERASMUS+) can be integrated.</p>
Course-specific, integrated German language courses	No
Course-specific, integrated English language courses	No

## Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Semester contribution	<p>Fees are around 400 EUR per semester. The fees include a prepaid semester ticket that entitles students to use regional trains (in Lower Saxony and Bremen) and city buses in Göttingen free of charge. Students of the University of Göttingen receive discounts for cultural events. Meals and drinks are also available at reduced prices at all university canteens.</p> <p>Fees: <a href="http://www.uni-goettingen.de/fee">http://www.uni-goettingen.de/fee</a>  Semester ticket: <a href="http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/16432.html">http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/16432.html</a></p>
Costs of living	<p>The average cost of living in Göttingen is modest compared to other major university cities in Germany. Currently, expenses for accommodation, food, health insurance and books are about 850 EUR per month. Please note that fees for health insurance may vary according to age.</p> <p>For further information, please see the following link: <a href="http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/54664.html">www.uni-goettingen.de/en/54664.html</a>.</p>
Funding opportunities within the university	No

## Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements	<p>Successful applicants must have received an above-average (minimum is second-class upper division) or, preferably, a good grade in their undergraduate degree (BSc) of at least six semesters in agricultural sciences or a related study field. For applicants with academic transcripts and degree certificates from China, Mongolia, Vietnam, and India, only APS-proven (<a href="https://www.aps.org.cn/studium-in-deutschland">https://www.aps.org.cn/studium-in-deutschland</a>) academic transcripts and degree certificates will be accepted during the application process.</p> <p>Please see admission regulations at <a href="http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/122863.html">http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/122863.html</a>.  Prior to filling in the application form, each applicant must register online at <a href="http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/122864.html">http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/122864.html</a>.</p>
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### Language requirements

Applicants whose first language is not English have to prove a good working knowledge of English. Their proficiency in English must be certified in an internationally recognised test. The following tests and levels are accepted:

- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English at least with grade B
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English at least with grade C
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with at least 6 points
- At least 550 points in a paper-based TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- At least 213 points in a computer-based TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- At least 80 points in an Internet-based TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- UNIcert level III
- C1 certificate of CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference)

**The language test certificate should be no more than two years old at the time of application**

Exempted from the requirement to provide proof of language proficiency are students whose first language is English and students with a one-year study or work experience in an English-speaking country within the last five years.

### Application deadline

Non-European applicants: 31 January for the following winter semester  
European applicants: 15 June for the following winter semester

### Submit application to

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/122863.html>

## Services

### Possibility of finding part-time employment

A number of student jobs are available at the university. They are announced on the following website: <https://www.stellenwerk.de/en/goettingen/>.

Please note that restrictions may apply with your scholarship or visa. Non-EU students are subject to special regulations.

Foreign applicants should note that it is not easy to find a job to finance their studies, as German students are also searching for jobs. Some proficiency in German may be indispensable to find a job. Non-EU students are permitted to work an equivalent of a maximum of 120 full days (240 half days) per year.

### Accommodation

Students can choose to live in Witzenhausen or in Göttingen. It is recommended that students of "International Organic Agriculture" live in Witzenhausen as most of their lectures will be held there. Students of "International Agribusiness and Rural Development Economics" will have most of their lectures in Göttingen. Students studying the profile "Tropical Agricultural and Agroecosystems Sciences" will have an equal amount of lectures at both campuses.

The Accommodation Service of the International Office supports international students who are enrolled at the University of Göttingen in finding accommodation and serves as a point of contact for related queries. The Accommodation Service also publishes suitable offers from private landlords in Göttingen and collaborates with the Student Services ("Studentenwerk"). As the number of available accommodation options in Göttingen is limited, it is highly recommended to contact the Accommodation Service as early as possible.

For further information, please see the following link: <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/617883.html>.

### Career advisory service

The Career Service of the University of Göttingen offers individual support to facilitate your

successful transition from the academic to the professional world — whether you want to work in Germany or abroad. Especially for international students aiming for a career entry in Germany, the Career Service provides topic-specific "Career Impulse Sessions", workshops, online learning modules, and a qualification programme in "Building International Careers" as well as digital career tools and a virtual community for international employment opportunities: [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/292.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/292.html).

#### Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Specialist counselling
- Welcome event
- Buddy programme
- Cultural and linguistic preparation
- Pick-up service

#### General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates

The International Office provides a complimentary pick-up service ("Buddy Exchange Service") from the Göttingen railway station to the accommodation. German students help newly arrived students to adapt to the university and the city during their first weeks.  
<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/49307.html>

There is also an orientation week for new international students, which provides valuable information about Göttingen and the university.  
<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/196392.html>

Study Buddy programme (<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/112395.html>) as a part of the Integration and Diversity project at Göttingen University (InDiGU)  
<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/108275.html>

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## Our Partners



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# University of Göttingen

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#### University of Göttingen – Committed to Excellence

Founded in 1737, the University of Göttingen is a research-driven university of high international standing. It is renowned for its diverse range of academic disciplines, research-oriented teaching, and outstanding scientific environment in which more than 40 Nobel laureates have studied, taught, or pursued their research. Currently, 28,500 students are enrolled at the University of Göttingen, 15 percent of whom are international students.

