

Call to the State Government and State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg

No Tuition Fees for Students from Developing Countries! Tuition Fees Hinder Development Cooperation!

Experts from the areas of development research, development policy, and education for sustainable development call for the state government and state parliament of Baden-Württemberg to stop plans to introduce tuition fees for students from developing countries.

The state of Baden-Württemberg plans to collect 1500 euros per semester in tuition fees from international students who are not from EU countries. This measure disproportionately affects students from developing countries, who make up more than two-thirds of the non-EU students in Baden-Württemberg.¹ In the draft legislation from the state government, only minimal exceptions for students from developing countries are included. Other states might follow Baden-Württemberg's example. The signatories of this Declaration are watching this development with a great deal of concern. They reject the introduction of tuition fees for students from developing countries for the following reasons:

1.) Tuition fees for students from developing countries hinder development cooperation

Educating experts and managers from developing countries is a key component of development cooperation, as investments in education are one of the most effective and sustainable measures in development promotion.² By educating students from developing countries, the universities make an important contribution to fighting poverty and creating sustainable development and thus also to fighting the causes of flight. After finishing their studies, students from developing countries make significant contributions to solving development-related problems in their home countries as experts and managers, as they often take on key positions in public administration, universities, and development cooperation projects or in the private sector. The graduates from Germany also later support the economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation with Germany in their home countries. By introducing tuition fees, the opportunities for students from developing countries to contribute to the development of their home countries are seriously limited due to the inaccessibility of university education.³

¹Source: http://www.statistik.baden-wuerttemberg.de/Service/Veroeff/Statistische_Berichte/323416001.pdf

(Table 7, p. 12; Statistics for foreigners without a German education) and additional information from the State Statistics Office.

² Accordingly, Baden-Württemberg lists costs for university places as a part of its contribution to development cooperation.

³The results of the social survey by the German National Association for Student Affairs (Studentenwerk) show that two-thirds of the students from low-income countries have to earn money by working in addition to their studies so that they can afford the costs of living in Germany. (See ApolinarSKI, B. and J. Poskowsky (2012): *Ausländische Studierende in Deutschland – Ergebnisse der 20. Sozialerhebung des Deutschen Studentenwerks durchgeführt vom Deutschen Zentrum für Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsforschung (DZHW)*. Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, p. 25). It is unlikely that students would be able to make up the additional funds for tuition fees by working because they are only allowed to work 120 days per year and also need time for their studies.

2.) Tuition fees for students from developing countries contradict the goals of sustainable development

In the United Nations' goals for sustainable development,⁴ to which Germany has professed its commitment, education plays a key role. Goal number 4 "Quality Education" aims to "ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning." Besides this, education is a requirement for reaching the other development goals. In its coalition agreement, the state government of Baden-Württemberg also claimed its commitment to state policies oriented on sustainability and named responsible development policies as a primary element of these policies.⁵ The introduction of tuition fees for students from developing countries contradicts these commitments.

3.) Tuition fees for students from developing countries untenable from social perspective

Because the introduction of tuition fees for non-EU foreigners disproportionately affects students from developing countries, this measure cannot be considered socially appropriate. This is the case particularly because only 20% of the income from tuition fees is to go to the universities while the other 80% would go to the general state budget. Why students from developing countries should be expected to finance the general budget in one of the wealthiest industrial countries in the world is very difficult to understand. Besides this, tuition fees for foreign students are an especially problematic signal at a time in which an increasing number of states are pushing forward with isolationist policies aiming at exclusion.

For these reasons, we call for the state government and state parliament of Baden-Württemberg to stop this legislative initiative to introduce tuition fees for non-EU foreigners or to at least provide comprehensive exceptions to the tuition requirement for all students from developing countries.

⁴ The "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs).

See http://www.bmz.de/de/ministerium/ziele/2030_agenda/17_ziele/index.html

⁵ The coalition agreement states: "Responsible development policies are a key element of state policies oriented on sustainability. [...] Together with schools and universities, we will breathe life into education for sustainable development and global learning."

