

# AFECO Monthly Newsletter

## May 2020

### Guest lecture: p\_hacking by Prof. Härdle

On May 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm [Professor Härdle](#) from Humboldt-Universität Berlin will give a lecture on p\_hacking within the module of Advanced Applied Econometrics. This lecture is open for all interested students. Please note your interest by including your email address here <https://terminplaner.dfn.de/Uy4CQ8GBwauAgUWp> no later than May 19<sup>th</sup> and you will receive the necessary access information to the stream before the lecture.

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### Writing your Master thesis

Summer term is for many students the time to put their accumulated knowledge into praxis and to start writing their Master thesis. Please find all information on how to register your thesis, guidelines for writing and the template to use at the ILR [here](#). In addition, for German speaking students, we can recommend the podcast from Prof. Dr. Christina Sichtann "Du schaffst das! Erfolgreich deine Abschlussarbeit schreiben" available on [iTunes](#) and [Spotify](#).

### ARTS Seminar Series: Global Challenges - Local Solutions

The ARTS seminar series returns remotely this semester with a focus on Global Challenges - Local Solutions. Every week on Thursdays, at 5:00 PM until Jul 16 you can join the lectures using the zoom link: <https://uni-bonn.zoom.us/j/98613068032?pwd=NWJMUUpaMGk1YVppREZvMlIiSaU1UQT09>

Meeting ID: 986 1306 8032, Password: 274767. Check out the lecture series schedule [here](#).

### Dies Academicus goes digital

On **May 27**, the Dies Academicus takes place, this year as a digital version. More information will be online closer to the date [here](#).

### What HR professionals expect from an application

Are you slowly but steadily heading towards joining the job market? If you have questions on application topics, the [Career Center of the Uni Bonn](#) will help you. At the moment, seminars and events have of course been postponed, but you can nevertheless find web links to webinars in the Career Center's calendar, for which you can often register for free. Unfortunately, the following examples are all in German...

May 5 - 16:00 to 17:30 - [Arbeiten und Bewerben bei NGOs from Teach First Germany](#)

May 14 - 10.30 - [Die erfolgreiche Online Bewerbung from StepStone](#)

June 18 - 10.30 - [Einstiegsgehälter für Absolventen from StepStone](#)

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## Internship and Job Opportunities\*

[Praktikant \(m/w/d\) im Bereich Internationale Klimapolitik](#), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Bonn  
Bewerbungsfrist: 11.05.2020

[Praktikant \(m/w/d\) im SV Nachhaltige Agrarlieferketten und Standards](#), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Bonn  
Bewerbungsfrist: 11.05.2020

Check out the ILR [website](#) for PhD positions and other post-graduate job opportunities.

\*job descriptions in German require fluent German skills

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## ILR Testimonial: Kristina Mensah (GIZ)

We asked Kristina Mensah from the Sector Project Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness, Agricultural Finance (based in Bonn) to answer some questions for students interested in a career at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. She is a former AFECO student and tells us about her career path and the opportunities for students to do an internship at and to work with GIZ for their Master thesis.



Q: Please tell us a little about your career path at GIZ.

K.M.: I had just finished my Master thesis when I started at GIZ as an intern. During my internship, my daily tasks comprised of attending meetings, writing minutes, literature review or data analysis. After six months, I was offered a job as a junior advisor in the same project continuing to work on data analysis and literature review. Already as an intern you normally have quite some responsibilities but of course even more as a junior advisor. For example, I had the chance to actively accompany a study on the impact of milk powder imports in Burkina Faso. You normally stay a junior for about 2 years before becoming an advisor where you have more responsibilities and are often responsible for a certain subject. I have been an advisor at GIZ since May 2018.

Q: What do look for in applications for an internship? Is it possible to do an internship without speaking any German?

K.M.: We are very regularly looking for interns. What you should have in mind is that the projects like the one I'm working in, is a so-called sector project. We are mostly advising the German ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, therefore, most of our work is in German and it's making it quite difficult for non-German speaking interns to fit in and have interesting work packages. This does not mean that we don't have internships where not speaking German is a

problem. I would advise you to have a good look at the internship description and in doubt just give the contact provided a call.

We are mostly looking for Master students that are either already a bit advanced in their studies or have just finished their Masters. You should be interested in current politics, agriculture policy and innovations. Be open to new subjects, be curious and don't shy away from having to deep dive into a complex topic. We are looking for interns who are willing to learn and become part of our team.

Q: What do you think of the AFECO Master as a prerequisite for GIZ?

K.M.: I think the AFECO Master was a great prerequisite for GIZ. During my Master, I got the chance to get to know several different topics from agricultural policy to agricultural markets, risk management or environmental economics. This has really helped me during my internship and often still is the case.

I know several AFECO alumni who have done an internship at GIZ and a lot of them are still working with GIZ.

Q: Even if an internship does not mean that you will be taken on by GIZ, do you know of other former interns who have stayed with GIZ?

K.M.: It is true that not all interns will stay with GIZ, but most junior advisers are former interns.

Q: Is it possible to write your master's thesis in collaboration with GIZ?

K.M.: It is possible to write your Master thesis in collaboration with GIZ. However, I would highly recommend starting with an internship. In most cases you won't have the right contacts or a good knowledge of the possibilities. What you should have in mind is that what the University requires might be very different of what GIZ needs. So, getting those two sides to agree on a topic might be a challenge. Furthermore, mostly GIZ projects in our partner countries are taking in master students to write their thesis on a topic that is relevant for their project.

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## **We want you to contribute!**

This is a student run newsletter and we want to hear from you! If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, whether it be on a recurring basis or one time, please contact us at [afeco.info@ilr.uni-bonn.de](mailto:afeco.info@ilr.uni-bonn.de). If you have any helpful information about the AFECO program, job/internship opportunities, going-ons around town or advice for first year AFECO students that you would like to share, don't be bashful and have your voice heard!