DOCTORAL PROGRAMS IN BERLIN
Berlin is the place to which I am most closely bound by human and scientific ties.

/// Albert Einstein
Welcome

Berlin is the place to be for doctoral researchers: five universities offer doctoral programs with excellent funding opportunities and join forces with outstanding non-university research institutions to generate a unique, vibrant academic environment.

This brochure will give you an insight into what Berlin has in store for early-stage researchers in all disciplines, ranging from ancient history to astrophysics – browse and be inspired!
“I really liked the holistic approach of the doctoral program: scientific technical training, soft-skill courses, interdisciplinary exchanges with fellow students and international visiting scholars. This special combination was fundamental for my academic career.”

/// Soyoung Q Park, South Korea
Berlin School of Mind and Brain
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"The networking amongst doctoral students is a great feature of Berlin for junior researchers. At BDPEMS, I really appreciate the fact that non-economists like myself also receive extensive training in acquiring research expertise."

/// Martin Pollrich, Germany
Berlin Doctoral Program in Economics and Management Science
Academic Research in Berlin

Berlin has a long history of academic excellence. The lives of some of the world’s most brilliant minds, like Albert Einstein, Alexander von Humboldt or Max Planck, are closely connected to Berlin. Today, the German capital is one of the largest and most diverse scientific regions in Europe and worldwide. Over 200,000 people teach, work, study and do research in the Berlin area.

The region is home to five excellent universities, eight universities of applied science, four art colleges, up to 30 universities of cooperative education, 22 technology parks and business incubators and over 70 non-university research institutes. Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin jointly operate the Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin. It is Europe’s largest medical school and one of Germany’s oldest hospitals.

Berlins research institutions, universities and companies welcome international researchers and offer excellent opportunities for doctoral students. In many cases, the working language is English. Numerous funding organizations support foreign PhD students.

The German Capital has a high standard of living. It is truly international and has a unique cultural range with a huge music and theatre scene. Graduates can expect a most inspiring and intriguing working and living environment.

Become a part of Berlin’s vibrant research community!
Doctorate in Germany

If you’re interested in taking a PhD, Germany offers flexible programmes tailored to individual needs, funding opportunities to finance your studies, and degrees that will make you highly competitive in today’s market. Join the growing number of international students pursuing PhDs in Germany, where English is the language of research and doctoral education is truly international.

Whichever path you choose, there are no tuition fees and plenty of schemes to help you finance your studies:

**Funding for a PhD through Individual Research**

Many doctoral candidates work as research or teaching assistants for a university professor, and are paid a competitive salary. Various German research organizations and foundations provide funding for PhD students.

**Funding for a PhD in a Structured Program**

PhD students at International Max Planck Research Schools or in Research Training Groups can obtain grants for up to three years to finance their studies. Graduate Schools (Graduiertenschulen) fund PhD students directly.

Whether you do your PhD on a topic in your own field, supervised individually by a university professor, or complete a structured doctoral program, your German doctorate will enable you to compete with the best for positions in industry or academia.
Formal Eligibility

Master’s Degree or German Diplom; in some cases also Bachelor’s Degree (fast track)

Earning a PhD through Individual Research (traditional model)
Individual professor-student relationship; professor supervises thesis
No explicit curriculum, work independently at your own pace
Often informal; subjective assessment by one professor

Earning a PhD in a Structured Program (newer model)
Structured research in teams; supervision by a group of professors and peer feedback
Systematic study program: courses, colloquia, guest lectures
Structured, formal admission process

Life Sciences
Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering
Social Sciences and Humanities

PhD Degree
Freie Universität Berlin is one of eleven institutions that were successful in all three funding lines of the Excellence Initiative, which was held by the German federal and state governments in 2012. It is a leading research institution and offers outstanding conditions for international doctoral candidates, scholars, and scientists. The traditional research campus in Dahlem, which has been home to Freie Universität Berlin since it was founded in 1948, has strongly influenced the city of Berlin. Such luminaries as Albert Einstein, Otto Hahn, and Lise Meitner conducted research here. Freie Universität’s dense network of scholarly and scientific institutions provides ideal conditions for research and teaching.

Networking in research – both internationally and across disciplines – is one of the core principles underlying the university’s current research activities and its strategy for the future. Freie Universität’s objective is to attract the best doctoral candidates, scholars, and scientists from all over the world. To this end, it has developed bilateral and international doctoral programs in recent years that offer excellent working conditions for doctoral candidates from abroad.

Freie Universität’s Center for International Cooperation maintains seven liaison offices around the world. They support the university’s efforts to recruit excellent doctoral candidates and junior scholars and scientists. Freie Universität’s Dahlem Research School (DRS) functions as a center for the promotion of junior scholars and scientists. It develops strategies to provide doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers with optimum support.
Freie Universität’s Dahlem Research School (DRS) supports academic excellence in graduate education and functions as a center for the promotion of junior researchers. It is responsible for developing strategies to provide doctoral candidates and postdoctoral fellows with optimum support. DRS also serves as a framework encompassing the outstanding structured doctoral programs with an international focus offered by Freie Universität. It has developed coherent standards in its programs and introduced a comprehensive training program.

Currently, around 900 doctoral candidates are enrolled in one of DRS’s 25 highly-competitive doctoral degree programs in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Area Studies, Natural and Life Sciences. DRS doctoral candidates benefit from excellent training and an educational environment where they can develop their full potential to achieve academic and professional goals.

The DRS Professional Development Program, which covers a wide range of subject areas, prepares doctoral candidates to engage in research and teaching across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

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**Facts**

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Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is home to an excellent graduate education for the best and brightest. Doctoral candidates are invited to look among the high-profile graduate programs in all major research fields to find the one that best suits their interests and abilities.

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is internationally known for the quality of its academic training and research. As one of eleven German universities, Humboldt-Universität was selected as “University of Excellence” by German Federal and State governments in June 2012. Among the top-tier public universities in Europe, Humboldt-Universität offers numerous excellent academic programs in the arts and sciences, mathematics, economics, and medicine; professors and students come from more than 130 countries.

Promoting structured doctoral education is a core objective of the university’s institutional strategy “Educating Enquiring Minds: Individuality – Openness – Guidance”. The Humboldt Graduate School offers several opportunities for enhancing one’s academic competencies as well as meeting and networking. Doctoral candidates at Humboldt-Universität have access to a range of academic resources and a large scientific community.

To provide the best-possible research and learning environments for doctoral candidates, Humboldt-Universität translates the knowledge and benefits of structured PhD-programs into an interdisciplinary curriculum for each individual student.
Humboldt Graduate School

Humboldt Graduate School is an umbrella organisation for doctoral education at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Its main tasks are to ensure quality standards in its programs and improve the conditions for doctoral candidates in general.

Humboldt Graduate School offers a wide range of services for its members as well as for individual doctoral candidates, including training in key competencies and mentoring as well as guidance and help for international candidates.

The Humboldt Graduate School programs are obliged to apply quality criteria based on international competitiveness, transparency and equal opportunities. They are also required to provide for adequate supervision and support.

Humboldt Graduate School acts as a quality assurance body as well as an extra-disciplinary service and support structure for their programs and doctoral candidates. The latter can expect high-quality doctoral education and outstanding career support. At present, Humboldt Graduate School has 21 structured programs. In the next three years, Humboldt-Universität will establish and fund a further 15 structured programs.

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Web: www.humboldt-graduate-school.de

Facts

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

8 Departments
1 Medical School (with FU Berlin)
33,540 Students
approx. 5,000 Doctoral Candidates
21 Doctoral Programs
approx. 1,000 Graduate School Students
Technische Universität Berlin is an internationally renowned research university with a rich tradition. Our academic activities are focused on achieving sharply-defined goals: building a distinctive profile for our university, ensuring exceptional performance in research and teaching, providing our graduates with excellent qualifications and ensuring that innovative research and societal responsibility go hand-in-hand.

Technische Universität Berlin strives to promote the dissemination of knowledge and to facilitate technological progress through adherence to the core principles of excellence and quality. Strong regional, national and international networking with partners in science and industry are an important aspect in these endeavors.

Remarkable synergy effects have been achieved through strategic collaborations with non-university research institutes, industrial partners and the universities of applied sciences in the region and beyond.

As a part of the outstanding research environment in Berlin and Brandenburg Technische Universität has defined key application areas:

- Materials, Design and Manufacturing
- Cyber-Physical Systems
- Energy Systems and Sustainable Resources
- Management, Infrastructure and Mobility
- Knowledge, Communication Systems, Human Health
TU Berlin supports successful academic careers all the way through from programs for inquisitive schoolchildren to preparation courses to support students in the doctoral and postdoctoral phase. Diversity is the key to TU-Docs approach to doctoral research, because different circumstances benefit from different supervision solutions - ranging from traditional employment in a university department via cooperation with industrial partners to Research Training Groups or comparable programs.

The TU-DOC Office for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Services supports all doctoral candidates at TU Berlin with information and individual advice. It aims to provide the best possible conditions for early stage researchers, starting with annual introduction sessions for new doctoral candidates in each faculty.

TU-DOC ensures that international doctoral candidates quickly find their feet in Berlin, acquire language skills that help them to get to know their host country and succeed academically thanks to excellent supervision and personal advice. The portfolio includes courses on Good Scientific Practice or Project Planning or the virtual college for Women in Doctoral Research.

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**Facts**

- **Technische Universität Berlin**
  - Departments
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- **7**
- **30,648**
- **approx. 2,500**
- **14**
- **approx. 350**
I’m enough of an artist to draw freely on my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited; imagination encircles the world.

/// Albert Einstein
Universität der Künste Berlin

Universität der Künste Berlin (UdK) is one of the biggest, most diversified and traditional universities of the arts worldwide.

The teaching offered at the four colleges of Fine Art, Design, Music and Performing Arts as well as at the Central Institute of Further Education encompasses the full spectrum of the arts and related academic studies in more than 40 courses. Having the right to confer doctorates and post-doctoral qualifications, the University of the Arts in Berlin is also one of Germany’s few art colleges with full university status.

Research at UdK covers a wide field: from experiments in art and design to applied research and classical research in art-related scientific fields. It is possible to work for a doctorate in any subject area at the individual colleges where the university can provide appropriately qualified supervision by academic staff. The prerequisite for doing a doctorate is a degree in a scientific or artistic-scientific study program. In addition to individual doctorates, you can also embark on a doctorate within the interdisciplinary Research Training Group “Knowledge of the Arts”.