See coalition agreement between BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN Baden-Württemberg and the CDU Baden-Württemberg (2016 – 2021), pp. 123-124, online at https://www.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/dateien/PDF/160509_Koalitionsvertrag_B-W_2016-2021_final.PDF

Signatories from universities and research organisations (in alphabetic order)

Prof. Dr. Folkard Asch

Course director of the M.Sc. program „Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics and Subtropics“
Hans-Ruthenberg-Institute
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Balke

Former course director of the post-graduate program „Tropical Hydrogeology“ and founding member of the German Association of Postgraduate Programmes with special Relevance to Developing Countries (AGEP)
University of Tübingen

Prof. Dr. Mathias Becker

Course director of the M.Sc. program „Agricultural Sciences and Resource Management in the Tropics and Subtropics“
University of Bonn

Prof. Dr. Thomas Berger

Professor of Land Use Economics in the Tropics and Subtropics
Hans-Ruthenberg-Institute
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr. Regina Birner

Professor of Social and Institutional Change in Agricultural Development
Hans-Ruthenberg-Institute
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr. Joachim von Braun

Director
Center for Development Research (ZEF)
University of Bonn

Prof. Dr. Georg Cadisch

Managing Director
Hans-Ruthenberg-Institute
University of Hohenheim

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Uta Dickhöfer

Professor of Animal Nutrition and Rangeland Management in the Tropics and Subtropics
Hans-Ruthenberg-Institute
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr. Andreas Fangmeier

Course director of the double degree M.Sc. program „Environmental Science - Soil, Water & Biodiversity“
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr. Federico Foders

Former researcher at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Kiel University and Honorary Professor
University of Cologne

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Frevel

University of Applied Sciences for Public Administration and Management of North Rhine-Westphalia

Prof. Dr. Harald Grethe

Professor of International Agricultural Trade and Development
Humboldt-University of Berlin

Prof. Dr. Michael Grimm

Professor of Development Economics
University of Passau

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Grote

Managing Director of the Institute of Environmental Economics and World Trade
Leibniz Universität Hannover

Prof. Dr. Isabel Günther

Professor of Development Economics
ETH Zürich

Prof. Uwe Haberlandt

Managing Director of the Institute of Hydrology and Water Resources Management
Leibniz Universität Hannover

PD Dr. Jan-C. Heilinger

Munich Center for Ethics
LMU - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Prof. Dr. Oliver Hensel

Head of the Dept. of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
University of Kassel-Witzenhausen

Prof. Dr. Dierk Herzer

Professor of Economics, in particular Economic Growth and Business Cycles
Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg

Prof. Dr. Dirk Hölscher

Course director of the M.Sc. program „Tropical and International Forestry“
University of Göttingen

Prof. Dr. Stefan Klonner

Professor of Development Economics
South Asia Institute
Heidelberg University

Prof. Dr. Astrid Ley

Course director of the M.Sc. program „Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design“
Institute of Urban Planning and Design
University of Stuttgart

Prof. Dr. Christian Lippert

Course director of the M.Sc. program „Agricultural Economics“
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Löwenstein

Managing Director, Institute of Development Research and Development Policy
Ruhr-University Bochum

Prof. Dr. Tilman Lutz

Deacon, *Protestant University for Social Work & Deaconship, Hamburg*

Dr. Günther Manske

Academic Coordinator
Bonn International Graduate School for Development Research
The University of Bonn

Prof. Dr. Andreas Mehler

Director, *Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut, Freiburg*

Prof. Dr. Bernd Möller

Course director of the M.Eng. Program "Energy and Environmental Management in Developing Countries"
University of Flensburg

Prof. Dr. Joachim Müller

Professor of Agricultural Engineering in the Tropics and Subtropics
Hans-Ruthenberg Institute
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Heinz-Dieter Olbrich

Co-founder of the German Association of Postgraduate Programmes with special Relevance to Developing Countries (AGEP)
Former Course director of the M.Sc. program "Tropical Water Management"
Leuphana University Lüneburg

Prof. Dr. Jutta Papenbrock

Managing Director, Institute for Botany
Leibniz Universität Hannover

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Stefan Pauliuk

Assistant Professor for Sustainable Energy and Material Flow Management, Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources
University of Freiburg

Dr. Anna Pegels

Senior Researcher, Department for Sustainable Economic and Social Development
German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn

