PhD-Program International Health

Background

The Center for International Health (CIH^{LMU}) at Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU), Munich, was established in 2009 as an integrative institution for the coordination of already existing projects on development cooperation & tropical disease research at LMU. Primary objective is to promote educational and research activities within developing countries, in order to establish and enhance a generation of scientists that will be able to contribute to the resolution of local and regional development-related problems, particularly in the field of health.

The CIH^{LMU}-PhD-Program offers academic education and a research environment to scientists from developing countries, with special focus on the Millennium Development Goals. The duration of the full time program is three years explicitly, starting in October every year, the program language is English.

PhD-Projects

PhD-Students at CIH^{LMU} are required to propose their own research project, as well as a local supervisor from their home institution or university. The research should take place preferably in a developing country, or within co-operations between LMU and the home institution or university of the applicant. Once accepted, the PhD-candidates are matched with an adequate scientific co-supervisor at LMU. Sufficient funding and support for the proposed project should be available from the applicants' home institution or from outside funds. CIH^{LMU} does not provide research funding on its own but may assist in applications for outside funding.

Generally, applicants are advised to develop their project plans and build up contact to a potential local supervisor well in advance.

Research Focus Subjects

CIH^{LMU} offers particular expertise in the following subjects:

- Infectious diseases and inflammatory disorders
- Occupational health
- Epidemiology
- Health systems research
- Mother and child health
- Non-communicable diseases
- Clinical trials
- Medical education

However, scientists focusing on other issues are encouraged to apply for the PhD-Program as well, since LMU provides sound expertise in the whole spectrum of health research.

Training Modules

Three training module blocks of two to three months duration each are held at LMU in Munich

1. Basic health and research education, establishing a common level of knowledge, with special emphasis on health problems of low-income-countries
2. Specialized advanced modules, focusing on the individual research subjects
3. Finalization of thesis and defence, preparation for work life as a scientist

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Research Activity

The periods in between the module blocks are dedicated to the research project. Through a total of 28 months, students will have to communicate with the co-supervisor at LMU through a web-based CIH^{LMU}-Portal. Every two months a mandatory project progress report, commented upon by both supervisors, is to be submitted through the portal.

PhD-Student Commitment expected at CIH^{LMU}

- Physical absence from LMU while researching abroad makes a highly motivated and reliable attitude a prerequisite
- Reliability in self- and time-management, documented by timely submission of concise progress reports. Explicit aim is the timely finalization of your PhD
- Attendance to and thorough involvement in the tight schedule of modules, held at LMU, Munich
- Successful completion of training modules, some of which will be subject to examination
- Dedication and competence to present project results to an expert audience at regular intervals

Requirements

- University degree in medicine, master degree in health related sciences
- Provision of a research project, related to health and development, along with a supervisor, reliably committed to accompany the project over the whole period
- English proficiency

CIH^{LMU}-PhD-Scholarship

Selected outstanding candidates from low- and middle-income-countries and from official CIH^{LMU}-Partner-Institutes may be eligible for a CIH^{LMU}-PhD-Scholarship. Please refer to the CIH^{LMU}-website for details on current availability and coverage of scholarships.

Fees

Currently there is no PhD-program tuition fee. Please refer to the CIH^{LMU}-website for details on expected living costs in Munich, costs on mandatory health insurance, and on costs arising from mandatory excursions as part of the PhD-curriculum. Please note that CIH^{LMU} does not provide research funding on its own and that appropriate funding for the PhD research has to be secured by outside resources.

Further Information and Application

All Applications are redirected through an online-registration- and application-tool. Application periods are December, to early March for the term beginning in October the same year. Notifications on acceptance are issued around June each year.

Please refer to the CIH^{LMU}-website at: www.cih.lmu.de

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DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst German Academic Exchange Service