

The Postgraduate Programme "International Cooperation for Sustainable Development" at the Centre for Rural Development (SLE) of the Humboldt University Berlin



Application period from 1st May to 30th June 2025

Ready to start your career in international cooperation – with substance, impact, and a strong network backing you?

Here's a great opportunity: For over 60 years, the SLE (Centre for Rural Development) at Humboldt University Berlin has been training 20 dedicated young professionals each year to address the challenges of international cooperation. This one-year, practice-oriented programme is designed for master's graduates from all development cooperation-relevant disciplines – whether geosciences, agriculture, forestry, environmental sciences, engineering, political sciences, economics, social or cultural sciences.

International cooperation and development cooperation

covers a wide variety of topics and working areas and places high demands on experts and managers in this field. In general, you work worldwide and for different actors and institutions. The professional challenges are becoming ever greater and the solutions ever more complex. Those who want to enter the professional field therefore not only need good specialist knowledge, an interdisciplinary approach and a high level of motivation, but also the ability to work with people and organisations in an interculturally sensitive manner and to accompany processes.

Why SLE? – 5 strong reasons:

1. Boost your career opportunities

Over 90% of SLE graduates successfully enter the professional field within one year. Whether at international organizations, NGOs, ministries or in academia- SLE is a recognized launchpad for your career.

2. Grow personally – as a team player and expert

You'll develop your technical, social, and intercultural competencies in a collaborative, inspiring learning environment with clear practical relevance.

3. Theory meets practice – and becomes directly applicable

We provide essential expertise, conduct applied research with innovative concepts, and stay at the cutting edge of current discussions. As a university institution, SLE bridges the gap between theory and practice by translating scientific knowledge into real-world applications and incorporating practical experience into academic discourse. We share our findings with the public and remain deeply engaged with the latest global developments.

4. Think critically, act globally

We question global inequalities, promote a transformative mindset, and advocate for diversity, inclusion, and anti-racist perspectives. At the same time, we apply tools for the co-creation of knowledge and teach methods for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration. We focus on action-oriented, experiential learning and problem-solving, empowering you to tackle real-world challenges effectively.

5. Strong connection to the professional field

Whether through our Joint International Research Projects (JIRP), practical case studies, or personalised mentoring – you'll be expertly prepared for the challenges and opportunities of international cooperation.

Programme overview

Duration: 12 months (January – December), including a 3-month research phase in partner countries
Location: Berlin + partner countries worldwide
Funding: 1300€ monthly scholarship, child allowance if applicable
More info & application: https://www.sle-berlin.de/en/

Application requirements:

- completed Master's or Diploma degree (with good to excellent grades)
- excellent proficiency in English (additional languages, e.g. German or UN languages, are a plus)
- strong interest in development cooperation (e.g. internships abroad)
- citizenship of an EU member state or an ODA recipient country (OECD DAC list for funding eligibility)

SLE is committed to diversity, inclusion, and family-friendliness -

applications from the Global South are particularly encouraged.

Application deadline:

Apply from 1st May to 30th June 2025 at https://www.sle-berlin.de/en/study/admission-application/

Humboldt University Berlin, Faculty of Life Sciences Centre for Rural Development (SLE)

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