Prof. Dr. Johanna Pink

Institute of Oriental Studies,
University of Freiburg

Prof. Dr. Michael Pregernig

Professor for Sustainability Governance, Institute of Environmental Social Sciences and Geography
University of Freiburg

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Pretzsch

Director of the Institute for Tropical Forestry, Faculty of Environmental Sciences
Technische Universität Dresden

Prof. Dr. Matin Qaim

Professor for Agricultural Economics and Rural Development
Georg-August-University of Göttingen

PD Dr. Frank Rasche

Head of the Chair for Agroecology in the Tropics and Subtropics
Hans-Ruthenberg-Institute
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr. Lucia A. Reisch

Copenhagen Business School

Prof. Dr. Heiner Schanz

Course director of the M.Sc. Program „Environmental Governance“
University of Freiburg

Dr. Imme Scholz

Deputy Director
German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn

Prof. Dr. Frank Schurr

Studiengangsleiter des M.Sc. Programms „Landscape Ecology“
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr. Thilo Streck

Course director of the M.Sc. Program „Environmental Protection and Agricultural Food Production“
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr. Anne Valle Zárate

Professor for Animal Breeding and Husbandry in the Tropics and Subtropics
Hans-Ruthenberg-Institute
University of Hohenheim

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Ulli Vilsmaier

Junior Professor for Trans-disciplinary Methods
Leuphana University Lüneburg

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Holger Vogelsang

Vice Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science and Business Information Systems
Study dean Bachelor Program Computer Science
Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences

Prof. em. Dr. Winfried von Urff

Former Head of the Chair for Agricultural Policy
TUM School of Life Sciences Weihenstephan

Prof. em. Dr. Josef Winter
Former director of the M.Sc.
program „Resources
Engineering“
*Karlsruhe Institute of
Technology (KIT)*

Prof. Dr. Volker Wulfmeyer
Managing director of the
Institute of Physics and
Meteorology
Course director of the M.Sc.
program „Earth and Climate
System Science“
University of Hohenheim

Prof. Dr. Manfred Zeller
Professor of Rural
Development Theory and
Policy
Hans-Ruthenberg-Institute
University of Hohenheim

Dr. Sabine Zikeli
Course director of the
M.Sc. Program “Organic
Agriculture and Food
Systems”
Coordinator for Organic
Farming and Consumer
Protection
University of Hohenheim

Signatories from development organizations (in alphabetic order)

Claudia Duppel
Managing director and
coordinator
One World Promotor
Programme Baden-
Württemberg
*Dachverband Entwicklungs-
politik Baden-Württemberg,
DEAB e.V.*
(Umbrella organization of
development policy action
groups in Baden-
Württemberg)

Dr. Andrea Fadani
Chief Executive Officer
Fiat Panis Foundation, Ulm

Karola Hoffmann
Facilitator for Development
Education and Higher
Education in Baden-
Württemberg
*forum for international
development + planning*

Maren Jesaitis
Coordinator
*Global Education Campagne
c/o Oxfam Deutschland e. V.*

Jörn Kalinski
Director for Lobby and
Campaigning
Oxfam Deutschland e. V.

Dr. Simon Ramirez-Voltaire
Managing Director
*Consortium of
Eine Welt-Landesnetzwerke
in Germany e.V.*

Dr. habil. Klaus Seitz
Head of Department Policy
Bread for the World

Heike Spielmans
Managing Director
*Verband für Entwicklungs-
politik und humanitäre Hilfe
(VENRO)*

Dr. Till Wahnbaeck
Chief Executive Officer
Welthungerhilfe

Angelika Weber
Moderator
Studienbegleitprogramm für
Studierende aus Afrika, Asien
und Lateinamerika in Baden-
Württemberg
STUBE Baden-Württemberg

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Regina Birner
Hans-Ruthenberg Institute
University of Hohenheim
Regina.Birner@uni-hohenheim.de
Telefon: 0711-459-22514

Karola Hoffmann
Dachverband Entwicklungspolitik Baden-Württemberg e.V.
Eine-Welt-Fachpromotorin Hochschulen
karola.hoffmann@finep.org
Telefon: 0711-932768-65