Comment by Sonja Brangewitz

I have been a member of the International Research Training Group EBIM from 2008 to 2012. In this graduate program I liked in particular the idea of a mathematical approach to economics, the active involvement in research and the international exchange which is ensured by the cooperation between Bielefeld University and the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

The structured study program of EBIM, several internal workshops and mini courses helped me to find open questions to investigate in my doctoral thesis. Moreover, I had the possibility to participate and to present at international conferences. The cooperation with the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne gave me the possibility to write my thesis in form of a co-tutelle and to spend my second year in Paris. The long and intensive cooperation between the two universities and the idea of a joint supervision helped me to successfully proceed with the research for my doctoral thesis. One personal highlight of my time within EBIM was definitely the Workshop on Markets and Games held at the Research Center for Games and Economic Behavior (RCGB), Shandong University, China, October 2011. Thanks to financial support for equal opportunities I had the possibility to present and discuss essential parts of my co-tutelle there.

Summing up EBIM offers a wide range of opportunities to participate actively in the academic life on an international basis.

For more statements visit our homepage:
www.bigsem.de/equal-opportunities
Why doing a doctorate?
A doctoral degree is the entrance card toward an academic career and delivers good opportunities to start a professional career elsewhere. Regardless which professional direction you choose, a doctoral degree in general, and in particular in economics and management is a personal gain.

BiGSEM
The Bielefeld Graduate School of Economics and Management (BiGSEM) offers a structured, internationally oriented doctoral program with a strong research orientation. The program is designed for three years of study and involves mandatory coursework, participation in doctoral and research seminars as well as the preparation of a doctoral thesis. Students choose one of two profiles: Economics or Management.

BiGSEM attracts researchers from all over the world and two international programs are carried out under its roof: the International Research Training Group „Economic Behavior and Interaction Models (EBIM)“ and the „European Doctorate in Economics – Erasmus Mundus (EDE-EM)“, involving seven distinguished European universities.

Financial support
Each academic year BiGSEM offers a limited number of fellowships. In addition, candidates are invited to apply for financial support from DAAD or similar bodies at the earliest possible date. Research assistant positions may also be a good opportunity to financing doctoral studies.

www.bigsem.de/application/funding

In particular, the program takes care of members with family by a broad variety of measures:
- additional family lump sum
- childcare
- extension of fellowships

In addition, several measurements on equal opportunities are offered:
- Mentoring and Coaching
- Additional travel expenses for female fellowships
- Bridge financing for an academic career after graduation

Doctoral studies and family life
Bielefeld University offers a lot of family support and is awarded being a family friendly university since 2006. It possesses baby care rooms and changing facilities all over the university or parent-child-rooms in the library. Besides it is running several childcare institutions.

www.uni-bielefeld.de/familie/

Specific support
The program movement assists female students and scientists to organize their academic career.

www.uni-bielefeld.de/mentoring/movement

The gender-portal gives a lot of general information about equal opportunities at Bielefeld University.

www.uni-bielefeld.de/gender