

Information on providing funding to students for thesis research at International Agricultural Research Centers

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports the German Federal Government in achieving its development policy objectives. The role of GIZ's Advisory Service on Agricultural Research for Development (BEAF) is to promote development-oriented research on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) (<http://www.giz.de/expertise/html/3192.html>). This includes a small program to provide funding to students for thesis research (generally master's thesis) at International Agricultural Research Centers (www.cgiar.org; www.icipe.org/; www.avrdc.org). Students receive a GIZ internship contract for a period of six months, shorter in exceptional cases only.

Research projects aiming at the preparation of a PhD dissertation cannot be supported.

Requirements for funding:

- Completion of at least five semesters of agricultural sciences or another development-related degree course (e.g. biology, geography, sociology, veterinary medicine, marine biology, forestry, political sciences, law, etc.).
- Enrolment at a German university.
- Very good command of English. In some countries, knowledge of other languages (e.g. French, Spanish, Arabic) is advantageous.
- High degree of sensitivity towards the culture in the country of assignment; team player; ability to work under pressure; willingness to assume responsibility and work independently.
- An International Agricultural Research Center has confirmed that the student can be hosted and a supervisor is identified.
- University supervisor is identified.

The internship contract includes an allowance for travel and cost of living, depending on the country. For the duration of the internship, the students are covered by an accident insurance policy arranged by GIZ. Further costs will not be covered.

A period of four months should be scheduled for the process.

Please send your application in English to Dr Marlene Diekmann marlene.diekmann@giz.de. Applications should include a letter of motivation, CV, a certificate of university enrolment and a letter of recommendation from a university lecturer as well as information on the intended field of study including time frame, the agricultural research institute and supervisor, with a brief outline of the master thesis concept.

Step by Step

The research institute accepts the candidate, where appropriate after a telephone interview, and invites him/her to carry out a specific research project in the context of ongoing research activities.

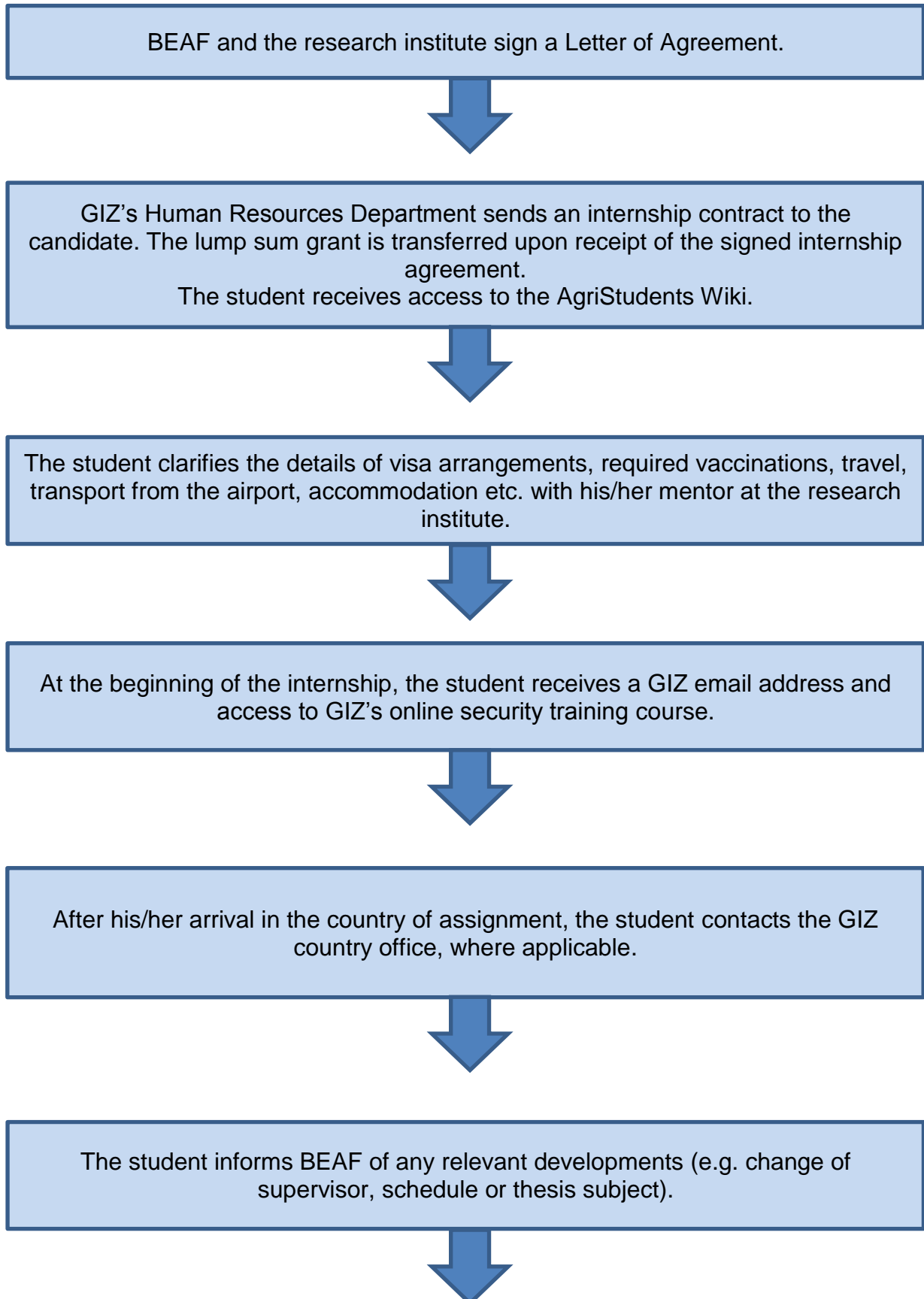
The candidate decides on the thesis' subject and clarifies further details in consultation with his/her supervisor at the university. Direct contact between mentors and research institutes is encouraged.

The candidate sends an application to GIZ/BEAF, including a letter of motivation, CV, a certificate of university enrolment and a letter of recommendation from a university lecturer as well as details on timeframe, intended field of study, the international research institute and supervisor at the research institute, and a brief thesis concept.

The candidate is invited for an interview at BEAF's offices in Bonn and is informed of the result of the interview shortly thereafter. Supervisors at the university and the international institute are also informed.

Where applicable, BEAF informs the GIZ country office of the student's intended arrival, requesting additional information on visa and security.

If the candidate is accepted and would like to proceed, he/she sends evidence of international health insurance (covering also repatriation costs) as well as a declaration of consent regarding the use of data, funding from third parties, etc. to Ms Stefanie Zeiss stefanie.zeiss@giz.de.



Towards the end of the research assignment, BEAF asks the student and supervisor to submit a formal evaluation.



It is recommended that the student ask his/her supervisor at the institute to provide a formal reference or certificate.



The student summarises his/her experiences in the AgriStudents Wiki.



BEAF asks the student to send his/her thesis in electronic form. If this is not possible, a report must be sent within six weeks of completion of the research assignment. Upon request, BEAF can provide an outline for the report.