

Information for Students of the Double Degree Programme in Development Economics in Cooperation with Stellenbosch University, South Africa

I. Description of the double degree programme

The two-year English-language double degree master's programme in development economics is jointly offered by Stellenbosch University and the University of Göttingen. The programme is a partnership that offers students the opportunity to earn both the Master of Science (MSc) in development economics offered by the Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Göttingen and the Master of Commerce (MCom) in economics offered by the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, Stellenbosch University.

The programme is research-oriented, and combines the fields of applied development and agricultural economics with a strong emphasis on quantitative methods. The double degree programme is designed to prepare graduates to think analytically, and to equip them with cutting-edge research techniques, as well as in-depth knowledge of the driving forces behind economic development.

The MCom in economics comprises advanced study in macro- and microeconomic theory, applied economics, and policy analysis. Moreover, special emphasis is placed on research methodology and econometric analysis. Within the development economics courses the economic and socio-economic situation in South Africa is analysed through empirical case studies.

The MSc in development economics is the only university-level master's programme in development economics in Germany. The University of Göttingen hosts Germany's largest internationally visible concentration of development economics researchers. The wide course offerings in the field of development economics (for which special attention is placed on quantitative methods) allow students to specialize in their specific area of interest.

The participants of the double degree programme will spend two semesters at Stellenbosch University and two semesters at the University of Göttingen. They have the choice to write their 20 week master's thesis at either university.

Upon completion of the 120 ECTS (credit) programme, and having satisfied all the graduation requirements of both universities, the student will receive two separate and nationally recognised master's degree certificates: a Master of Commerce in economics, awarded by the Stellenbosch University and a Master of Arts in development economics, awarded by the University of Göttingen. Both certificates state that the degree was awarded within a joint programme and indicate that the respective certificates are valid only in conjunction with the respective other certificate.

As the MSc in development economics at the University of Göttingen is a two-year master's programme and the MCom in economics at the Stellenbosch University is a one-year master's programme, the double degree programme enables participating students to complete two degrees within four semesters (that normally would take three years to complete).

II. Curriculum for students from Stellenbosch University

Programme structure for students from Stellenbosch:

1. Compulsory and specialisation modules (Stellenbosch)	30 ECTS
2. Master's thesis (Stellenbosch or Göttingen)	30 ECTS
3. Compulsory and specialisation modules (Göttingen)	30 ECTS
4. Compulsory and specialisation modules (Göttingen)	30 ECTS

For students from Stellenbosch, the double degree programme commences every summer term in early February. Due to different lecture periods in Göttingen and Stellenbosch, the programme is uniquely structured.

Participants from Stellenbosch will spend their first and second semester at Stellenbosch University. During this time, they will complete the mandatory and elective modules (courses) required for the MCom in economics.

Students from Stellenbosch will spend their third and fourth semester at the University of Göttingen. There, they will take three mandatory modules and two elective modules in their third semester (summer term): two compulsory courses in development economics, one compulsory course in agricultural economics, one elective course in development economics, and one elective course in econometrics.

In the fourth semester (winter term) students are required to complete two mandatory modules and three elective modules: two compulsory courses in development economics of which one course is a seminar and three elective courses in development economics. The elective modules enable the participants to specialize in their specific field of interest.

The second semester (winter term) at Stellenbosch University ends in late October. As the third semester (summer term) at the University of Göttingen starts in mid-April, it is highly recommended to write the master's thesis between the second and third semesters (November – March). Students may also elect to write their master's thesis either in Stellenbosch or in Göttingen. Important to note is that the examination regulations of the university in which you write the thesis are applied. Students will be supervised during the course of their master's thesis by two supervisors, one from each university. Both examiners will participate in the grading of the thesis. The programme coordinators are also available to support the participants in the selection of their supervisors. The thesis will be recognised across both master's programmes, irrespective of the university at which the thesis has been written.

Curriculum in the double degree programme for students from Stellenbosch:

In the first semester (lecture period: February – May) and second semester (lecture period: July – October), students are required to complete modules totalling 30 ECTS at Stellenbosch University. The 30 credits are divided into four mandatory modules and one elective course.

The students are required to complete the following three compulsory modules:

Econometrics, 6.7 credits

Macroeconomics, 6.7 credits

Microeconomics, 6.7 credits

The remaining 9.9 credits are earned by completing elective courses offered by Stellenbosch University within the course offerings for the MCom in economics.

Participants are strongly recommended to write their master's thesis between their second and third semesters (November – March).

In the third semester (lecture period: April – July) students are required to complete modules totalling 30 ECTS at the University of Göttingen. The 30 credits are comprised of three mandatory modules in development economics, agricultural economics, and two elective courses.

Among these 30 credits, the following compulsory modules must be completed:

Development Economics II, 6 credits

Development Economics III, 6 credits

Socioeconomics of Rural Development and Food Security, 6 credits

The remaining 12 credits must be acquired through the completion of an elective course in econometrics (6 ECTS) and one elective course in development economics (6 ECTS).

For a list of electives, see the examination regulations (Prüfungsordnung) for the MSc programme in development economics: <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/204431.html> . For a list of electives in the current semester, see: <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/33399.html> .