#### Variety of study programmes

The University of Göttingen offers a vast variety of academic programmes for undergraduate and graduate studies. Internationally renowned expert researchers teach in more than 40 academic disciplines. More than 40 full-time undergraduate and graduate programmes are taught entirely in English. Two international fast-track MSc/PhD programmes prepare students for unique careers in scientific research. Additionally, a growing number of double degree programmes with prestigious international universities are available.  
<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/3811.html>

#### Guidance, supervision, and study conditions

Students are given comprehensive advisory and supervisory support in all phases of their studies. Since advice and guidance are crucially important for the successful outcome of a university career, the University of Göttingen is constantly improving and extending its

performance in this area.

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/47239.html>

#### Excellent library

The Göttingen State and University Library (SUB Göttingen) maintains a top position among German academic libraries, with a holding of over nine million books, journals and other media and offering a broad range of services for study and research. The library plays a leading role in a large number of national and international projects involving the optimisation of literature and information provision as well as the establishment and development of digital research and information infrastructures.

<https://www.sub.uni-goettingen.de/en>

#### Alumni worldwide

As a member of the alumni network, you will continue to be part of the international "University of Göttingen Family" even after you have finished your studies. The Alumni Office currently connects more than 40,000 alumni from all over the world and provides them with current information and ongoing projects at the university and in the city of Göttingen. In addition, the alumni association offers various events and services for students and alumni related to careers and networking. One such initiative is their workshop series called "alumni4students," where you will have the chance to contribute your expertise.

<https://www.alumni-goettingen.de/>

[www.uni-goettingen.de/international-students](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/international-students)



## University location

Göttingen – a good place to live and study

Göttingen, with a population of approximately 130,000, is a city where tradition and innovation complement one another perfectly. The excellently preserved timber-framed houses in the historic quarter and the University of Göttingen with its 28,500 students create a lively atmosphere that would be hard to find elsewhere.

The university departments and buildings are mainly located on two campuses and are within easy walking or cycling distance from each other. Accommodation for 4,500 students and excellent canteens run by the student services organisation ("Studentenwerk") allow for a high quality of life at a low cost.

The university cooperates closely with non-university research institutes in Göttingen. Together, they form the "Göttingen Campus" – an alliance of cutting-edge research institutes. This includes four Max Planck Institutes and the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Lower Saxony as well as the German Primate Center and the German Aerospace Center. The Göttingen Campus has created an environment of openness in which students at all levels (Bachelor's, Master's or PhD) as well as experienced researchers can develop fresh and innovative ideas. Numerous scientists and scholars from the non-university research institutes lecture at the university, and joint professorial appointments create bridges between the university and campus partners. This structure supports the reputation of the University of Göttingen as one of the most successful research-oriented universities in Germany.

Situated in the geographical centre of Germany and Europe, Göttingen has excellent travel connections: Berlin, Hamburg, and Frankfurt are only a two-hour train ride away. But you don't have to go that far to take a break; Göttingen itself offers many options for recreational activities. The city boasts three theatres and a symphony orchestra. Many cinemas, cafés, and pubs provide numerous opportunities to meet like-minded people and enjoy yourself. Alternatively, you can play an active role in the student union, which sponsors many cultural and recreational events. Last but not least, the city and the university offer a variety of activities for sports enthusiasts. The "Hochschulsport Göttingen" (University Sports Centre) is one of the biggest in Germany and offers a wide range of disciplines and gyms for members of the Göttingen Campus. More than 150 different sports with an indoor pool, climbing centre, fitness studio, and several outdoor sports fields are offered at an extremely reasonable price.

# Contact

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Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

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🌐 Course website: <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/96913.html>

📘 <https://www.facebook.com/SustainableInternationalAgriculture/>

🐦 <https://twitter.com/unigoettingen>

🌐 <https://www.linkedin.com/school/-university-of-goettingen/>

📷 <https://www.instagram.com/unigoettingen>

📺 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzg-z2TL0Ks4Efz5o0z7AxQ>

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# International Programmes in Germany - Database

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)  
[www.daad.de/sommerkurse](http://www.daad.de/sommerkurse)

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## GATE-Germany

Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing  
[www.gate-germany.de](http://www.gate-germany.de)

## Disclaimer

The data used for this database was collected and analysed in good faith and with due diligence. The DAAD and the Content5 AG accept no liability for the correctness of the data contained in the "International Programmes in Germany" and "Language and Short Courses in Germany".

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