



"Empowering Chilean Hydrogen Students: Fostering Excellence in Hydrogen Education at German Universities"

Introduction

Germany and Chile share ambitious goals on the path to climate neutrality. The import of green hydrogen has been declared as one of the central pillars for achieving the goal of climate neutrality by 2045 by the German national hydrogen strategy. One of the most important challenges for the realization of hydrogen projects is the training of skilled workers. VNG AG is actively involved in the development of a CO₂-neutral hydrogen economy and the TU Bergakademie Freiberg has excellent research and training competencies in the field of hydrogen.

The "Empowering Chilean Hydrogen Students" scholarship program aims to provide outstanding students from Chile with the opportunity to pursue higher education in hydrogen-related fields at a leading German university, TU Freiberg. This program is designed to foster academic excellence, promote international collaboration, and contribute to the development of expertise in the field of hydrogen. In this vein, the VNG Foundation wants to support the training of skilled workers for the Chilean hydrogen economy, acquiring know-how in various hydrogen related fields which they can harness locally.

Parties

- VNG

VNG is a group of companies operating throughout Europe with over 20 subsidiaries, abroad, sustainable portfolio of gas and infrastructure services and more than 60 years of experience in the energy market. The Group has its headquarters in Leipzig, Germany, employs approximately 1,500 people and generated billed revenue of approximately 18.5 billion euros in the 2021 financial year.

- VNG Foundation

The foundation supports charitable and social projects in the fields of science, education, art, sport, culture and social affairs. In particular, the promotion of scientific exchange with national and international universities and research institutions in the core areas of "energy and environmental protection" are the main components of the foundation's funding activities.

- TU Bergakademie Freiberg

The TU Bergakademie Freiberg is a public university in the city of Freiberg, Saxony, Germany with 3,471 students. The University specializes in exploration, mining, extraction, processing, and recycling of natural resources, as well as developing new materials and researching renewable energy sources. Currently, it is the world's oldest mining and metallurgy university.

Concept

VNG AG, TU Bergakademie Freiberg and the VNG Foundation declared their intention to support Chilean specialists and young professionals through scientific and technical

programs at TU Bergakademie Freiberg related to the hydrogen economy. In this vein, the VNG foundation has set the goal to support Chilean specialists and young professionals through grants aimed at supporting them in their training purposes at TU Freiberg. The financial support entails **a total grant of EUR 30,000 which will be split among the selected candidates to provide them a monthly financial support throughout 24 months (2 years)**. The support program itself will be executed by TU Freiberg alumni organization "Freunde und Förderer der TU Bergakademie Freiberg e.V." Accordingly, students should be advised to obtain further funding through other scholarships (DAAD, IHK, etc.)

Scholarship Details:

- Eligibility: The scholarship is open to Chilean citizens who have completed their highschool and/or undergraduate studies and demonstrate a strong academic record, particularly in fields related to hydrogen, such as engineering, chemistry, environmental science, or renewable energy. The scholarship is targeting citizens from Chile's Southern Region but individuals from other regions are not excluded and are welcome to apply.
- Fields of Study: Scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to pursue a bachelor or master's programs in hydrogen-related disciplines offered by the TU Freiberg, e.g. the following English master programs:
 - Area: Mechanical and Process Engineering
 - Technology and Application of Inorganic Materials
 - Mechanical and Process Engineering
 - Chemical Engineering
 - Area: Geoscience
 - Geomatics for Mineral and Resource Management
 - Sustainable Mining and Remediation Management
 - Area: Economic Science
 - International Business and Resources in Emerging Markets

Additional English and German studies related to hydrogen production, transportation and usage are under development and may be added to this list.

- Duration: The duration of the scholarship will be of two years for each selected student (regardless of if it is bachelor or master's program), from the beginning of the study in Germany.
- Financial Support: The **scholarship amounts to 400 euros per month for a period of 24 months awarded to each selected student**. Each student can decide how to harness the financial support i.e., to cover tuition fees, living expenses, travel costs, health insurance, and other necessary expenses during the study period in Germany.

For any inquiries you may contact:

- Prof. Hartmut Krause: Hartmut.Krause@iwtt.tu-freiberg.de
- Almudena Nunez: almudena.nunez@vng.de