Interested doctoral candidates are cordially requested to consult the Student Advisory Service or the coordinator of the Research Training Group. Further information: www.udk-berlin.de

Facts

- Departments
- Students
- Doctoral Candidates
- Doctoral Program
- Graduate School Students

Universität der Künste Berlin

4
3,660
approx. 160
1
12
Founded in 1991, the Universität Potsdam has developed to a unique center for science and technology within Germany. Five faculties form the pillars of the institution: the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Human Sciences, the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, and the Law Faculty. Special emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary areas beyond the teaching and research activities of the individual institutes. These fields include Cognitive Sciences, Functional Soft Matter, Complex Systems, Geosciences, Functional Ecology and Evolution, Plant Genomics and Systems Biology, Public Policy and Management, Unsettled Cultures, and Empirical Educational Studies.

Attractively located in close vicinity to the capital Berlin, Universität Potsdam is well-placed in a firmly-established and successful interdisciplinary infrastructure. Exploiting synergies is a matter of course: more than 50 joint professorships intensify the cooperation between the university and its non-university research partners.

Students interested in research have the opportunity to get involved in ongoing research projects during their studies and to finish with a doctoral dissertation, which is an additional incentive for them to engage in a scientific career. To increase academic support for PhD candidates, Universität Potsdam has founded the Potsdam Graduate School that spans the five faculties, making the academic site Potsdam even more attractive for young scholars from Germany and abroad.
Potsdam Graduate School (PoGS) strives to ensure optimum conditions during the PhD and Postdoc phase and offers an attractive research and funding environment for early stage researchers. It provides practical and financial assistance by awarding subsidies towards travel expenses and publication costs as well as proof-reading of professional publications in English.

Within PoGS, young researchers can profit from further education opportunities, such as a wide range of advanced training and qualification courses in different academic and non-academic fields. Additionally, the Potsdam Graduate School hosts interdisciplinary events for Potsdam Graduate School candidates and Postdocs in Potsdam. The different formats of these events create a forum for young researchers and facilitate national and international networking.

Potsdam Graduate School is setting national standards with its declared quality management for PhD projects. It has developed a comprehensive catalogue of criteria that are geared towards internationally acknowledged quality standards in structured doctoral education. Individual support and continuous mentoring are emphasized from the beginning of the doctoral phase.

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**Facts**

Universität Potsdam

- 5 Departments
- 19,972 Students
- 1,772 Doctoral Candidates
- 29 Doctoral Programs
- 683 Graduate School Students
Teaching should be such that what is offered is perceived as a valuable gift and not as a hard duty.

/// Albert Einstein
DOCTORAL PROGRAMS
I will do my doctorate here in Berlin, which I see as one of the best places for highly qualified training in the field of neuroscience.

/// Tian Zhang, China
International Graduate Program Medical Neurosciences
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The Berlin School of Integrative Oncology (BSIO) is a joint graduate school of the Charité, HU, FU and non-university research institutions.

BSIO, which is funded under the Excellence Initiative by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, offers an interdisciplinary program. Researchers in Haematology, Oncology, Genetics, Biochemistry, Surgery, Radiology, Computer Science as well as Social Studies and the Humanities collaborate closely at BSIO to train tomorrow’s molecular oncologists and physicians.

Focus

Cancer is one of the major challenges facing medicine and society. Fighting this disease is the focus of work at BSIO. Its mission is to understand the individual molecular blueprint of a tumor and develop customized therapy plans for patients. Such “personalized cancer medicine” is one of the graduate school’s core areas.

BSIO features a comprehensive curriculum as well as excellent research opportunities and creates substantive dialogue between bio-scientific research and clinical application, aiming to expedite the development of therapies. At the same time, experimental lab research receives important input, driving it to give the highest priority to urgent problems of clinical cancer therapy. Open to excellent M.Sc. (and B.Sc.) graduates in natural sciences as well as medical students and graduates, BSIO offers a structured three-year doctoral program including opportunities for international lab rotations, thus educating a new generation of cancer researchers.

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Deadlines: summer of each year
Places: 12-18 per year
Scholarships: 8-12 per year (PhD and MD)
The Berlin School of Mind and Brain is an international, English-language research school based at HU Berlin. Founded in 2006 as part of Germany’s Excellence Initiative, it offers a unique interdisciplinary three-year doctoral program in the mind/brain sciences.

In 2013, an interdisciplinary two-year Master’s and a postdoctoral program were added to the portfolio. The school thus promotes the scientific development of junior researchers at all career stages.

**Focus**

Of particular interest are research questions that fall on the borders between the mind sciences (e.g. philosophy, behavioral and cognitive psychology, linguistics) and the brain sciences (e.g. neurology, psychiatry, neurobiology, computational neuroscience): consciousness and perception, decision-making, language, lifespan development, mental disorders and brain dysfunction, social cognition, and the philosophy of mind.

PhD candidates are encouraged to work on their own initiative on any projects that are relevant to interdisciplinary questions relating to these research topics. All PhD candidates acquire a strong foundation for interdisciplinary work by attending classes across the participating disciplines and exploring research methods and topics to which they have not been previously exposed. The school has a faculty comprising 60 distinguished researchers, including five Max Planck directors, 50 PhD candidates, 30 alumni, 20 postdoctoral fellows, and cohorts of 25 master students per year.

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Web: www.mind-and-brain.de

**Deadlines:** January, July
(only with secured funding)

**Places:** 10-15 per year

**Scholarships:** 5 per year
The Berlin-Brandenburg School for Regenerative Therapies (BSRT) is a joint graduate school of Charité, HU and FU in collaboration with the TU, Universität Potsdam and other renowned research institutions in the Max Planck Society as well as the Helmholtz and Leibniz Associations. It is funded under the Excellence Initiative. Its central goal is to provide the educational basis that will enable young scientists to carry out interdisciplinary research on endogenous tissue regeneration with the aim of translating their results into therapeutic approaches.

Focus

BSRT offers programs for national and international doctoral researchers and postdocs with a background in medicine, natural and material sciences, and engineering who want to work at the cutting-edge of interdisciplinary research in Regenerative Medicine. The young scientists are introduced to modern scientific practices and state-of-the-art technology in workshops designed to fit their needs. In-depth education in the specific disciplines as well as training across the disciplines provides an all-round education in cell and molecular biology, bioengineering, biotechnology and biomaterials. The complementary courses impart skills such as communication, presentation and entrepreneurship in order to prepare the young scientists for a future career in or outside academia. They benefit from a unique approach to fostering collaborative science (BioThinking) and work within a strong and intellectually stimulating network of scientists.

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Deadlines: June
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: 8 per year
Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience

The PhD Program Computational Neuroscience is part of the International Graduate Program at the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience Berlin (BCCN Berlin) involving the three Berlin universities TU, HU, FU, Charité, Universität Potsdam and the Max-Delbrück-Center. It is financially supported by the Research Training Group Sensory Computation in Neural Systems which is based at TU Berlin and funded by the German Research Foundation.

Focus

The Program is interdisciplinary and strongly research-oriented. Understanding the functioning of the brain requires collaboration between neurobiologists, neuropsychologists, cognitive scientists, medical researchers, computer scientists, mathematicians, physicists, and engineers, as well as active cooperation between theoretical and experimental approaches.

Our PhD candidates have the ability to communicate across these diverse disciplines and work on highly challenging projects that allow them to make their own contributions to the fast growing field of neuroscience with autonomous research work. Research for the doctoral project forms the major part of the structured program, complemented by course work. Each PhD candidate follows an individualized curriculum and is supervised by a doctoral committee. PhD candidates are required to earn 15 ECTS credit points in advanced topics related to their research subject and 10 ECTS credit points for acquiring general skills.

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Web: www.computational-neuroscience-berlin.de

Deadlines: March
Places: 15 per year
Scholarships: 7 per year
The integrated research training group (IRTG) at the Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) Priming and Memory of Organismic Responses to Stress aims to qualify PhD candidates to develop into internationally well connected academics capable of linking molecular knowledge with ecological concepts.

IRTG is part of the graduate program at the Dahlem Centre of Plant Sciences and the Dahlem Research School at Freie Universität Berlin.

Focus

The IRTG program teaches PhD candidates how to tackle scientific questions in molecular and ecological life sciences by an interdisciplinary approach. The program offers a curriculum that combines the current state of molecular life science with ecological concepts.

The PhD candidates are offered lectures, seminars and lab training courses that use cutting-edge methodologies. The program is based on interdisciplinary teaching within CRC, augmented by lectures held by internationally-renowned visiting scientists. Furthermore, PhD candidates in the IRTG program are eligible to take part in the graduate program offered by Freie Universität Berlin, Universität Potsdam and the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology in Potsdam, Golm. Participating in IRTG helps drive PhD candidates’ scientific careers and ensures outstanding qualifications for the multi-disciplinary environment of CRC.

Biocommunication:
Mechanisms and Consequences of Information Storage and Retrieval in Plants and Microbes

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: 6 per year
Clinical Exercise Science

The Master’s and PhD program Clinical Exercise Science (CES) is the acquisition of research based and occupational skills for professions in the field of exercise, prevention and rehabilitation. The CES curriculum is divided into clinical applications for patients as well as for recreational and high-performance athletes. Emphasis is put on theoretical, methodological and experimental academic education.

Focus

The scientific curriculum encompasses the effects of physical activity on disease prevention and rehabilitation with the focus on exercise physiology and physical therapy. Practical education entails collaborations with hospitals as well as in- and outpatient rehabilitation clinics. Furthermore, practical and scientific education is facilitated by cooperation between the regional Olympic Sports Centre and the University.

Participants receive academic and methodological education in Scientific Methods and Evaluation. Other specific topics are taught in the modules Exercise in Prevention and Rehabilitation and Applied Methods. The program includes advanced modules in Scientific Qualification and Applied Methods. The combined

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Web: www.ces.uni-potsdam.de

Deadlines: June
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: none

Master’s/PhD program is a four-year full-time course of study (240 Credit Points) and aims to empower students to acquire the skills necessary for independent research and academic teaching as well as for leading positions in health services.
The Doctoral Program Dahlem Research School of Biomedical Sciences is jointly offered by the Department of Veterinary Medicine and the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy at Freie Universität Berlin.

The languages of instruction are German and English.

Focus

The program focuses on basic and applied research topics in the entire field of life sciences. It offers a wide spectrum of research areas ranging from the exploration of individual molecules with high biomedical relevance via the discovery of mechanisms of infectious diseases to projects in step with current practice in areas like patient care and nutritional science.

The doctoral candidates are integrated in scientific projects related to the research conducted by the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy and the Department of Veterinary Medicine at Freie Universität Berlin.

