

May 18, 2012

Enclosure:

Good standing-rules for students entering the Bonn Graduate School of Economics (BGSE) with a bachelor

In order to receive a grant, one has to meet the following good standing-rules:

FIRST YEAR

- 1st semester:
 - passing the exams in all four PhD basic courses with an average of 2.3 or better
- 2nd semester:
 - passing the exams in four advanced courses with a cumulative average of 1.9 or better. These four courses must include one topics course plus three of the following four:
 - microeconomics II (BGSE)
 - macroeconomics II (BGSE)
 - econometrics II (BGSE)
 - financial economics

SECOND YEAR

- 3rd semester:
 - passing the exams in four additional advanced courses, including at least one topics course, with a cumulative average of 1.7 or better
- 4th semester:
 - presentation of first research ideas in a brown bag seminar
 - finding a first supervisor

THIRD YEAR

- 5th semester:
 - written draft of a paper which holds the promise of becoming part of the dissertation
- 6th semester:
 - presentation in one of the BGSE workshops

FOURTH YEAR

- 7th semester:
 - finding a second supervisor
 - two finished papers and clear ideas about the third one
- up to the 8th semester:
 - passing all four topics courses required for the doctoral examination

UP TO THE 9TH SEMESTER

- finding a third supervisor, third paper, defence
- no grants beyond the 9th semester

In general, students starting at the BGSE immediately after having finished a bachelor program receive a grant when reaching the good standing after the 1st semester. Grants are given at an introductory level for the following two semesters (currently € 800/ month, tax free) and are raised to dissertation level after the 3rd semester (currently € 1.103/month, tax free).

Miscellaneous

Students receiving grants by the BGSE and/or use office space are obliged to be present and participate in the graduate school activities unless they have been granted a leave of absence. Every student is entitled to 26 days of vacation per academic year. It is not possible to go on vacation while the university is in session (*Vorlesungszeit*) as well as during the exam periods (proctoring of exams).

Teaching assistantships on top of a grant by the BGSE

The BGSE encourages its students to take over teaching assistantships in order to gain valuable teaching experience. Anyhow, for the following reasons, the BGSE has decided to approve such teaching assistantships on top of a grant only after the 5th semester:

- Absolute priority has to be given to the students' work on their dissertation. Since in a number of cases doctoral students face more difficulties in writing the first paper of their dissertation than anticipated, it does not seem advisable to take over teaching responsibilities before the first paper is written.
- The German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG) expects doctoral students to finish their dissertation within 36 months. The BGSE makes every endeavor to allocate additional funds to be able to finance students for 12 more months. Given these circumstances, everything that may prolong the time until finishing a dissertation should be avoided or at least, be kept on a reasonable level.

In case a student can present a written draft of a first paper before the 5th semester, the BGSE may allow this student to take over teaching assistantships earlier.