International cooperation – discover a fascinating profession

GIZ programmes for students and graduates.
We are GIZ

In Europe and around the world, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is synonymous with German values. As a modern federally owned company engaged in international cooperation for sustainable development, we develop viable customised solutions – made in Germany – for our commissioning parties, clients and partners.

We operate in many different fields, including economic development and employment promotion; health and basic education; governance and democracy as well as peacebuilding and security. What’s more, we are also a key driver of environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

In addition to our main commissioning party, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), we also provide services to the entire German Government. That means we support other German federal ministries and other national governments as well as international institutions such as the European Commission, businesses and foundations.

* placed by CIM, a joint operation of GIZ and the German Federal Employment Agency
Starting a career in international cooperation

If you start your career at GIZ, you will have a wide range of opportunities to choose from. Our programmes for students and graduates give you the chance to experience a varied, demanding and exciting working environment. GIZ’s broad thematic focus enables you to acquire extensive expertise while nurturing a broader perspective. This is important because interacting with different people and cultures also demands finely tuned interpersonal skills, openness, an interest in shaping developments, and flexibility.

Choose the programme that suits you best. On-the-job experience in Germany or in one of more than 120 GIZ partner countries across the globe brings variety to your studies and boosts your CV. Discover GIZ’s world of work – in Germany or abroad – through a student internship, a legal training period, the Development Cooperation (DC) Trainee programme or a junior position. We also support you with your final dissertation or thesis.

More details about GIZ, application deadlines and admission criteria for the various programmes can be found on the following pages.
Internship programme in Germany

Our three to six-month internships enable you to supplement your theoretical knowledge with practical experience by giving you an insight into GIZ’s work at its offices in Eschborn, Bonn or Berlin. Here you are tasked with practical assignments that you essentially carry out on your own under the guidance of your supervisor.

Training:
The topics and priority areas for each internship are agreed on individually with your supervisor. Besides learning about GIZ’s task profiles and its organisational regulations, you get to take part in the day-to-day business operations of your designated division and – under guidance – assist other members of your team with various tasks, including:

› Strategy development for the Sectoral and Country Departments
› Project steering, monitoring and evaluation
› Preparation and review of studies and expert appraisals
› Development of HR programmes in the Human Resources Department
› Offers, accounts and contracts in the Commercial Affairs and Finance Departments
› Management of projects commissioned by international clients; business acquisition (German Public Sector Clients and GIZ International Services).
Admission criteria:
› Completion of third semester of study, primarily in the field of economics, politics and communication, health or social science, agriculture/forestry, environmental engineering/economics, geography, business administration or economics
› High level of proficiency in a global language
› Very good computer skills (MS Office)
› Stress tolerance, capacity for team work and a willingness to assume responsibility

N.B.: You must begin the internship within six months of completing your studies.

Remuneration for interns:
€ 1,580 per month before tax

Applications:
You can apply for an internship at any time online.
Working abroad as an intern for GIZ

Our internships abroad comprise a three to six-month period of work and study in one of our partner countries. During this time, you can immerse yourself in an intercultural setting and deepen your understanding of the various problems our projects face in their given sector and region.

Training:

Your internship goals and actual assignments are agreed on individually in line with the project’s priority areas of work. During an internship abroad, the focus is on:

› Analysing, planning and evaluating project activities
› Working on special technical tasks within the project
Admission criteria

› Completion of third semester of study, primarily in the field of economics, politics and communication, health or, social science, agriculture/forestry, environmental engineering/economics, geography, business administration or economics
› A high level of proficiency in a global language
› Very good computer skills (MS Office)
› High level of cultural sensitivity country of assignment and a capacity for team work
› Flexibility, stress tolerance and willingness to assume responsibility

N.B.: You must begin the internship within six months of completing your studies.

Remuneration for interns:
€ 1,580 per month before tax, plus an additional country-specific allowance

Applications:
You can apply for an internship online at any time during the year.
Junior positions

Have you just graduated or recently embarked on your career and are now looking for the right employer? We look forward to receiving your application.

As a young professional with up to two years of relevant occupational experience, you can apply for one of our junior positions. This is a good way to join the company and start working in the field of German international cooperation. We offer fixed-term employment contracts that give you a chance to grow your career prospects – not only with GIZ but with international organisations and non-governmental organisations, including the German private sector, public administration and academic institutions.

Current junior vacancies can be found in our jobs section at www.giz.de/jobs
We offer junior positions in our offices in Germany and in our partner countries across the globe. Our young professional assignments are highly varied:

- In our partner countries, young professionals quickly assume responsibility for specialist and management tasks under the guidance of a line manager.

- In Germany, young professionals primarily are involved in specialist activities, but will also take on some management tasks.

- In a regional division or in GIZ International Services, young professionals are responsible for administrative, management and commercial work at GIZ.