Admission is restricted to those with external scholarships or within the framework of third-party-funded projects.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: none

The doctoral program Biomedical Sciences is financed by Freie Universität Berlin, the DFG and other external partners.
The International Research Training Group, named Functional Molecular Infection Epidemiology, or "Bridge" for short, is a joint graduate program of Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Hyderabad, India. Bridge offers an appealing and constructive intercultural teaching environment and study program in addition to a highly structured, plan-driven and motivating scientific research module.

Focus

The research theme of Bridge integrates Berlin’s expertise in Infection Biology with Hyderabad’s competence in Bioinformatics to create the needed functional link between host-pathogen genomics, and the variation of host response to vital pathogens. Thus genetic variations may be linked to a unique function crucial for disease susceptibility, severity and progression. PhD candidates will be trained in Berlin and Hyderabad; PhD candidates are obliged to participate in exchanges involving research visits and lab rotations.

Other renowned universities and institutes involved in Berlin and Hyderabad include:
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Max Planck Institute of Infection Biology, Berlin
- Robert Koch Institute, Berlin

Contact Information

Chair: Prof. Dr Lothar H. Wieler
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Web: www.grk1673.de

Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: none

- Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad
- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad
- Institute of Life Sciences, Hyderabad
- LEPRA – Blue Peter Research Centre, Hyderabad
- Mahavir Hospital, Hyderabad
- Owaisi Hospital, Hyderabad
Frontiers in Cell Signaling and Gene Regulation (SignGene) is a joint international research school of the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC), the HU and the Charité in Berlin, and our partners in Israel, the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Funded by the Helmholtz Association, the program covers the fields of cell and molecular biology, biophysics and bioengineering.

**Focus**

The research focuses on unraveling the mechanisms that govern the differentiation and physiological functions of normal cells with the goal of understanding the pathological processes underlying diseases such as cancer. The following issues are thereby addressed:

**Cell Signaling:** How do cells respond to changes in their environment and relay this information into cellular decisions?

**Gene Regulation:** What are the basic mechanisms controlling gene expression; how does this information feed into global gene expression networks?

**Quantitative Biology:** How does the structure of proteins determine their functions? Can we build computational models to understand complex cellular processes?

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**Exchange visits in a partnering lab abroad, annual scientific symposia and winter schools are some of the aspects of the 3-year training program.**
The Erasmus Mundus PhD Program International Doctorate for Experimental Approaches to Language And Brain (IDEALAB) is a laboratory-based program offered jointly by an international consortium of 19 EU and non-EU institutions. Its aim is to train doctoral candidates to meet the new scientific challenges in a rapidly developing field and conduct original and independent research on experimental and clinical aspects of language and the brain in unimpaired populations of adults and children as well as in language impaired children and adults.

Focus

The three-year IDEALAB program is module-based with a fully-integrated curriculum. Every doctoral candidate receives training in research and transferable skills at a summer school and annual winter schools in the following areas:

- Publication & Presentation
- Employment
- Technological & Research Methods

IDEALAB aims to equip candidates to become genuinely international researchers by providing them with the benefits of experience across different laboratories and international settings. PhD students typically spend most of the doctoral phase at their own universities, visiting one or two other universities during a mobility period lasting 6-12 months. In addition, candidates may spend up to three months at one of the associated partners in the health or education sector or in one of the neuroimaging labs.

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Deadlines: November
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: 8-9 per year
Intrapersonal Developmental Risk Factors in Childhood and Adolescence: A Longitudinal Perspective

The Research Training Group “Intrapersonal Developmental Risk Factors in Childhood and Adolescence: A Longitudinal Perspective (PIER-Study)”, which is located at Universität Potsdam, involves senior researchers from different fields of psychology and offers positions for 12 PhD candidates. The program includes courses on research methods and developmental psychopathology against the backdrop of long-term studies of the factors affecting the development of children and adolescents. The language of the graduate school is primarily German.

**Focus**

The focus of our research is on intrapersonal risk factors which are assumed to mediate between genetic and social influences in three domains of psychological problems with relatively high prevalence rates in childhood and adolescence: problems of learning and achievement, externalizing and internalizing psychological problems, and eating- and weight-related problems.

Risk factors investigated in our projects include aspects of information processing, cognitive styles, affect regulation, and motivational variables. These are measured by means of questionnaires, achievement tests, and physiological data obtained from children, parents, and teachers. PhD positions are open to candidates with a Master’s degree or a diploma and last for up to three years. PhD theses focus on special risk or protective factors with regard to one out of the three above mentioned areas.

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**Deadlines:** March

**Places:** 12

**Scholarships:** 12
The Berlin Institute for Medical Systems Biology (BIMSB) offers a PhD Exchange Program with interdisciplinary research projects and an international focus. PhD topics are structured as collaborative projects between the Center for Genomics & Systems Biology at New York University and BIMSB at MDC.

PhD candidates receive joint supervision and divide their time between Berlin and New York, taking advantage of complimentary research and training expertise.

**Focus**

Our program offers:

- Interdisciplinary research training in top ranking labs.
- Dual mentoring by a group leader from MDC and NYU. The regular guidance of an international PhD Committee supports the creation of individual research and training portfolios.
- Support for PhD candidates to spend up to fifty percent of their time at NYU. Resources are available for travel from Berlin to New York.
- Access to and training in high-end technologies, such as deep sequencing, mass spectrometry, bioinformatics.

**Contact Information**

Chair: Prof. Nikolaus Rajewsky  
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**Deadline:** July  
**Places:** 10  
**Scholarships:** 3

- Participation in interdisciplinary classes, soft skills courses, PhD candidate-focused seminars and specialist summer schools.
- An extensive and comprehensive archive of animal model systems and “evo-devo” approaches.
The International Graduate Program Medical Neurosciences is hosted by the Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin and cooperates with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC), Leibniz-Institut für Molekulare Pharmakologie and the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, as well as related programs including Computational Neurosciences, Mind and Brain, and several DFG-funded projects. The program offers research-focused training for natural scientists and medical doctors and qualifies participants for career options in both the basic neurosciences and bench-to-bedside research.

Focus

The Medical Neurosciences program combines basic science and clinical research into a translational approach focusing on the central and peripheral nervous systems.

The program structure enables MSc students to develop an individual curriculum that can be tailored to their interests and specific research and training needs. Accompanying lectures and complementary skill courses provide ideal training for a career in translational neuroscience. The three-year PhD program consists of a personalized curriculum which supplements and supports the main research project. Being the central training branch of the cluster of excellence NeuroCure, the program offers PhD candidates the opportunity to develop their scientific interests by choosing from among the many different research institutions associated with the cluster, ranging from molecular to systems neuroscience. Thus, PhD candidates have plenty of opportunities for training interactions and interdisciplinary exchange.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: January, May, September
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: vary
The International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) on Multiscale Bio-Systems is an international doctoral program offered jointly by the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces, the departments of physics, chemistry and biology at Universität Potsdam, FU and HU, and the Fraunhofer Institute for Biomedical Engineering IBMT. Research group leaders and chair holders at these institutions are involved in the program and offer research projects, graduate training and mentorship.

Focus

The IMPRS on Multiscale Bio-Systems addresses the fundamental levels of biosystems as provided by macromolecules in aqueous solutions, molecular recognition between these building blocks, free energy transduction by molecular machines as well as structure formation and transport in cells and tissues. Research activities focus on a quantitative understanding of how the processes on supramolecular and mesoscopic scales between a few nanometers and many micrometers arise from the structure and dynamics of the molecular building blocks.

Our doctoral program offers fellowships for cutting edge research projects. The school is committed to attracting interested students from any country and to offer them the best support and training. The interdisciplinary research is pursued by applying methods used in theoretical and experimental biophysics, physical and colloid chemistry as well as biochemistry and molecular biology. IMPRS offers additional tuition on a variety of topics such as scientific writing and German courses for foreign PhD candidates.

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Deadlines: January
Places: 30
Scholarships: 21
Charité-Universitätsmedizin, Freie Universität, and the Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in Berlin, together with the Université Pierre et Marie Curie and the Institut de Myologie in Paris established a graduate program for skeletal muscle sciences: the International Research Training Group for Myology “MyoGrad”. MyoGrad offers the first structured platform for PhD training in the field of muscle sciences worldwide.

Focus

Muscle wasting and weakness are devastating problems in patients with muscular dystrophies, cancer, cachexia of any cause, critical illness myopathy, and also commonly occur in aging individuals. Our research topics, which range from muscle development to the establishment of gene therapy approaches and stem cell biology, include:

- Muscle growth regulation
- Proteasome ubiquitin system and inflammation
- Cytoskeleton architecture and cell polarization
- Muscle development and muscle stem cells
- Muscle metabolism
- Development of therapies for muscular dystrophy
- Sarcomer
- Muscle - tendon interaction
- Nuclear envelope
- Muscle pain

Contact Information

Chair: Prof. Dr Simone Spuler
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Deadlines: March
Places: 26
Scholarships: vary

PhD candidates have access to over 100 facilities in Berlin and Paris, including super-high resolution and electron microscopy, omics-platforms, muscle physiology, clinical research, in vivo and in vitro metabolic assessment, ChiP-Seq and animal facilities.
The Graduate School of Plant Sciences at the Dahlem Centre of Plant Sciences provides a structured program for doctoral candidates in the various subjects encompassed by the plant sciences. Plants are the basis for life on earth. They perceive and transform solar energy, they consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, and they provide mankind with food, raw materials and medicine.

Today, plant life is threatened by extinction of species and rapid climate change. Therefore, the understanding, preservation and sustainable use of plants are of increasing relevance. To achieve a comprehensive understanding of diverse aspects of plant life an integrative approach in research and teaching is needed.

Focus

A wide range of different research topics is covered, including studies of how plants perceive biotic and abiotic stimuli, how information is transmitted within plants through hormones and other signal molecules, how plant development is genetically controlled, how plants interact with other organisms, and how traits evolve and new plant species arise. The research groups involved in the Graduate School of Plant Sciences are integrated into national and international research programs. Doctoral candidates are also taught transferable skills, which cover knowledge transfer, scientific management, and foreign language skills.

The program not only ensures solid, subject-specific knowledge based on current research, but also targeted support and intensive supervision.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: none
The International Helmholtz Research School Translational Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine (TransCard) is a joint endeavor of the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Charité, HU and FU in Berlin. Funded by the Helmholtz Association, the program trains excellent young researchers at the interface of basic molecular, genetic, and clinical research with the goal of elucidating the molecular mechanisms causing cardiovascular and metabolic diseases and to transfer this knowledge from bench to bedside.

Focus

Research areas include cardiovascular and metabolic diseases with a focus on understanding the underlying molecular and pathomechanisms as a basis for improved therapy. This involves basic research utilizing model organisms, cellular systems, systems biology and high throughput approaches as well as clinical research – preferably in combination.