In the fourth semester (lecture period: October – February), participants are required to complete the remaining 30 ECTS at the University of Göttingen. Among these 30 credits, the following compulsory module must be completed:

Development Economics I, 6 credits

Furthermore, one of the following three seminars must be completed:

Seminar Development Economics, 6 credits

Seminar to the Situation in Latin America in the 21st Century: Trade related and Macroeconomic Issues, 6 credits

Seminar to the Situation in Latin America in the 21st Century: The Necessity of Reforms, 6 credits

The remaining 18 credits are earned by completing three elective courses (6 ECTS each) of the MSc in development economics.

For a list of electives, see the examination regulations (Prüfungsordnung) of the MSc programme in development economics (Annex II/ Anlage II „Modulübersicht für Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer des Double Degree Programms mit der Universität Stellenbosch“, § 4c): <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/204431.html> . For a list of electives in the current semester, see: <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/33399.html> .

Information on the double degree programme can also be found online:

University of Göttingen website:

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/422060.html>

Stellenbosch University website:

<https://www.ekon.sun.ac.za/masters/page/4>

III. Useful information for planning your stay in Göttingen

1. Tuition fees

Students from Stellenbosch University will remain registered at Stellenbosch University for the entire duration of the double degree programme. During their stay in Göttingen, they will also be enrolled at the University of Göttingen. The participants are exempt from any fees of the University of Göttingen while they are at Stellenbosch University. During their stay in Göttingen, students are not required to pay tuition fees, but are required to pay service and administrative fees of approximately 250 € per semester. In return, local student services provided by the “Studentenwerk” are available at discounted prices (e.g. subsidized food in the cafeteria). Additionally, the service and administrative fee includes free use of the local trains of the German Railways (Deutsche Bahn) in Lower Saxony and North Hesse.

2. Academic year

In Germany, the academic year is divided into two semesters. The winter term starts on 1 October and ends on 31 March. The summer term is from 1 April to 30 September. Usually, the lecture periods start in the third week of the semester and spans 14 weeks. The lecture period of the winter semester ends in early/mid-February, and the lecture period of the summer semester in mid-July. The academic calendar (including future and past semesters) can be found here: <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/24440.html>. Exams are written in the first three weeks after the end of the lecture period.

3. Enrolment, accommodation, etc.

It is important to organize accommodation as early as possible. The International Student Services office will help you with both enrolment and accommodation. If you arrive in Göttingen in the summer term, a member of the International Student Service office will contact you in mid-December. For information on accommodation, please contact the Accommodation Service as soon as possible. This should be done by November at the latest, as there are long waiting lists for student dorms and a room can only be guaranteed if you apply for housing before 1 December.

The seminar of German philology, in cooperation with the International Student Services office offers German language courses at every level. There are courses during the semester and three-week intensive courses at the beginning of the semester for exchange students. In the summer term, a crash course usually takes place in early March. Students who would like to attend such a (fee-based) course receive along with the course registration, on request, a room in a student dorm. Rooms are reserved for course participants who register for a course until early January.

Once arriving in Göttingen, you should apply for a student identity card of the University of Göttingen. The student identity card allows you to borrow books from the university library, to use student services (e.g. the cafeteria) at discounted prices, and along with your card, you will receive PINs and TANs (special codes) that enables you to register for exams in the exam administration system called "Flexnow". If you enrol in a German language course, someone will help you to obtain your student identity card. If you do not attend a German language course, please contact the Service Centre for Students of the Faculty of Business and Economics.

Please also contact your double degree programme coordinator after your arrival in Göttingen. They will help you with the selection of the elective courses. An overview of the offered courses in the current semester can be found here: <http://ecampus.uni-goettingen.de>. For a list of courses taught in English at the Faculty of Business and Economics, see: <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/33399.html>.

The International Student Services office will, if desired, help you to settle in Göttingen. For instance, you have the option to register for an "Exchange Buddy Service," where a student will meet you at the train or bus station upon your arrival in Göttingen. They can also assist you with administrative matters and orient you on the details of everyday student life in Göttingen. Furthermore, you can participate in the InDIGU programme (an extra-curricular offering intended to promote the integration of international students at the University of Göttingen as well as to promote the diversity of an international student body) allowing you to meet students in the same course of study. Finally, the International Student Services office offers international and exchange students an orientation to provide all key information on administrative matters.

IV. Contact persons:

Göttingen:

Double Degree Programme Coordinator:

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Service Centre for Students:

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Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
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37073 Göttingen
Oeconomicum, 1st floor
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studienberatung@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de
www.service-center.wiwi.uni-goettingen.de

International advising of both outgoing and incoming students:

Study Abroad Advisory Team
Service Centre for Students
Faculty of Business and Economics
Phone: +49 (0)551 / 39-28801
Email: auslandsstudium@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de

Enrolment:

Simin Wahdat
International Student Office
Phone: +49 551/39-27777
Email: international.study@uni-goettingen.de

Accommodation Service:

Göttingen International/ International Office

Phone: +49 551 / 39-21338

Email: accommodation@uni-goettingen.de

German language courses:

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/7710.html>

Further information on the University of Göttingen, the City of Göttingen, cost of living in Göttingen, opening a bank account, etc., can be found at:

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/48483.html>

Exchange Buddy Service:

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/49307.html>

Study partnerships with German students (InDiGU-Program):

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/108466.html>

Introduction Events for international students:

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/196393.html>

Stellenbosch:

Programme Coordinator:

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