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From Responsibility to Protect to Responsibility to Assist: Conflict, Reconstruction, and Sustainable Development in the Middle East

German-Arab Joint Research, Training, and Networking Programme

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

FOR PHD POSITIONS

With civil war raging in Syria and the expansion of the Islamic State (IS), instability in the Middle East seems to have found a new apex. The international community's response, or rather lack thereof, to the constantly deteriorating situation in the region calls into question the very concept of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) as it was adopted at the United Nations level in 2005. The "German-Arab Joint Research, Training and Networking Programme" sets out to explore the extendibility of the R2P mandate towards a concept of 'Responsibility to Assist'. Within this overall conceptual framework, the programme aims at initiating joint research projects that investigate the varied economic, social, political and other challenges that the countries of the region find themselves confronted with and which are expected to seriously impair their chances for a peaceful, inclusive and sustainable development in the future.

The doctoral research projects to be selected as part of the programme shall be related to the overall topic of **Conflict, Reconstruction, and Sustainable Development in the Middle East** and ideally, but not exclusively, deal with one of the following broader fields of research:

1. International Law and conflict: Transitional justice, sovereignty and boundaries of legal intervention from the international community
2. International and domestic politics of conflict and reconstruction: R2P, state fragility, conflict resolution, and regional power structures
3. Economies of war and their local, regional and international repercussions
4. Economic and social impacts of conflicts on the environment, natural resources and agriculture

5. Refugees, humanitarian aid and perpetual humanitarian crisis
6. War, politics, and society: Impact of conflicts and requirements of conflict management and resolution in multi-ethnic/-confessional societies
7. Role of transnational networks in conflict and post-conflict reconstruction

A clear focus is expected to be on the diverse implications of, in particular, the crises in Syria and Iraq on the neighbouring countries and the ways through which to best accommodate the multiple challenges arising from this situation.

Programme Structure and Funding

In principle, the PhD candidates of the “German-Arab Joint Research, Training and Networking Programme” shall benefit from training and supervision offered by all institutes and universities involved in the programme. For the PhD candidates the programme starts in September 2015 at Ruhr-University Bochum (RUB). They will participate in courses offered as part of the structured English-language PhD IDS Programme at the Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE) (more detailed information on the PhD IDS can be found on the IEE website, <http://www.development-research.org/index.php/study-programmes/phd-ids.html>). By being enrolled as a PhD student at the RUB the PhD students will also gain free access to skills trainings and other events offered by the RUB Research School.

The different study periods at the IEE/RUB (as outlined in the schedule and work plan) are mainly planned for the first three terms of the three-year-programme and would add up to 12 months staying in Germany. For most of the remaining time of the 3-year-programme, the PhD students will either be on field research or stay at their resident universities for further course work and/or writing-up of the doctoral thesis. At the beginning of the first term the PhD students from Arab countries will receive German language training while the German students are expected to attend Arabic language courses.

Beyond training at IEE/RUB, two interdisciplinary summer schools are planned. The first summer school shall take place at the end of the second term in September / October 2016 and shall be hosted by the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Beirut, Lebanon. Here the PhD candidates of the German Arab Joint Research, Training and Networking Programme will come together with other students and scholars from the partner universities. The second summer school shall be convened at the end of the fourth term and shall be hosted by the University of Jordan (JU) in Amman, Jordan. As the summer school in Amman is scheduled to coincide with the end of the field research it is expected to include a mid-project meeting in which the supervisors, senior researchers and PhD Candidates come together to discuss the results of the field research. Besides attending courses at IEE/RUB and the Arab partner universities and the two summer schools the PhD students shall take part in the annual PhD Conferences on International Development organized by the IEE and its national and international partners.

For their study periods in Germany the PhD candidates from Arab countries shall receive a scholarship enabling them to cover their costs of transport, living, and accommodation. In addition, the costs of travel and accommodation for attending the summer schools and, if applicable, an internship at the Carnegie Middle East Center, Beirut, shall be covered by scholarship funds for both the Arab and the German PhD students.

Supervision

All PhD candidates will be co-supervised by professorial members of both the PhD in International Development Studies (PhD IDS) at the Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE) / Ruhr-University Bochum (RUB) and the programme partners including

- ❖ The University of Jordan, Amman [<http://www.ju.edu.jo/home.aspx>]
- ❖ Lebanese American University, Beirut [<http://www.lau.edu.lb/>].

In addition, the Carnegie Middle East Center Beirut [<http://carnegie-mec.org/>] will be involved in the programme and its activities.

Prospective Candidates and Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates with an above-average advanced degree (Master or equivalent) in Law, Social or Political Sciences, Sociology, Anthropology, Economic or Social Geography, Economics, Agricultural Economics or Sociology, and Environmental and Resource Economics or related subjects from Germany, the partner countries (Jordan and Lebanon), and, if applicable, students coming from the countries / territories afflicted by the regional conflicts (most importantly Syria and Iraq)
- English language proficiency attested by English language proficiency certificate (IELTS Band 6 or TOEFL 550 paper based / 213 computer based / 80 internet based) or by a document attesting that English has been the language of instruction in previous studies
- Strong interest and capability to work in interdisciplinary and cross-cultural frameworks
- Qualified female candidates are expressly encouraged to apply

Criteria of Admission

Admission to the German-Arab PhD is based on a competitive selection process. The major criteria are:

- Affinity of the research topic to the overall topic of the programme
- Quality and innovative approach of the research proposal
- Supporting academic references
- Overall grades of previous studies
- Proficiency in English

The candidates will be nominated and selected jointly by the programme partners at a preparatory meeting in June/July 2015 and will be informed via email about the admission no later than end of July 2015.

Required Documents

- Application form
- Application letter which should give an idea about the motivation for applying to the joint German-Arab PhD
- Research proposal of PhD project of max. 5 pages (see guidelines for writing a research proposal)
- Full Curriculum Vitae (see templates)
- Certificates and transcripts of university studies, certificate of secondary education
- English language proficiency certificate (IELTS Band 6 or TOEFL 550 paper based / 213 computer based / 80 internet based)
- Two academic recommendation letters

The application form, guidelines and templates are available for download here:

<http://www.development-research.org/index.php/study-programmes/phd-ids/german-arab-programme.html>

Submission via Email or Postal Services

All files, including letters of recommendation, may be sent in either PDF format to [ieephd\(at\)rub.de](mailto:ieephd(at)rub.de) or paper format to the postal address mentioned below. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Postal Address:

Institute of Development Research and Development Policy
Dr. Anja Zorob
Building GB, Room 1/161
Universitätsstr. 150
D-44801 Bochum - Germany

Application Deadline

The deadline for application is **April 30th, 2015**