TransCard provides an outstanding environment for aspiring PhD candidates with

- excellent and challenging research projects ensured by high quality faculty
- continuous mentoring facilitated by PhD committees
- lecture series to provide necessary background
- state-of-the-art blended learning environment

Contact Information

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Deadlines: July
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: 5 per year

- guaranteed attendance at an international scientific meeting plus an advanced course
- on site and external soft skill course offers
- personal development through interaction with peers, influence on the curriculum, and organization of a retreat/research meeting
- opportunity to participate in a clinical visits program
ZIBI Graduate School Berlin

The ZIBI Graduate School is a joint doctoral program offered by university and nonuniversity research institutes in Berlin. PhD candidates at ZIBI Graduate School address research problems in infection biology and immunology. Our mission is to enable PhD candidates to become creative, responsible and self-confident young researchers. The school encourages PhD candidates to conduct independent research using interdisciplinary approaches at the molecular, cellular, and organismal level.

Focus

PhD candidates at ZIBI Graduate School conduct research in the fields of virology, bacteriology, parasitology, and immunology. The school’s active scientific community ensures that everybody has a productive and memorable time in Berlin.

The central elements of education at ZIBI are

- individual course program with lecture courses, seminar series, practical courses, summer schools, and complementary education
- regular project presentations in peer discussion boards
- intensive supervision by scientific coordinators and a thesis advisory committee
- international cooperation including lab visits, international meetings and conferences

Contact Information

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Deadlines: November
Places: 15 per year
Scholarships: 15 per year

Candidates must hold a Master of Science or Diploma degree in any related subject by the time they join ZIBI Graduate School.

Candidates with a Bachelor of Science degree may be admitted after completion of a preparatory year.
“Berlin is one of the best places in Europe to pursue doctoral studies and to develop a career as a researcher. The scientific location hosts brilliant researchers, I have access to an excellent infrastructure and can collaborate with other important research institutions in Germany and worldwide.”

/// Marco Cosme, Portugal
Graduate School of Plant Sciences
/// Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering
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Agricultural Techniques: Potentials and Costs of Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

The Leibniz Graduate School of Agricultural Techniques: Potentials and Costs of Greenhouse Gas Mitigation (LandPaKT) is a graduate school run jointly by the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Engineering Potsdam-Bornim (ATB) and the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

LandPaKT offers a structured, interdisciplinary environment for PhD candidates in which they profit from regular, qualified support and training opportunities in the acquisition of scientific skills. Besides working on their specific PhD projects, the LandPaKT members also attend a number of topic-related courses on the LandPaKT curriculum.

**Focus**

Exploiting the substantial greenhouse gas mitigation potentials of agriculture requires viable measures on the farm scale. In the graduate school LandPaKT, PhD candidates systematically analyze the mitigation potentials and costs, and merge these options on the farm scale. The most important sector of agriculture – rewetting organic soils, carbon sequestration in agricultural soils and livestock husbandry – are included in the analysis. Single and combined measures are analyzed with regard to their overall effect using modeling and simulation in order to elucidate recommendations for the most promising measures on the farm level. The graduate school is open to PhD candidates working on related projects from other disciplines and research institutes. Additional participants are welcome.

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**Deadlines:**  
Calls and deadlines vary

**Places:**  
No fixed number

**Scholarships:**  
Vary
The Berlin International Graduate School of Natural Sciences and Engineering (BIG-NSE) is a project run jointly by Technische Universität, Humboldt-Universität and Freie Universität Berlin together with Universität Potsdam, the Fritz Haber Institute and the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces. It is part of the DFG-financed Cluster of Excellence Unified Concepts in CATALYSIS (www.unicat.tu-berlin.de). Its faculty consists of internationally renowned researchers from 54 research groups at 6 participating institutions who are active in 13 catalysis-related research fields.

Focus

BIG-NSE offers an attractive, structured PhD program, allowing candidates to complete their PhDs under excellent conditions within three years. The academic program always begins in October and the deadline for BIG-NSE scholarship applications is January of the respective year. The main entry requirement is a Master’s degree in chemistry, biology, physics or engineering. PhD candidates admitted first pass through a three-month “initial phase” during which they attend lectures and soft skills courses (e.g. presentations, project management), while working together on their respective research proposals as a roadmap for their future PhD. In a final workshop, each PhD candidate presents his project to the UniCat Cluster faculty. Subsequently, PhD candidates join their research groups for their individual research projects. Annual reports and frequent meetings with the Advisory Committee provide feedback for the successful continuation of their work.

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Deadlines: January
Places: 10-15 per year
Scholarships: 5-7 per year
The Berlin Mathematical School (BMS) is a joint graduate school of the mathematics departments of FU, HU and TU Berlin. It also incorporates a number of Research Training Groups of the German Research Foundation as well as two Max Planck International Research Schools. Funded through the Excellence Initiative, the BMS offers a uniform setting for graduate studies for a PhD in mathematics in Berlin, a coordinated course program and access to all math research groups.

Focus

“Mathematics as a whole” is a leading principle of the BMS. Its focus encompasses fields that are traditionally termed “pure” or “applied” mathematics, though we prefer not to make that distinction. Instead, research topics are grouped into seven parts, each covering a broad, but coherent, part of mathematics:

1. Differential geometry, global analysis, and mathematical physics,
2. Algebraic and arithmetic geometry, number theory,
3. Probability, statistics, and financial mathematics
4. Discrete mathematics and combinatorial optimization
5. Geometry, topology, and visualization,
6. Numerical mathematics and scientific computing,

For applicants with a Bachelor, Phase I offers a basic graduate phase of 3-4 semesters completed by a qualifying exam. Phase II is the research phase and open to candidates with a master’s degree. It lasts 4-6 semesters in which candidates conduct specialized research and attend at least one advanced course per semester.

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Deadlines: May, December (scholarships)
Places: 20 per year
Scholarships: 10 for Phase I, 5 for Phase II per year
The International Max Planck Research School for Computational Biology and Scientific Computing is a joint graduate program of the FU Berlin and the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, in close cooperation with other Berlin-based research groups and the CAS-MPG Partner Institute for Computational Biology in Shanghai.

The PhD program is a three-year program for students who hold a Master’s degree. Exceptional students with a Bachelor’s degree and the necessary background can apply to the preparatory program, leading to a PhD in four years.

The school language is English but for the preparatory program some knowledge of German may be necessary.

Focus

The research focus is on the mathematical and computational side of research in sequence analysis, theoretical structural biology, computational chemistry and drug design, molecular evolution, genome analysis and data analysis methods in functional genomics. The graduate school does not conduct but is surrounded by experimental research, and theoretical courses in biological areas are offered. The degree conferred is a Dr. rer. nat. from the department of mathematics and computer science at FU. Building upon the MSc courses in bioinformatics and scientific computing at FU, PhD candidates have the opportunity to attend lectures while working on their PhD research. They are required to gain a number of credit points from scientific courses, transferable skills courses and tutoring work during their time in IMPRS-CBSC.

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Deadlines: February, March
Places: 1-8 per year
Scholarships: vary
The Dahlem Research School of Molecular Science (DRS MS) is a graduate school run jointly by the departments of physics, biology, chemistry and pharmacy at FU Berlin. Its focus is on molecular natural science. It currently comprises the graduate schools of three Collaborative Research Centers and a Research Training Group, all funded by the German Research Foundation. However, DRS MS is open to all PhD candidates carrying out work in a field related to molecular science.

Focus

DRS MS is the oldest and one of the largest graduate schools at FU Berlin. The scope ranges from theoretical and experimental physics via physical and theoretical to organic and inorganic chemistry and biochemistry. Projects related to molecular biology and pharmacy are also welcome.

The main research areas are:
1. Elementary Processes in Molecular Switches on Surfaces
2. Protonation Dynamics in Protein Function
3. Multivalency as an Organizational and Action Principle in Chemistry
4. Fluorine as a Key Element

Applicants need an MSc degree in physics, chemistry or a related area. Financial support is provided by either the individual graduate schools or the project leaders. PhD candidates are also offered courses on transferable skills – this will all serve to give candidates a competitive edge on the international job market both in academia and industry.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 90
Scholarships: vary
Dynamical Phenomena in Complex Networks

The International Research Training Group (ITRG) Dynamical Phenomena in Complex Networks is an international joint project involving Brazilian and German scientists from HU Berlin, the University of São Paulo, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, the National Institute for Space Research and other institutions. The research group consists of physicists, biophysicists, mathematicians, geographers and climatologists.

The project offers 15 DFG-fellowships for PhD candidates in Germany and a similar number from the Brazilian side.

Focus

Networks with complex topology have become a very powerful approach for understanding large complex systems in various fields of applications ranging from neuroscience, via engineering to sociology and economics. IRTG studies the principles of self-organization in evolving complex networks.

To bring these principles closer to various applications, we investigate the influence of heterogeneity in the network structure, multiscale time delays and stochasticity. These theoretical studies are connected with the investigation of experimental and natural dynamical networks of increasing complexity starting from lasers, via hybrid networks of neurons to the Earth system.

PhD candidates from Brazilian and German institutions work on different aspects of their common subproject. IRTG provides a structured and modern study, training and soft-skills program, including annual summer schools, workshops, dual supervision and a six-month PhD candidate exchange program.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 15
Scholarships: 15
The Integrated Research Training Group is part of the Collaborative Research Centre on Elementary Processes in Molecular Switches at Surfaces, in which departments at FU, TU and UP as well as research institutions like the Fritz Haber Institute, the Max Born Institute and the Paul Drude Institute train graduates in the investigation of molecular switching processes at solid surfaces.

Focus

The Integrated Research Training Group provides an interdisciplinary graduate training program in physics and chemistry relevant to the topic “Molecules at Surfaces”.

The increasing miniaturization and integration of electronic devices and sensors opens up perspectives for using molecules as building blocks for functional molecular nanostructures.

For applications like molecular electronics, the contact of such molecules to solid state interfaces is essential to connect the molecular system with the outside world, in particular for electronic transport. Molecules that can be switched between different molecular states by external excitations will play an important role in such systems.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 20
Scholarships: vary, 2 short-term scholarships

Research in the Collaborative Research Centre is based on various complementary methods from synthesis of molecular systems characteristic of structural and electronic properties by quantitative surface science techniques and theoretical modeling.
The graduate school brings together doctoral students from the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society and the physics and chemistry departments of the universities of Berlin (FU, TU, and HU) and Potsdam. It combines the expertise of several strong research groups, thereby creating a unique opportunity for foreign and German students in terms of cutting-edge research and a thorough training in the methods, concepts, and theoretical basis of the physics and chemistry of interfaces.

