

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Landwirtschaftlich-Gärtnerische Fakultät

**Ankündigung eines Studienprojekts im Sommer-semester 2008**  
**Announcement: Student Project summer semester, 2008**

**Master-Studiengang: INRM, Agricultural Economics, MRD**

Thema: „Food, Bioenergy and Development – Perceptions of Berlin Citizens“ (Nahrung, Bioenergie und Entwicklung – Ansichten der Berliner Bevölkerung)	LV-Nr. lt. VLVZ: <b>20 135</b> <b>20 145</b> <b>20 235</b> <b>20 238</b>
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verantw. Lehrkraft ([responsible teacher](#)):  
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Konrad Hagedorn 4 LV-Stunden

beteiligte Lehrkräfte:  
M. H. Ehlers, C. Kimmich, Dr. A. Thiel 4 LV-Stunden

Aufgabenstellung ([contents](#)):

Currently, issues concerning the field of teaching and research of the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture are present everywhere in the national and international media. They basically concern overlapping conflicts over water and land resources. In this context, the project aims to shed light on how citizens of Berlin perceive the issues underlying the debate on food provision, bioenergy and development. Specific concern will be the way Berlin citizens perceive the complexity and “tradeoffs” between development concerns, environmental sustainability and (food) poverty reduction. Among other things the project will ask citizens for their preferred options on how to deal with the current issues . It will try to carve out how urban citizens in a developed country like Germany relate to resource conflicts and their global dimensions concerning agriculture and its social and ecological impacts.

First, the project will start out with a review of the way the above issues are currently portrayed in the popular media considering principally German sources. Second, in an exploratory fashion scientific evidence on the various issues and interdependencies involved will be gathered. Third, students will develop research questions and a data gathering strategy on the basis of literature and document research. The outcome of the third step will be a questionnaire, a sampling strategy and a methodology for undertaking a Berlin wide representative survey on the issues described above. The questionnaire and methodology will undergo several test runs throughout the project. The survey design will be the outcome of the project. Subsequently, students analyse the data gathered throughout test runs using statistical tools. Furthermore, the project is to develop a communication strategy in relation to the media, policy makers and the general public in Berlin and beyond.

It is intended that the project will form the basis for a survey and communication efforts as part of a larger project.

Students will receive close guidance from supervisors throughout the project.

Umfang: **8** SWS

min. - max. Teilnehmerzahl ([no. of participants](#)): 4 to 6

Beginn (Tag, Zeit, Ort) ([start](#)): as soon as possible, to be agreed

Anmeldefrist für Studierende ([application deadline](#)): n/a

Ort der Anmeldung ([place of application](#)): Examination office, as well as Division of Resource Economics: [melf-hinrich.ehlers@staff.hu-berlin.de](mailto:melf-hinrich.ehlers@staff.hu-berlin.de)

Vorbesprechung (Tag, Zeit, Ort) ([pre-discussion](#)): On request, to be agreed

Prüfungsart ([kind of exam](#)): Final report and presentation

Geplante Exkursion:

Excursions would need to be self-organised. In the Berlin and Brandenburg area bioenergy plants and farms as well as political organisations could be targeted.

Besondere Hinweise (z.B. empfohlene Vorkenntnisse, Literaturhinweise, andere Studiengänge usw.) ([special details](#)):

It would be useful, if the group encompasses at least 4 students fluent in German, both written and spoken. In addition, some student members of the project should have good statistical skills and at best also experience with computer packages., However, this does not mean that all students should have these skills. It is aimed to have a useful range of skills among the students participating in the student project.

There are no further requirements, except for a genuine interest in the topic and general willingness to engage in team work and with policy makers and the media.

Berlin, den 25.04.2008

Tel.:

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