

Name: Aspasia Werner

Country of Origin: Germany

Finished SIA: 2015

My name is Aspasia Werner. I have finished the “organic” SIA program in Autumn 2015. Given my background in Agricultural Sciences as well as the opportunity to study at two different universities, this study course allowed me to broaden my expertise within the field of my particular interest. Yet, reflecting back, I can say, that I enjoyed the international offset of this study course a lot. Through the close interaction with students from different cultural backgrounds I was frequently challenged to reflect on my own opinions from a different perspective. Therefore I feel the study course not just offered me a valuable educational platform to build a career but also provided me with a rich experience of how people can grow together and successfully accomplish a project.

After the study program, I worked as an agricultural representative for an agricultural project based in Latin America for around one year. Here the knowledge and interpersonal connections I gained through the SIA program supported me majorly in bridging my theoretical knowledge into practical outcomes.

Currently, I am a doctoral student for the research training group “GlobalFood”, at Göttingen University. This international research group is concerned with the changes taking place in global food markets and agrifood systems. My topic is based around personal and cultural influences on food choice and dietary behavior. In regard to the PhD. I feel, the SIA program provided me with a solid base in scientific writing and presentation skills.

For me, the study course was a rich experience that I enjoy remembering. The whole structure of the program, as well as the connections to other students, coordination, and professors were and partially still are important and valuable for me.