Focus

The school deals with the specific physical and chemical properties of solid interfaces and surfaces that are crucial both from a fundamental scientific viewpoint and in terms of improving their performance in various applications like heterogeneous catalysis, organic light-emitting diodes, and magnetic data storage. The research encompasses a large variety of complex interfaces between organic/inorganic or metallic/insulating substrates and aims at a microscopic understanding of their physical and chemical properties by combining state-of-the-art experimental techniques (e.g. electron diffraction, scanning tunneling microscopy, femtosecond laser spectroscopy) and theoretical approaches (e.g. density functional theory and quantum chemistry). The school provides international doctoral students with an ideal atmosphere for conducting cutting-edge research in modern interface science and for obtaining a thorough training in the underlying experimental and theoretical methods.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 30
Scholarships: 10
Geometric Analysis, Gravitation and String Theory

The International Max Planck Research School for Geometric Analysis, Gravitation and String Theory is a joint effort by the MPI for Gravitational Physics, the Universität Potsdam, FU and HU to support projects related to Einstein’s general theory of relativity in the broadest sense. Projects range from pure mathematics, the physics of black holes, gravitational waves and cosmology to the most recent efforts to reconcile Einstein’s theory with quantum mechanics in the framework of superstring theory and M theory.

Focus

The school is devoted to a wide range of aspects in the area of theoretical gravitational physics. These include the mathematical and conceptual analysis of Einstein’s Field Equations as well as the examination of problems of differential geometry that arise in physical applications or are motivated by them.

A second focus of the research school is superstring theory and its generalizations, as well as loop quantum gravity. The goal here is to unify the theory of general relativity and quantum theory into a consistent theory of quantum gravity.

The curriculum includes courses on the mathematical foundations of general relativity, black holes, nonlinear partial differential equations, advanced differential geometry, quantum field theory, supersymmetry and supergravity, superstring theory and canonical quantum gravity.

Contact Information

Chair: Prof. Dr Hermann Nicolai
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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: 4-6 per year
A unique mix of theory and experiment: the International Max Planck Research School of Gravitational Wave Astronomy (IMPRS-GW) offers a unique opportunity to learn about gravitational wave research in both the theoretical and the experimental fields.

The partnership between universities, leading research institutes and the GEO600 gravitational wave detector will allow our PhD candidates to become familiar with all aspects of this exciting and promising research discipline.

Focus

High quality and comprehensive graduate education

IMPRS-GW aims at educating a new generation of researchers in the emerging field of gravitational wave astronomy. Scientific research in this graduate school ranges from laser development, interferometry and quantum optics to data analysis and numerical simulations of gravitational wave sources.

At the cutting edge of an emerging field

The IMPRS curriculum ensures a high-quality and comprehensive graduate education. In addition to regular university courses, special courses focusing on the school’s chosen research are given by staff members and long-term visitors as semester or block courses. The courses are tailored to the current research, technology, and methods relevant to the PhD work.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: varies
Helmholtz Graduate School for Macromolecular Bioscience

The Helmholtz Graduate School for Macromolecular Bioscience is a collaboration between the Institute of Biomaterial Science (Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht) in Teltow, Universität Potsdam and Freie Universität Berlin, funded by the Helmholtz Association. The Graduate School offers outstanding interdisciplinary training for PhD candidates with a background in natural and biomaterial sciences as well as in engineering.

Focus

The PhD program comprises fundamental and application-oriented research with a strong focus on the entire chain of development of macromolecular and biomaterial science. Research topics include:

- Design, synthesis, processing of biomaterials
- Comprehensive testing for cell tolerance and toxicity
- Examination of interactions with physiological environments

Frontier research is achieved by a synergetically organized curriculum with a broad spectrum of lectures in the main research areas. The partners’ state of the art research facilities allow a unique combination of cutting-edge research with outstanding modern technology in an international environment.

Contact Information

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      Prof. Dr Nan Ma
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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 80
Scholarships: vary

The PhD program is structured according to international quality standards including individually chosen mentoring committees and training in transferable key skills preparing candidates for a professional career.
The DFG Research Training Group focuses on research activities and teaching on the ways in which tectonics, climate, and the biosphere shape the Earth’s surface. The regional basis involves the India-Asia Collision Zone and the East African Rift System, both characterized by ongoing tectonism and the creation of distinct relief contrasts during the Cenozoic. Both settings are influenced by the African-Asian Monsoon, which is highly variable on annual, decadal, millennial, but also on geological time scales.

Focus

The current PhD projects are based on the philosophy of interdisciplinary, cooperative, team- and network-based research. This format creates sufficient space for their creativity and self-determination to design challenging research projects, which will reflect the PhD candidates’ individual capabilities and interests. A vibrant study program is designed to facilitate high-level education in a friendly, competitive, international environment and includes:

- Interdisciplinary lecture series
- Short courses on statistical data analysis, geo-hydrological modeling, and the use of stable isotopes
- Field courses
- Weekly seminars concerning research hypotheses
- Courses on writing scientific proposals, publishing articles, presenting talks and speaking in public
- International workshops and conferences as well as visits to external laboratory facilities

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: short-term grants
The Research Training Group is a collaboration between HU Berlin, TU Dresden and the Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron at Zeuthen and is hosted and coordinated by HU Berlin. In addition to the broad spectrum of research groups involved, the Research Training Group features a large number of junior researchers.

**Focus**

The challenges emerging from the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) require close integration and communication among the different experimental and theoretical working areas of elementary particle and astro-particle physics.

The key goal of the Research Training Group is to bring together the broad experimental and theoretical expertise in Berlin, Dresden and Zeuthen and to restore the common character of elementary particle and astro-particle physics to their place at the core of PhD candidates’ education. All experimental groups are linked by their participation in the ATLAS experiment at LHC and their search for new topics of research being generated there.

The activities at LHC are ideally complemented by involvement in astro-particle physics experiments such as Ice-Cube, VERITAS, Magic, H.E.S.S. and in future CTA. The unifying theme of the theoretical groups is relativistic quantum field theory, which is treated perturbatively and numerically, as well as in its generalizations within the context of string theory.

**Contact Information**

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MatSEC is a graduate school funded by the Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie. It is an innovative network of research groups from FU, HU, TU Berlin and Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus-Senftenberg. MatSEC is a member of the Dahlem Research School. Doctoral candidates benefit from an interdisciplinary course program in which transferable skills can be acquired.

Focus

MatSEC focuses on kesterite materials. These semiconductors are very promising candidates for an absorber material in thin film solar cells as well as for photoelectrodes for Hydrogen evolution from water under solar light. Kesterites are very similar to chalcopyrites. But they are made from non-toxic, earth-abundant and low-cost raw materials. The developments of these alternative materials for renewable energy conversion, based on the use of solar radiation, rely to a large extent on a profound understanding of the multiscale origins of their properties. The school aims at developing structure-property relations enabling the evolution of tailor-made materials for these applications by combining experiments and theory. It encompasses insights of material science, crystallography, solid state physics, solid state chemistry and scientific computing. This interdisciplinary approach provides many benefits that develop into much needed lifelong learning skills that are essential to a student’s future learning.
Microenergy Systems

The Postgraduate Study Program Microenergy Systems (MES) is funded by the Hans Boeckler Foundation and is located at the Center for Technology and Society (ZTG) at Technische Universität Berlin. In cooperation with other institutes at TU Berlin, other universities and the Microenergy System Association, MES promotes research combining engineering, planning and social sciences.

Working languages are German and English.

Focus

Microenergy systems use local resources such as the sun, water, biomass or wind and transform them into electricity, heat, light or driving forces. They facilitate the decentralized management of energy resources and the development of regional cycles and economic activities possible.

The program explores the potential of systems which are characterized by aspects like simplicity, repair-friendliness, a high tolerance to disruption, extendibility, modularity and longevity, and, whenever possible, are established within the region.

The main objective is to develop strategies and instruments for the conceptual design, manufacture and sustainable implementation of microenergy systems in structurally weak regions of developing as well as developed countries. Therefore, research does not focus only on technical aspects, but also on how sociological, economic and societal contexts need to be shaped in order to realize a productive and sustainable impact in these structurally weak areas.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 8
Scholarships: 8
Moduli and Automorphic Forms

The Research Training Group bundles the broad expertise in graduate education at HU Berlin/FU Berlin and U Amsterdam/U Leiden in the fields of arithmetic algebraic and complex algebraic geometry. Questions about the interplay between the arithmetic and geometry of moduli spaces, which are related to the arithmetic theory of automorphic forms, are investigated. The RTG is a certified unit of the Berlin Mathematical School (BMS); thus members benefit from BMS’s general portfolio of offers with regard to soft skills training and other aspects.

Focus

The research program comprises three areas:

(A) Arithmetic of Moduli
(B) Heights, Densities, and Degenerations
(C) Automorphic Forms

Area A focuses on arithmetic and geometric aspects of moduli spaces. In area B primarily Diophantine and Arakelovian aspects of moduli spaces are studied. Area C is devoted to the investigation of arithmetic aspects of automorphic forms, e.g. the $p$-adic local Langlands program.

The qualification program builds on advanced courses, research seminars, and a college seminar in Berlin and in Amsterdam/Leiden, respectively.

We jointly conduct one summer school per year on a hot topic addressed by top-class speakers. These activities are complemented by intensive courses, one of which is devoted to the advancement of female PhD candidates. In addition to regular visits by faculty, the main aspect of cooperation is the exchange of PhD candidates who spend at least six months at the partner institution.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 31
Scholarships: 20
The Leibniz-Graduate School of Molecular Biophysics aims for an alliance between basic biophysical and biomolecular research. Biophysical techniques are becoming increasingly significant in the analysis of biomolecular processes. At the same time, a wide range of methods is required in order to obtain a complete description of complex systems. The participating institutions are equipped with an attractive range of instruments (BESSY-II, NMR Centre Berlin-Buch, EM-Ultrastructure network, EPR spectroscopy) offering PhD candidates the opportunity to acquire various techniques.

Focus

The Graduate School focuses on the investigation of protein-protein interactions. These are the basis of enzymatic processes, of perceptive and cognitive events in the cell, and underlie cellular degradation as well as protein aggregation processes.

