



Application Information for the Doctoral Positions at the Cologne Graduate School of Economics (CGS-E)

Deadlines

Applications for admission to the CGS-E for the academic year starting October 2019 are now open until March 31st 23:59 CET. Applicants who present a concrete competing offer by another doctoral program as well as extraordinarily qualified candidates may ask the CGS-E to reach an earlier decision (rolling admission).

General Information

We encourage you to thoroughly familiarize yourself with this document. This will help you prepare the best application possible.

The CGS-E, as part of the Cologne Graduate School in Management, Economics and Social Sciences (CGS), invites applications for doctoral positions by outstanding students in economics or related subjects. The awarding of doctoral positions is based on previous academic performance, research potential, expertise, and fit in terms of research interests.

The two-stage CGS-E graduate program offers supervision for research in all major fields of economics, preferably related to the research areas of the Cluster of Excellence “ECONtribute: Markets and Public Policy”, e.g. Behavioral Economics, Market Design, Organizational Design, Consumer Protection, Political Economy, Distribution and Financial Stability (see <http://selten.institute/econtribute/>). In the first stage of the CGS-E graduate program students complete their graduate level course work in a 2-year M.Sc. in Economic Research program. Upon successful graduation, students enter the second (dissertation) stage. Applications for doctoral positions at the CGS-E are for this second stage. Prerequisite for doctoral positions therefore is a previous Master’s degree in Economic Research or of an equivalent program. Students with a related Master’s degree (e.g. in Economics, Econometrics or Finance) are also invited to apply for the first stage of the graduate program. Credit transfers and stipend funding may be available. For details on the Master in Economic Research, please refer to <https://www.wiso.uni-koeln.de/en/studies/master/master-economic-research/>.

Successful applicants will receive funding for the dissertation stage. The CGS-E commits funding its doctoral students for at least three years. No tuition fees are charged. The particular type of funding will depend on the students’ previous academic degree. Students already holding a Master’s degree in Economic Research will be offered an employment contract (50% TVöD-13)¹. Students not yet holding a Master’s degree in Economic Research who still need to attend courses in order to complete their required coursework can receive other types of

¹ With full social security benefits such as health insurance, unemployment insurance, pension insurance, and long-term nursing care insurance.



funding (e.g. scholarships²). Upon completion of their Master in Economic Research they will be offered a contract. In case the dissertation stage takes longer than three years, the CSG-E will provide assistance to secure subsequent funding.

The admission committee will review the applications and will decide on who will be interviewed until May, 1st. Interviews take place in Cologne and travel costs will be reimbursed by CGS-E. Interviews with overseas candidates are generally conducted via Skype.

Application Documents

The following information is required for an application:

1. **CV**
2. **Letter of motivation** explaining your reasons for being interested in the PhD program at the CGSE. Please discuss your goals and your research interests. Your statement should be in English (2-3 pages).
3. **University entrance qualifications:** A transcript from high school (Abiturzeugnis for German residents) is required.
4. **Certificates of the university degrees already obtained (B.Sc. and M.Sc. or equivalent)**
5. **Academic transcripts** showing coursework taken and grades received. Where feasible, transcripts should indicate cohort rank or distinction. If you have not yet finished your current degree, please attach a preliminary grade report.
6. **GRE:** All applicants must upload their General GRE's test taker's copy in the online application as well as send it via the testing service. Test scores should not be older than two years. The GRE institution code is 7397.
7. **Language Proficiency Certificate (i.e. TOEFL or IELTS):** The TOEFL institution code is 6450. This requirement is waived for candidates from English-speaking countries and graduates from study programs entirely taught in English. For this, please upload a document proving your citizenship of an English-speaking country or documentation by the university confirming that your degree's language of instruction was English.
8. **2 Letters of recommendation** from faculty who are able to assess your academic ability and potential for original research. These letters need to be signed and on official letterhead. Evaluators shall directly submit the letters in electronic form to office-cgse@wiso.uni-koeln.de. Evaluations consist of the [evaluation form](#) and a free written statement by the evaluator.
9. **Supplementary materials:** You may include writing samples like Master/Bachelor theses, documentation of extracurricular activities, certificates of employment, etc.

² Scholarship holders do not receive social security benefits and are required to pay for their health insurance out of this amount.



For any document not in English or German a translation is required. At this stage of the application process it is not necessary to notarize the translations. Conditional on acceptance, you will need to provide notarized translations.

Applications including two reference letters need to be submitted until March 31st 23:59 CET. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application

Please send your application to office-cgse@wiso.uni-koeln.de in a **single PDF attachment** using a file name using the form [lastname]_[firstname]_application_cgse.pdf. The ordering of materials should follow the order described in the section 'Application Documents', excluding the letters of reference directly sent by the evaluator. Please make sure that the PDF size does not exceed 10MB. We will confirm the receipt of your application package via email.