

The University of Passau owes its strong visibility and good reputation to excellent research, innovative teaching and its tight-knit international academic networks. Some 12,000 students and more than 1,300 staff study and work on our university campus, which is located a stone's throw from the historical Old Town of Passau and combines state-of-the-art technical infrastructure with award-winning architecture. Internationally successful high-tech companies and a vibrant start-up scene, coupled with a rich culture and Lower Bavarian traditions, give Passau and the surrounding area a special appeal that makes it a great place to live and work.

The **research group “Bioeconomy Economics” (Dr Terese Venus)** of the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems of the University of Passau invites applications for

three doctoral positions

in applied economics, resource economics, agricultural economics, development economics, environmental economics or related fields.

The research group – Bioeconomy Economics

Many countries and international organisations promote the bioeconomy as the global solution to sustainable development. As developing countries face the challenge of fostering economic growth under the constraint of environmental regulation, the bioeconomy can bridge the development gap between agrarian economies and sustainable industrialisation by creating industries based on biological resources and bioprocesses. This newly established research group addresses the role that institutions, culture and decision-making of individual actors play in the development of global bio-based value webs and transition to a sustainable bioeconomy.

The project

We focus on a rapidly growing stream of biomass: residues from tropical fruits for higher value-added bio-products. We investigate their potential, socioeconomic and ecological implications and market links in the global bioeconomy. This research will span three tropical regions: Latin America, West Africa and Southeast Asia and connect case studies in Costa Rica, Ghana and the Philippines to European markets through evolving biomass-based value webs. The overarching goal is to bridge the gap between technical knowledge of the bioeconomy and socio-economic realities in developing countries. On the technical side, we focus on tropical fruit residues for higher value-added bio-products. The socio-economic side encompasses the adaptive capacity of individuals, markets and institutions to change within the global bioeconomy.

The faculty

The School of Business, Economics and Information Systems undertakes research in development economics, social policy and family economics, international economics and trade as well as the economics of institutions, governance and corruption. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has a focus on development sociology and sustainability with a special regional expertise in South and Southeast Asia.

What we offer

The positions will start in **March 2023** and will be remunerated with an internationally competitive salary with social security and healthcare contributions. These research positions are fully funded and include office space, equipment, research expenses and travel grants. The research group is generously funded by the German Federal Ministry for Research and Education (BMBF) under the programme “Bioeconomy and Societal Change”.

Examples of previous research groups can be found here: <https://www.bioecon-societal-change.de>.

Doctoral researchers will be closely mentored by the group leader and work in close collaboration with the other research group members. They will benefit from the University’s vibrant international community composed of junior and senior researchers and regularly present their progress at seminars, workshops and conferences. They will be encouraged to pursue interdisciplinary training through courses and a research stay abroad to promote internationally competitive top-level research about the bioeconomy. Further, the doctoral candidates will have access to a wide range of doctoral-level courses offered by the University of Passau and the Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics (BGPE).

What you provide

We are looking for aspiring early career researchers with a strong interest in and an openness to conducting interdisciplinary research at an internationally competitive level. The successful candidate will have recently gained a master’s degree in applied economics, resource economics, agricultural economics, development economics, environmental economics or related fields or be near completion.

The position requires strong quantitative skills (e.g. econometrics, statistics) and the ability to work with complex micro data sets in STATA or R. An interest in qualitative approaches (e.g. focus groups, stakeholder analysis etc.) and interdisciplinary analysis (e.g. using GIS, life-cycle analysis) is desirable.

Field experience in one or several countries in the Global South is desirable. Candidates should have an excellent command of English. Further, they should have an interest in learning or demonstrate proficiency in one of the languages of the case-study countries (i.e. Spanish, Tagalog etc.). Candidates should be flexible team workers with good planning and organisational skills and are expected to have basic knowledge of German and a willingness to keep perfecting their German during their employment at the University of Passau.

Job description

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to study towards a doctorate and conduct research in relation to the research undertaken by the group. Candidates are expected to carry out field work in the country or region (i.e. Costa Rica, Ghana or the Philippines) on which their research is centred, present their work at international conferences and workshops and engage with the implementing agency, for instance the German Federal Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF), and international organisations such as the OECD, the World Bank or the United Nations.

Appointment and salary

The earliest starting date for these positions is **1 March 2023**. Remuneration for the position is in line with pay grade TV-L E13 of the German public-sector salary scale, with the full range of social benefits applicable for public-sector employees. The position is offered at 75% full-time equivalent (0.75 FTE) and with a fixed term of three years, although an extension by another year is possible.

The University of Passau is committed to gender equality and wishes to increase the number of female academic employees: women are therefore expressly encouraged to apply. Moreover, this position is suitable for candidates with disabilities. Persons who are registered disabled are given preference over non-disabled applicants who do not otherwise have statutory preferential status if their overall personal aptitudes, skills and qualifications are equal.

How to apply

The application deadline is 20 January 2023.

To apply, please send **a single pdf file** comprising a cover letter, your CV, copies of relevant degree certificates and transcripts, your earliest starting date and a short sample of your writing (e.g. Master's thesis etc.) to Ms Christiana Augsburg, DevEcon@uni-passau.de. For specific questions regarding the position, please contact the research group leader, Dr Terese Venus (BioEcon@uni-passau.de). In your cover letter, please describe your experience, career ambitions, interest in this research and indicate your preference for field work in one of the three case study countries: Costa Rica, Ghana or the Philippines.

Emailed applications are kept on file for six months after the conclusion of the appointment procedure, whereupon they are deleted from our systems. Please visit www.uni-passau.de/en/university/current-vacancies for our data privacy statement.