Knowledge of the structural basis of protein interaction mechanisms is indispensable for the understanding of biological function. At the same time, protein-protein and protein-lipid interactions are important for conformational changes of glyco-proteins during viral infection and assembly. These structural data enable the targeted synthesis and modification of small molecules of therapeutic importance. The Leibniz Graduate School is a collaboration between university and non-university institutions: Leibniz-Institut für Molekulare Pharmakologie [FMP], Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine [MDC], Freie Universität Berlin, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and Universität Potsdam.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 10
Scholarships: none
Molecular Pharmacology

The FMP Graduate School offers a structured doctoral training program at the Leibniz-Institut für Molekulare Pharmakologie (FMP). Itself a non-university research institute, FMP’s Graduate School is open to PhD candidates from all universities in Berlin and Brandenburg working at the institute. It also accommodates PhD candidates, who are already participating in other graduate programs.

Focus

The FMP Graduate School focuses on molecular pharmacology in line with the Leibniz institute’s areas of specialization: Structural Biology, Molecular Physiology, Cell Biology and Chemical Biology. Research areas include the finding, synthesis and characterization of bioactive reagents, the identification of their cellular targets and mechanism of action as well as detailed structural analysis of ligand-target-interaction, mainly by employing NMR.

PhD candidates at FMP participate in thesis committee meetings, scientific training, and career development. Thesis committee meetings are held once a year and comprise a progress report, a short presentation and a discussion with committee members.

As part of scientific training, members of the graduate school participate in institute seminars, conferences, and the FMP winter school with several lectures and workshops. Lastly, career development courses, a variety of workshops on soft skills, co-organization of the Marthe-Vogt-Seminar, and participation in the joint MDC/FMP PhD retreat prepare PhD candidates for their future careers.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 100
Scholarships: none
Multivalency as an Organisational and Action Principle in Chemistry

The integrated graduate school of the Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) Multivalency as an Organisational and Action Principle in Chemistry focuses on the education of PhD candidates in the field of multivalent interactions. Multivalency is an important concept in e.g. the organization of matter or in biological recognition processes. The understanding of multivalency unifies scientific approaches from mathematics, physics and chemistry and yields realistic applications in molecular biology.

Focus

The aim of CRC is to improve the understanding of multivalency and the design of new multivalent molecules with special properties. With more than 50 PhD candidates from different background, located at different research institutions in Berlin, the focus of the integrated graduate school is the interdisciplinary education of the PhD candidates. The main research areas are:

1. Synthesis of new molecular multivalent architectures
2. Understanding multivalent binding processes in biological systems
3. Simulations of multivalent processes with multi-scale models
4. Characterization of multivalent processes with physico-chemical methods

Applicants require a MSc degree in Physics, Chemistry, or a related area. Financial support is provided by CRC. Candidates are also offered courses on transferable skills in collaboration with the Dahlem Research School.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 60
Scholarships: 50 + 10 short-term scholarships
Nonequilibrium Collective Dynamics in Condensed Matter and Biological Systems

The Research Training Group (RTG) Nonequilibrium Collective Dynamics in Condensed Matter and Biological Systems is a joint initiative of TU and FU Berlin, Universität Potsdam, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, and the Max Delbrück Center. It aims at qualifying PhD candidates by performing research in nonequilibrium physics at the highest level and through a balanced but challenging qualification program.

Focus

Nonequilibrium collective dynamics is ubiquitous in science, nature, and even everyday life as the Mexican wave in a stadium or the rhythmic applause at a concert demonstrate. RTG studies collective dynamics of interacting entities in the microscopic world by concentrating its research on three project areas:

1. Hard Matter: nonlinear transport and quantum optics in semiconductors
2. Soft Matter: collective dynamics and hydrodynamic interactions in complex fluids
3. Biological Systems: self-organization and nonlinear waves in active media

RTG is an interdisciplinary initiative that aims to unravel common features and methods for describing nonequilibrium collective dynamics. The qualification program offers advanced lecture courses and trains PhD candidates in presentation and rhetorical skills through active participation in conferences and seminars and by a lively guest program.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 38
Scholarships: 12 + 1 one-year scholarship for Bachelor degree holders
PharMetrX: Pharmacometrics & Computational Disease Modelling

PharMetrX: Pharmacometrics & Computational Disease Modelling is a joint initiative between FU (Clinical Pharmacy) and UP (Mathematics). Based on a new collaborative role model, the Graduate Research Training Program is supported by several global research-driven pharmaceutical companies. As a transdisciplinary structured Graduate Research Training Program, PharMetrX offers PhD candidates a unique opportunity to experience research in the areas of drug development and optimizing drug therapy. The languages of instruction are English and German.

Focus

PharMetrX aims to understand the drug-patient interaction by analyzing drug concentration as well as the effect and disease profiles of trials and therapeutic care using mathematical models involving various fields like (patho)physiology, pharmacology, pharmacotherapy, clinical pharmacy, mathematical modelling, statistics, systems biology, pharma-cokinetics/-dynamics in a coherent framework. PharMetrX offers:

1. a three-year research program
2. joint supervision of scientific progress and personal development
3. a structured research training curriculum of basic and advanced academic and industrial modules
4. an individual research and development plan
5. mentors from industry partners
6. a transdisciplinary research environment

PharMetrX is open to candidates with a university degree in natural sciences or medicine.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: September
Places: 10
Scholarships: vary
Primary Metabolism and Plant Growth

The International Max Planck Research School Primary Metabolism and Plant Growth (IMPRS-PMPG) is a joint doctoral program run by UP and the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology (MPI-MP). IMPRS-PMPG involves research groups from the MPI-MP and UP’s Institute of Biochemistry and Biology. The facilities and faculty offer an excellent environment for research in modern plant science.

Focus

Plant growth, seen from a physiological point of view as resource acquisition and its conversion into plant biomass, is the main focus of IMPRS-PMPG. The research follows a systems-oriented approach, using Arabidopsis thaliana and other model plants and combining cutting-edge analytical techniques, molecular phenotyping (-omics) technologies and physiology with bioinformatics and modeling approaches. Research is at the core of the interdisciplinary doctoral program. Seminars and courses support doctoral candidates in acquiring scientific expertise and transferable skills. The PhD candidates have a primary supervisor and a PhD advisory committee for guidance and support. A highlight of IMPRS is the Plants and People Conference, organized every other year by a team of PhD candidates. About half of our PhD candidates come from abroad. IMPRS-PMPG is open to candidates holding or about to obtain a Master’s or equivalent degree.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: January
Places: 8-12 per year
Scholarships: 4-6 per year
The Leibniz Graduate School for Quantitative Spectroscopy in Astrophysics is a collaborative project between the Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam (AIP) and the Institute for Physics and Astronomy at Universität Potsdam (UP). It is embedded in the framework of AIP, UP, and DESY/Zeuthen for structured doctoral training in Astrophysics.

Focus

The Graduate School is the only program in the Berlin/Potsdam region with a focus on astrophysical research. It provides an integrative environment for young scientists, promoting the application of spectroscopic methods to cutting-edge astrophysical research topics from solar physics, via stellar and extragalactic research, to cosmology. The quantitative comparison of observations with theoretical models is essential to advance the physical understanding of cosmic objects.

Two key components are special internships:

1. A summer research fellowship program invites (international) undergraduate students to work with PhD candidates on a well-defined aspect of their research projects.
2. PhD candidates work with senior scientists at institutions outside of Germany, who can add expertise to the thesis projects.

The overall goal of the Graduate School is to help educate the next generation of young scientists to meet the upcoming challenges within academia and industry.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 8
Scholarships: 8
The Integrated Research Training Group (IRTG) provides a platform for structured and complementary training of all PhD candidates within the Collaborative Research Center (CRC) Scaffolding of Membranes - Molecular Mechanisms and Cellular Functions. It fills an important gap in postgraduate education in the Berlin area in the field of membrane biology. Moreover, IRTG provides an excellent framework to integrate research and postgraduate education at the participating universities and non-university research institutions.

Focus

The CRC’s aim is to elucidate the molecular mechanisms by which dynamically organized protein-protein assemblies scaffold cellular membranes and exert cellular functions. The IRTG program aims to educate PhD candidates in a multidisciplinary approach combining cell and molecular biology, bio-chemistry, structural biology and optical (bio)physics.

In particular, the study program introduces PhD candidates trained in molecular biology to protein structural and bio-physical methods. Conversely, PhD candidates with a strong background in biophysics are exposed to basic methods and concepts in molecular cell biology.

IRTG is embedded in the existing PhD program in Biomedical Sciences at Dahlem Research School. The study program consists of scientific lectures, seminars and courses and also provides several opportunities for PhD candidates to acquire soft skills.
The School of Analytical Sciences Adlershof (SALSA) offers fellowships for PhD candidates in chemistry, biology, physics and natural sciences. Doctoral research within SALSA is supervised by researchers of HU, TU, UP, ETH Zurich, the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, the Helmholtz Zentrum für Materialien und Energie Berlin, the Leibniz-Institut für Analytische Wissenschaften, the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces, and the Zuse-Institut Berlin.

Focus

Analytical sciences are at the core of many of today’s fundamental and applied scientific problems and innovations. In SALSA, analytical problem solving is taught and learned using an integrative and multi-disciplinary approach. The program offers a structured, three-year research period combined with a curriculum in analytical sciences. Graduate students with a Master’s degree or equivalent are invited to apply. Research within SALSA is concentrated in two areas:

A. Biomolecular detection and characterization in complex environments:

A1 - New probes for analytics in biological environments
A2 - Localized surface plasmons for bioanalytical applications
A3 - Towards quantitative microscopy and bio-imaging

B. Analytics of structures and networks:

B1 - In situ analytics at surfaces and in networks
B2 - Multimodal structural and functional analysis of materials
B3 - Analytics of internal interfaces in composite materials

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: 15 per call
The Helmholtz Research School on Security Technologies (HRSST) is a joint endeavor of the Helmholtz Association, the German Aerospace Center and TU Berlin. The Helmholtz School focuses on specific topics, bringing together around 20 outstanding PhD candidates to conduct interdisciplinary research. The mission is to train and educate excellent researchers in complementary technological fields of high importance for global security.

**Focus**

HRSST is oriented towards conducting research that leads to practical technological solutions. Interdisciplinary research projects integrate different scientific and technological fields (e.g. physics, optical & electrical engineering, information technologies) to close the gap between application-driven security implementation and fundamental research:

- Interaction of Terahertz Radiation with Skin
- Security Analysis of Consumer Electronics
- Detecting Charge Transfer to Integrated Circuits
- Superconducting Nanowire Single Photon Detector for Cryptography
- Onboard Satellite Image Processing
- Physical Layer Security for Wireless Communication Systems
- Security Regime Change at Airports
- Terahertz Scanner for Security Applications

**Contact Information**

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**Deadlines:**
calls and deadlines vary
**Places:**
21
**Scholarships:**
12

In addition to scientific education and research training, PhD candidates will be offered a structured curriculum in security-oriented topics as well as dedicated training in soft skills.
The International Graduate Research Training Group (IRTG) on Self-assembled soft matter nanostructures at interfaces is organized by a US–German consortium of researchers located at TU and HU Berlin, the Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin, the Max-Planck Institute for Colloids and Interfaces and various academic institutions located in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. The IRTG offers a unique research and training environment for doctoral researchers and research students interested in soft-matter physics and physical chemistry.

