

Call for PhD Applications

The NCCR North-South has two PhD positions open, one for a Bolivian and another for a Mexican researcher. Researchers at the PhD level will develop their work in the context of a new NCCR North-South (<http://www.north-south.unibe.ch/>) research project on “*The transformation of multifunctional rural systems in Latin America*”. It will be carried out under the leadership of the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern in Switzerland in collaboration with the University Centre ‘Agroecología Universidad Cochabamba’ (AGRUCO) of the University Mayor de San Simón in Bolivia (www.agruco.org) and the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources – IMEC-BIO at the South Coast University Centre of the University of Guadalajara in Mexico (<http://www.cucsur.udg.mx/manantlan/>).

Project description: The expansion of export-oriented industrial agriculture is a great challenge to existing multifunctional agrarian systems in Latin America. Public policies in the different Latin American countries reflect varying degrees of state intervention in large-scale and small-scale agrarian systems. Therefore the NCCR North-South will initiate a new comparative research project in Bolivia and Mexico. Its *main objective* is the formulation, application and refinement of a conceptual and methodological framework that will make it more possible to understand – and act upon – the governance processes implied in the transformations of land use, access, distribution and use of natural resources and their implications for bio-cultural diversity.

What we offer

- A 3-year scholarship for a PhD thesis embedded in an NCCR North-South research Program, to be realized in Bolivia and Mexico.
- Joint supervision of the PhD thesis by the University of Bern and the University Mayor de San Simón (case of Bolivia) and the University of Guadalajara (case of Mexico).
- Possibility for an exchange and cooperation stay in Switzerland and in associated institutions of the JACS CCA and Bolivia.
- Participation in international training courses, project meetings and conferences, principally related to the NCCR North-South program.
- Integration of PhD researchers into an international multidisciplinary team of researchers.

What we require

- Applicants must have a nationally recognized MSc degree that allows them to enroll in a national or international PhD program.
- A disciplinary background in geography, environmental sciences, rural sociology, political ecology, agroecology, sociology, political sciences, agronomy, or related specializations.
- Experience in field research related to issues concerning the transformation of multifunctional rural systems (‘nueva ruralidad’) in Latin America.
- Readiness to work in an international multidisciplinary team of researchers.
- Working knowledge of English (or willingness to learn it on the basis of an intensive course before being admitted to the PhD program); this is important for facilitating exchange with researchers working in regions outside Central and South America. Knowledge of an indigenous language of the country is also desirable.

Application

Send your CV, publication list, MSc Certificate, copy of MSc Work, two letters of recommendation, together with a letter of intent for the PhD program (in Spanish or English) to:

Stephan.Rist@cde.unibe.ch.

Deadline for applications: 20 February, 2010.

Start of work is 1 March 2010