



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



Supported by  
giz

# NELGA Fellowship Programme

## Overview

The Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) is a partnership of over 70 leading African universities and research institutions with proven leadership in education, training and research on land governance. The network is established by the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), formerly Land Policy Initiative (LPI), in cooperation with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The purpose of NELGA is to enhance the role of African universities and researchers in the field of land policy and land management, with due regard to marginalised groups, smallholders, pastoralists, and women.

- Enhancing training opportunities and curricula on land governance in Africa;
- Promoting demand driven research on land policy;
- Connecting scholars and researchers across Africa;
- Creating data and information for monitoring and evaluation on land policy reforms;
- Strengthening policy-research linkages.

## Achievements so far

From 2016 to 2022, a scholarship program for Master and PhD studies to strengthen human and institutional capacities for land governance has been implemented. A total of **141 scholarships** have been awarded to students from over **20 African countries**. **101 scholarships** were awarded to Master's and PhD students at Ethiopia's Bahir Dar University, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Ardhi University in Tanzania, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana, Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Sciences Hassan II (IAV) in Morocco, and University of Western Cape/PLAAS in South Africa.

**Seven scholarships** have been awarded for the **exchange of university staff** between the NELGA universities, while in the meantime **34 research fellowships** were awarded.

## NELGA fellowship program

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) supports NELGA through a fellowship programme available for young academics and professionals from African Union member states. The program is designed to strengthen human and institutional capacities for land governance at central institutions of land policy in Africa.

### The fellowship programme consists of 3 components:

- fellowships for postdoctoral research projects
- short-term research grants and
- accompanying measures

## Postdoctoral Fellowships

The NELGA Postdoctoral Fellowships aim to promote demand-driven research on land governance in Africa, in order to strengthen science-based land policy development and implementation.

Emphasis will be given to research projects addressing the following key areas:

- Institutions and Land Transactions
- Tenure Rights
- Survey and Land Information Management
- Socio-Economic Aspects of Land Governance

Young scientists with completed PhD degrees are eligible to apply for a one-year funding period in the field, at a state or state-recognized institution of higher education or a non-university research institute in any African country. To ensure the transfer of research results to society and policy, the fellowship will be accompanied by support measures for scientific publications and trainings in science communication.

## Short-term research grants

The programme also provides research fellowships for young African researchers at post-graduate level. Applicants must be enrolled or be staff members at one of the NELGA network universities or associated institutions and have a background in land governance/ land management or a related field.



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



NELGA Alumni from Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

The fellowships are tenable in the field, at a state or state-recognised institution of higher education or a research institute in Africa and awarded for a period of one to three months. Applications, including a detailed description of the research proposal and a work schedule, can be handed in at least three months before the intended research project.

### Accompanying measures

Funding can also be provided for accompanying measures related to the fellowship programme, including but not limited to flexible support for trainings, scientific publications, alumni and network meetings, policy dialogues, curricular review, and other measures. Applications must demonstrate a connection to land governance, land management, land administration, land economics or a related field. The target groups for the accompanying measures are African fellowship holders and alumni from the NELGA

Programme; universities, research institutions and other educational institutions from the NELGA network; experts associated with NELGA and other relevant participants and practitioners involved in land management/land governance training and educational related issues. Applications to the DAAD can be submitted throughout the year, but these must normally be submitted three months prior to the event date.



*“The scholarship programme is very helpful in creating connections with global researchers. It helps in experience-sharing, knowledge transfer and circulation. It also supports me in my future career as a*

*Thanks to the programme, I hope to be able to contribute to resolving some of the issues related to land in Ethiopia.”*

*- Firehiwot Gojjam, PhD scholarship holder  
(Bahir Dar University)*

### Contact

For more detailed information on funding opportunities, application requirements and processes please contact the DAAD:

Ms Eva Rothenpieler ([rothenpieler@daad.de](mailto:rothenpieler@daad.de))  
<https://www.daad.de/en/slga/>

Published by Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA) Programme

Fitawrari Damtew Road  
In front of AU Gate No. 3  
P.O. Box 100009  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel.: +251 11 470 33 55

As at July, 2023

Responsible Arno Sckeyde, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Photos ©GIZ/Marina Korostina

Design/Layout W4 Büro für Gestaltung, Frankfurt/Germany  
SLGA is responsible for the content of this publication



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service