**Focus**

The scientific purpose underlying this program is to gain a better understanding of the fundamentals of self-assembly processes at interfaces. The focus of the scientific program is on dynamic aspects of self-assembly at interfaces and it is organized in three project areas:

(A) Self-assembly induced by patterned surfaces  
(B) Self-assembly at nanoparticles and curved interfaces  
(C) Biomimetic processes controlled by interfaces

A unique feature in both research and training is the close interaction between theory and experiment.

**Contact Information**

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**Deadlines:** calls and deadlines vary  
**Places:** no fixed number  
**Scholarships:** 14

Applicants should hold a Master’s degree in chemistry or physics and will be exposed to a broad training program in addition to their own scientific work. As part of the program doctoral researchers will work for six months or longer in one of the US partner laboratories.
Service orientation is a promising concept to construct large, distributed software systems. The Research Training Group Service-oriented Architectures for the integration of Software-based Processes, exemplified by Health Care Systems and Medical Technology (SOAMED) seeks to provide the theoretical foundations to substantiate the current approach, which is pragmatically focused and service-oriented. Health care processes as well as technical medical systems are presently dominated by structures and processes that can be substantially improved by the concepts and methods developed by doctoral candidates at this Graduate School.

**Focus**

The software architecture paradigm of service orientation has evolved from very pragmatic problems and backgrounds. Little attention has been directed to theoretical and conceptual problems in the area. The Research Training Group works towards underpinning the service-oriented approach with theoretical foundations by integrating established as well as emerging software engineering procedures. This approach aims at a decisive improvement of concepts, methods, and tool support for service-oriented system construction. The program’s scope for innovation is obvious and far reaching: health care systems as well as medical systems are extremely diverse, yet tightly connected areas. Corresponding software processes are sensitive to failure, privacy, time, cost etc. and therefore deserve best practice development processes. SOAMED contributes to this challenge.
Service-Oriented Systems Engineering

The Hasso Plattner Institute for Software Systems Engineering GmbH (HPI) at Universität Potsdam is Germany’s university excellence center in Computer Science. Since 2012, it has offered interactive open-to-everyone online courses via its MOOC-platform openhpi.de.

The HPI Research School is supervised by HPI professors and supported by the industry.

Focus

The HPI Research School focuses on the foundation and application of large-scale, highly complex, interconnected IT systems. With its interdisciplinary and international structure, it connects the HPI research groups with its international branches at Cape Town University, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and Nanjing University. The HPI Future SOC Lab, a state-of-the-art computer center, enriches academic work at the HPI Research School. HPI professors and their research groups ensure high quality research and supervise PhD candidates in the following areas:

- Human Computer Interaction
- Computer Graphics Systems
- System Engineering and Modeling
- Software Architecture
- Internet Technologies and Systems
- Information Systems
- Enterprise Platform and Integration Concepts
- Operating Systems and Middleware
- Business Process Technology

Contact Information

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</tbody>
</table>

Deadlines: August
Places: 30
Scholarships: 10 per year
The Integrated Research Training Group (IRTG) aims at training PhD candidates at the Collaborative Research Center Space-Time-Matter bilingually in mathematical physics in order to improve the interdisciplinary understanding of advanced mathematics and physics. The program consists of lectures, compact courses by guest researchers and seminars organized by the PhD candidates themselves. IRTG is open to PhD candidates from other institutions and postdocs.

Focus

Lectures held by experts at HU, FU, UP and AEI cover topics such as quantum field theory, Hopf algebras or Atiyah-Singer index theory. The main emphasis lies on intensive three-day block seminars, covering anything from the basic physics of general relativity and quantum mechanics to quantum field theory and deformation quantization, or to mathematical areas like algebraic geometry. The following seminars cover stratified spaces and geometric quantization. PhD candidates can suggest subjects they are interested in. The seminars start at an elementary level in order to be understandable for all participants but quickly gain in difficulty to engage the interest of those already familiar with the subject. Candidates are encouraged to deliver talks themselves.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: positions vary, 3 short-term scholarships

The brevity of block seminars requires PhD candidates to explain key ideas to novices in a short time, thereby training techniques for learning and presenting complex content quickly and effectively.
The Research Training Group (RTG) in Stochastic Analysis with Applications in Biology, Finance and Physics is a joint, structured graduate program run by the probability research groups at HU, TU, and UP. Embedded in an excellent internationally visible research environment, the Research Training Group offers a broad training in probability theory and stochastic processes for PhD candidates.

Focus

Many real life phenomena encountered on trading floors, in materials undergoing phase transitions, in the genealogy of populations, or in terrestrial glacial records can only be adequately modeled and understood by incorporating elements of randomness. Their stochastic modeling involves the description of system components on different spatial and temporal scales and requires a broad range of modern techniques from probability theory. The main areas of research activity are:

- Stochastic analysis and statistical inference for stochastic dynamics
- Stochastic finance
- Stochastic processes in biology and physics

The qualification program also includes mini-courses and annual summer school courses on probability, taught by leading international experts. For successful applicants with a Master’s degree, RTG provides funding for two years with a possible extension for a third year.

Besides the graduate scholarships, RTG also offers two post-doctoral positions funded for 1-2 years.

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Deadlines: May, December
Places: 15
Scholarships: 15
The Collaborative Research Center (CRC) aims at increasing the efficiency of stationary gas turbines and aero-engines by harnessing unsteady phenomena inherent in the system. Scientists from TU Berlin, FU Berlin, RWTH Aachen, and DLR jointly work on aspects related to unsteady turbomachinery.

The CRC includes an integrated research training group that provides PhD candidates with a structured program for scientific and inter-disciplinary training.

**Focus**

Growing global demand for energy and transport places a strong need for improving gas turbine efficiency. Traditional technology, however, allows only incremental improvements. The goal of the CRC is to significantly increase efficiency by making use of - instead of trying to mitigate - dynamic phenomena. Two new unsteady combustion concepts are introduced that approximate thermodynamically more efficient constant-volume heat release. Unsteady compressor and turbine aerodynamics and blade cooling are investigated both experimentally and numerically. To harness the unsteady phenomena, mathematical modeling, model reduction, and control engineering play a central role. PhD topics are closely tied to the CRC's scientific focus. The integrated research training group offers PhD candidates a thematic lecture series, an annual summer school, and various seminars on scientific topics related to the CRC's research topics of the CRC as well as interdisciplinary aspects.

**Contact Information**

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Prof. Dr Lars Enghardt
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Web: www.tu-berlin.de/?id=122143&L=1

**Deadlines:**
- calls and deadlines vary
**Places:**
- no fixed number
**Scholarships:**
- none
“My research overlaps different scientific disciplines. The process of permanent exchange with scientists from other areas is therefore important to me. Studying within the Graduate School makes contact easy, because it unites university and non-university research institutions under one roof.”

/// Christine Gerbich, Germany
Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies
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The Doctoral Certificate Program in Agricultural Economics (DCPIAE) offers the first permanent, structured training of PhD candidates in agricultural, food and environmental economics in Germany. The aim is to increase educational quality and efficiency in dealing with dissertation topics through a systematically organized theory and methods course curriculum. DCPIAE is conducted jointly by all German faculties offering agricultural economics.

Focus

Through this cooperation, a comprehensive set of study modules is available providing access to relevant areas such as:

- Theory
  - Market and Policy Analysis
  - Topics in Industrial Organization
  - Risk Analysis and Risk Management
  - Consumer Economics
- Empirical Methods
  - Efficiency and productivity analysis
  - Time series analysis
  - Geographic information systems and spatial data analysis
  - Qualitative empirical research methods
  - Advanced applied econometrics

PhD candidates can be admitted to DCPIAE if they are accepted as a PhD candidate at one of the participating faculties and submit a certificate of enrolment. The final certificate is awarded upon successful completion.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary, for single modules 1 month before the start
Places: 300
Scholarships: none
The Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG) aims at contributing towards a better understanding of the interdependence between society and the Internet as well as to give everyone the opportunity to help shape the digital, networked future. The Institute was founded by HU, UdK and the Social Science Research Centre Berlin in conjunction with the Hans Bredow Institute Hamburg.

Focus

The objective of HIIG’s doctoral program is to promote exceptionally talented, international early-stage researchers who are interested in developing an innovative, interdisciplinary doctoral project in the field of internet and society.

Doctoral candidates belong to one of HIIG’s research groups. Besides specific mentoring agreements, other facilities include regular presentations and mentoring appointments designed to further the development of independent research. There is also a separate soft-skills program and the possibility of financial support for a temporary research stay abroad for outstanding doctoral candidates. Candidates at any stage of their doctoral thesis are free to apply. The contract period is usually limited to two years, with an interim assessment after the first year of the PhD and a possible option to extend the doctoral studies for another year.

Doctoral candidates from abroad are particularly welcome.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 18-20
Scholarships: 4-6
Building on Berlin’s unique and manifold academic environment, the Berlin Doctoral Program in Economics and Management Science (BDPEMS) provides outstanding PhD candidates with state-of-the-art training in economics, finance, econometrics, and management science. It brings together expertise and excellence from all major universities and research institutions in Berlin. Since 2011 the program has been funded by the Einstein Foundation. BDPEMS offers scholarships for up to three years.

The program’s vision is to become one of Europe’s leading programs for top-level graduate education in economics and management.

**Focus**

BDPEMS offers a structured doctoral education with individual research beginning at an early stage. A broad network of institutions and researchers cooperates with the DIW Graduate Center and the following partner programs:

- Research Training Group Interdependencies in the Regulation of Markets
- International Research Training Group High Dimensional Non Stationary Time Series.

**Contact Information**

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**Deadlines:** March

**Places:** 10-20 per year

**Scholarships:** 5-10 per year

The faculty consists of internationally renowned scholars from:

- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU)
- Freie Universität Berlin (FU)
- Technische Universität Berlin (TU)
- European School of Management and Technology (ESMT)
- Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB)
The Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies (BTS) is a joint endeavor by FU Berlin, the Hertie School of Governance, and the Social Science Research Center Berlin. It offers a rigorous and dynamic English-language PhD program for exceptionally-talented graduate students in the field of transnational and international relations defined as an interdisciplinary field of research encompassing political science, history, economics, law and related disciplines.