- In the Human Resources Department, young professionals work on issues such as human resources management and support.
Benedict Hartmann

**Position:** Intern in the sector project on Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

**Tasked with:** Compiling specialist studies and background papers on vocational education; preparing, organising and holding events with international delegations.

**Experience abroad:** Central and South America, Africa and South-East Asia.

**Profile:** After leaving school, BMZ weltwärts programme in South Africa, undergraduate degree course in economics, studied in Mexico – UPAEP Puebla, master’s degree course in development economics.

**First contact with GIZ:** Through friends and acquaintances who work at GIZ.

**What’s good about an internship at GIZ:** I’m interested in the work structures that drive an international organisation for development cooperation.

“My tasks are very varied and keep me motivated the whole time. I particularly like the team spirit among colleagues here.”
Greta-Maria Röber

**Position:** Junior advisor in the sector project on Financial Systems Approaches to Insurance.

**Tasked with:** Advising on consumer protection and innovative sales channels. Her objective: to give more people access to high-quality insurance solutions.

**Profile:** Degree in Latin American regional studies (focusing on economics), postgraduate course at the German Development Institute (DIE).

**First contact with GIZ:** Through internships in Bolivia and Ghana.

**What’s good about an internship at GIZ:** Exciting topics in a dynamic working environment, plenty of scope for own ideas and lots of responsibility right from the start, specialised work in an international setting.

“I think it’s good to have the option of working in Germany and abroad, of cooperating closely with partners in the field and using international networks.”
Legal traineeship in Germany or abroad

Complex procurement orders, labour law, contracts with expert appraisers and consulting firms – these are just a few examples of the legal know-how GIZ requires for its operations in Germany and its 2,000 or more projects across the globe.

With us, you have the opportunity to undertake an internship abroad as part of your practical legal training. As a legal trainee in one of our projects, you are tasked with practical assignments that demand your own initiative – and some guidance and support from us, of course. This approach is designed to give you an insight into GIZ’s work on the ground and into the wider field of German international cooperation.

Alternatively, you can apply for an assignment in GIZ’s Legal Affairs and Insurance Unit. Our legal trainees work with our team of lawyers and engage directly with our clients, handling their queries independently. If you want to delve deeper, you can also focus on the technical planning and support GIZ provides to legal reform projects in its partner countries.
Student dissertations

Combining theory and practice
Students studying for a bachelor’s, master’s or other academic degree at a university or technical college work on a GIZ-related topic in collaboration with a contact at the company. There is also the possibility of combining your dissertation with an internship, particularly if yours is an empirical study. Please see the list of dissertation topics for more information. If you choose to write a dissertation with a practical application, please make sure your university supervisor is prepared to support you.

What does GIZ offer doctoral candidates?
GIZ also welcomes dissertations but can only supervise, doctoral theses in individual cases after close consultation with a contact responsible for the relevant subject area.

Do students get paid for writing their dissertation?
Students are not paid for writing a dissertation. If the dissertation is combined with an internship, you will receive the standard remuneration for interns.
The Development Cooperation (DC) Trainee Programme is a programme by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Implemented by GIZ on BMZ’s behalf, the programme aims to qualify young professionals for challenging professional or management positions throughout the entire DC landscape.

The DC training programme aims to give you wide-ranging insight into international cooperation. It starts with a month of preparation in Eschborn and Bonn followed by eleven months abroad – eight of which are spent in a GIZ project and three with a German or international organisation – and ends with a five-month assignment at BMZ in Bonn or Berlin. Graduates of this programme are particularly well qualified to take on a demanding position as a specialist or manager at GIZ or another German or international development institution.

Training:
In the DC Trainee Programme, interns learn about complex coordination and management tasks in international cooperation. Key elements include:
› Conceptual project planning
› Knowledge of project administration and planning and management methods
› Technical analyses and the evaluation of projects and project environments
› Contact cultivation; coordination with other DC organisations
› Project monitoring and evaluation
Admission criteria:
› A university degree, primarily in the field of economic, politics and communication, health or social science, agriculture/forestry, environmental engineering/economics, geography
› Initial professional experience (including internships)
› A high level of proficiency in a global language
› Leadership and management potential
› Flexibility, creativity and stress tolerance
› Initial experience of living and working abroad

Remuneration:
€ 1,900 per month before tax

Applications:
You can apply online for vacancies within the application deadline (1–30 September). Successful applicants begin the programme on 1 July of the following year.
More information about GIZ’s programmes for young professionals is available on our website at:

www.giz.de > Jobs and careers > Working for GIZ > Information for applicants > Information for young professionals.

Apply for current vacancies here using our online form.
We cannot accept any applications submitted by post.
Medical students please note: Our programmes do not cover a clinical clerkship/practical training year.