

Gefördert durch die

**Hans Böckler
Stiftung** 
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Call for scholarships for the PhD program

“The Political Economy of Socio-Ecological Transformation”

at the University of Duisburg-Essen

As part of the PhD program funded by the Hans Boeckler Foundation (HBS)
at the Institute for Socio-Economics and the Institute for Work, Skills and Training
(IAQ) at the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE)

up to eight doctoral scholarships will be awarded starting June 1, 2026.

Successor to the HBS PhD program “Political Economy of Inequality”, the PhD program examines socio-economic inequalities in the causation of the climate crisis, the unequal impacts of ecological damage, inequalities in the context of alternative transformation strategies, and the distribution of the costs and benefits of transformation. The program's research practice is characterized by an interdisciplinary and applied socio-economic approach. It integrates economic inequality research, political economy, and economic sociology, as well as current economic and socio-political reform discourses.

The doctoral students will actively participate in the Institute's activities and have a variety of opportunities to gain further academic qualifications. In addition to academic enhancement, the PhD program aims to highlight the social relevance and concrete options for action in the field of socio-ecological transformation.

The PhD program is headed by Prof. Miriam Rehm, PhD (Institute for Socio-Economics, UDE, spokesperson), Prof. Dr. Jakob Kapeller (Institute for Socio-Economics, UDE), Prof. Dr. Ute Klammer (Institute for Work, Skills and Training, UDE), Prof. Dr. Paul Marx (Institute for Political Science and Sociology, University of Bonn), Prof. Dr. Till van Treeck (Institute for Socio-Economics, UDE) and Prof. Dr. Achim Truger (Institute for Socio-Economics, UDE).

The following research questions are the focus of the program:

1. What are the descriptive and causal links between economic inequality and the climate crisis?
2. How can climate policy and distribution policy be integrated?
3. What macroeconomic inequality implications and dynamics arise in the context of socio-ecological transformation?
4. Which actors, power relations and lines of conflict can enable progressive climate policy?

The accompanying program is offered by the Institute for Socio-Economics (IfSO) together with the Institute for Work, Skills and Training (IAQ) and other cooperation partners. It includes a regular colloquium, methods courses, summer schools, regular thematic mini-courses and workshops on science communication, as well as the opportunity for research stays at relevant institutions in Germany and abroad.

Further information on the contents of the PhD program can be found at: <https://www.uni-due.de/soziooekonomie/promotionskolleg>

Doctoral students will receive a monthly grant of €1,750 (consisting of a basic grant of €1,650 and a research allowance of €100) starting winter semester 2025. In addition, up to €100 health insurance allowance and, if applicable, family allowances can be paid.

If the personal requirements are met, there is the option of supplementing the scholarship with a position at IfSO subject to social insurance contributions amounting to 25% of a full-time position (TVL-13).

The scholarships run for a maximum of three years. The scholarship holders are provided with workplaces at the University of Duisburg-Essen. A committed, high presence in Duisburg is expected in order to be able to use synergies between the research projects. The program language is German. Scholarship holders have access to the Hans Boeckler Foundation's extensive ideational support program.

The following documents must be submitted for the first selection round by September 10, 2025 at the latest: Letter of motivation, CV and a 5-page outline (excl. literature) for an exposé for a possible dissertation project. A report and the HBS application form do not need to be submitted for the first round. Interviews will take place on September 17 and 18 2025 via zoom. In the second step, an application with a 10-page exposé and other application documents will be submitted to the HBS by November 2 in consultation with the potential supervising professors.

Decisions on the doctoral scholarships are made according to the BMBF guidelines and the HBS selection criteria (<https://www.boeckler.de/112868.htm>). Applicants are expected to have a GPA above average and a proven track record of socio-political, union, or social involvement. Prerequisite for application is knowledge of the German language at B2 level, at the start of the program.

Please send the application documents in electronic form by September 10, 2025 at the latest to: Prof. Miriam Rehm (e-mail: kolleg.ifso@uni-due.de).