Focus

BTS offers four primary research areas: globalization, governance, regional structures and the EU as trans-national polity.

The first deals with the causes and consequences of globalization; the second investigates governance challenges; the third focuses on analytical comparisons of regional political, economic, and social structures; and the fourth deals with the EU as a transnational polity.

The PhD program consists of three years of study, starting in September of each year. The bulk of candidates’ workload will take the form of independent thesis research. Apart from this, all candidates are required to successfully complete content-oriented survey courses, colloquia on research methods, and multidisciplinary skills workshops. Candidates will also be required to present the results of their research regularly at research colloquia and at academic conferences.

Contact Information

Chair: Prof. Dr Markus Jachtenfuchs
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Deadlines: December - February
Places: 10-15
Scholarships: 5-7
The Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies (BerGSAS) is jointly run by FU and HU. It is part of the Berliner Antike-Kolleg, preceded and further developed by the Excellence Cluster Topoi. A unique feature is its close cooperation with four prestigious non-university research institutions on site: the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the German Archaeological Institute, the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, and the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation.

The language of instruction is predominantly German with some English.

Focus

We provide a wide range of interdisciplinary programs for students with an interest in the ancient world who wish to take a PhD in any area of Ancient Studies and related fields:

- Ancient Languages and Texts
- History of Ancient Science
- Landscape Archaeology and Architecture
- Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road
- Material Cultures and Object Studies
- Ancient Philosophy

Our programs are open to candidates with a Master’s degree, diploma, or German “Staatsexamen”.

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Chair: Prof. Dr Cilliers Breytenbach
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Deadlines: April
Places: 30 per year
Scholarships: vary

PhD candidates are expected to complete all program requirements, including the dissertation, within three years.
The mission of the Berlin Graduate School of Social Science (BGSS) is to prepare doctoral researchers from Germany and abroad for a career as social or political scientists within and outside the academic world. It offers a structured curriculum and intensive individual supervision and is part of the interdisciplinary Humboldt Center for Social and Political Research at HU. With its strong network of non-university research institutions and international partner universities, BGSS serves Berlin as a regional and international platform for doctoral training in the social sciences.

**Focus**

Research at BGSS is based on interdisciplinary collaboration between sociology and political science. It concentrates on the comparative analysis of problems of social inclusion and democratic performance. **Inclusion:** social inequality and life chances, social protest and social conflict, immigrant integration, cultural diversity, and the politics of immigration, life courses and demographic change, work, education, and the conduct of life, urban inequalities and resourceful cities. **Democracy:** comparative constitutional politics, processes of democratization, and the resilience of autocracy, theory and empirical research on the crisis of democracy, evolutionary approaches to the global diffusion of political regime types, political attitudes and the determinants of political behavior, institutions, elections, and the politics of sustainability, health and welfare in the 21st century. The three-year program offers intensive individual supervision and a structured curriculum, combining high-level courses on theory and methods, milestones assuring continuous progress and practical elements like teaching, publishing and research internships.

**Contact Information**

Chair: Prof. Ellen Immergut, PhD  
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**Deadlines:** last quarter of each year  
**Places:** 10  
**Scholarships:** 2-4
The debate on Islam shapes the political sphere and influences social discourse. To meet the growing need for sound knowledge in this area, the Berlin Graduate School on Muslim Cultures and Societies (BGSMS) trains qualified specialists to work in academia, the media, politics, and international cooperation.

The Graduate School is a joint enterprise of Freie Universität, Humboldt Universität and Zentrum Moderner Orient. It is funded through the Excellence Initiative.

**Focus**

The Graduate School investigates the entire spectrum of what is referred to both historically and currently as Islam. Research emphasizes the inner diversity, historical changeability and global connectedness of Muslim cultures and societies as well as relations between Muslims and non-Muslims. Projects investigate the role of Islam as a frame of reference for social, cultural and political phenomena. Interdisciplinary collaboration generates fascinating changes in perspective.

Geographically, the Graduate School covers a broad spectrum, which is partly due to the international composition of researchers and partly due to the diversity of regions they study. In addition to the Middle East, research focuses on Sub-Saharan Africa, Central, South and Southeast Asia, as well as the Muslim diaspora in Europe and North America.

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**Deadlines:** November
**Places:** 15 per year
**Scholarships:** 10 per year
The International Research Training Group (ITRG) Between Spaces is a binational German-Mexican research and study program, located at FU’s Institute for Latin American Studies. In cooperation with HU, UP, El Colegio de México, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, IRTG enables highly qualified young researchers to write their thesis in an international environment. The main languages of IRTG are Spanish and English.

Focus

IRTG opens new perspectives on social and cultural globalization research with an emphasis on Latin America. The focus is on movements between various regions of the world and the consequent emergence of new spaces during the key phases of globalization. The close cooperation with Mexican partner institutions enables a combination of diverse perspectives and furthers joint empirical research and theoretical debate. The study program is tailored to the specific needs of PhD candidates. In addition to research-oriented seminars and close individual supervision, it offers a wide range of events such as lecture series, research method workshops and guest lectures. PhD candidates have access to supervisors from both countries and benefit from different regional academic networks. They spend an extended period studying at the Mexican partner institutions and researching in Mexico or in other parts of Latin America.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: May 2015
Places: 15
Scholarships: 15
The Doctoral Program in Business Research (DPBR) is the structured doctoral education program offered by the School of Business & Economics at FU Berlin. DPBR is aimed at all doctoral candidates at the school, whether they are employed by the school as research assistants, candidates on a scholarship or other externally funded PhD candidates. The program focuses on high-quality systematic theory building, research methods training and professional skills.

**Focus**

The Doctoral Program in Business Research is a “hybrid” doctoral program providing structured PhD training in a format open to all doctoral candidates in business administration, including those working part-time as a member of the research or teaching staff in one of our departments. DPBR provides training in the design, methods, and publication of research across a range of fields in business studies. The main elements of the DPBR program involve team-based supervision and taught courses in the following three areas: theory development, research methods training and professional skills. Research projects and DPBR members come from a variety of academic backgrounds including Business Administration (Management, Marketing, Information Systems and FACTS) and projects of related disciplines with a clear business focus. Applications are invited from candidates if they have been admitted to the school for doctoral studies and have a member of the school on their supervisory team.

**Contact Information**

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**Deadlines:** calls and deadlines vary
**Places:** no fixed number
**Scholarships:** none
The Berlin Centre for Caspian Region Studies at Freie Universität is an interdisciplinary center bringing together scientists from different faculties, non-university, Berlin-based research institutions, and think tanks dealing with the Caspian Region. The center is divided into research areas conducting interdisciplinary work on questions relating to the Caspian Region. With research in economics, geography, law and political science at its core, the center reaches out to other disciplines relevant to understanding the issues affecting the Caspian Region.

Focus

The importance of the Caspian Region for regional and global security has grown steadily. Due to new geopolitical and economic conditions, problems in the areas of law, politics and economy, as well as highly complex environmental issues have become increasingly relevant. Against this backdrop, the Berlin Centre for Caspian Region Studies offers an interdisciplinary PhD program: Caspian Region Environmental and Energy Studies (CREES), bringing together research in political science, sociology, law, economics, history and earth science. PhD candidates from around the world, including the Caspian region itself, research topics ranging from environmental pollution to geopolitics. In addition to academic study, CREES offers its doctoral candidates a variety of soft skills seminars, interdisciplinary courses in the relevant research fields as well as the opportunity to advance foreign language skills.
The Centre for Contemporary History (ZZF) is a research institute in the Leibniz Association, based in Potsdam. It focuses on contemporary German and European history during and after the Cold War and places special emphasis on the implementation of innovative theoretical and methodological approaches.

ZZF offers an inspiring academic environment and excellent support for currently more than 30 PhD candidates. Most of them hold either third-party funded positions or fellowships.

Focus

The five departments’ central research themes include the history of communist societies, 20th century economic and social upheavals, cultural history of the political as well as the history of media and information societies. Its PhD candidates are closely integrated into the departments and participate in their respective academic activities. They receive individual support from their particular departmental supervisors and benefit from the PhD candidates support program which includes

- a weekly doctoral colloquium
- an annual international postgraduate research symposium organized by the PhD candidates

In its doctoral supervision the ZZF cooperates closely with the HU Berlin, the FU Berlin and Universität Potsdam.

Contact Information

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       Prof. Dr Martin Sabrow

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Web: www.zzf-pdm.de

Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: short-term grants

- six-month completion scholarships for PhD candidates
The PhD-Net Das Wissen der Literatur is a binational doctoral program, hosted by the Institut für deutsche Literatur at HU. The program closely collaborates with the Department of German at the University of California, Berkeley, the Department of German at Princeton University, and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University in the USA.

The program’s working languages are German and English.

**Focus**

The PhD-Net offers German and international PhD candidates a stimulating environment for cooperative research, work, and discussion as well as a structured curriculum that ranges from coursework to subject-specific classes and methodological training.

The doctoral candidates in the PhD-Net study for up to two terms abroad at the partner institutions. During that time they participate in a specific teaching program while being supervised by an international faculty member. Besides six German candidates, the PhD-Net accepts six international PhD candidates (from the US-American partner institutions) into its program each year. The focus on the relationship between knowledge and literature responds to recent methodological considerations in literary studies and forms the basis for the PhD-exchange and the joint academic instruction and supervision of the doctoral projects. The PhD-Net is part of the Humboldt Graduate School.

**Contact Information**

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**Deadlines:** calls and deadlines vary  
**Places:** 6 per year  
**Scholarships:** none
The third curriculum of the EDP is a joint doctorate run by the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences, the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane/Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa and the Central European University in Budapest. It explores the question of how the political, economic and cultural construction of “Europe” has shaped and been shaped by its global context. Fellows are expected to do their course work in different countries. Joint annual seminars provide them with opportunities for exchange and debate.

Focus

EDP III focuses on processes of inclusion and exclusion in Europe and at its borders by relating them to ongoing processes of democratic institution building, which are mediated by cultural traditions and ideologies and triggered by collective action and mobilization.

Research topics: Construction of borders in “Europe” in a global perspective; Emergence of transnational social/political spaces in Europe; Identity constructions and identity conflicts in Europe; Social and political protest in Europe and beyond; Transformation of civil society in Eastern and Southern Europe.

EDP III provides particular competence required to understand the dynamics of processes which situate

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Deadlines: September - December
Places: 3-5 per year
Scholarships: vary

Europe in the world. EDP III crosscuts political science and sociology and thereby draws on the strength of each partner to train doctoral fellows. It will equip its fellows with a set of conceptual tools and methods that enable them to analyze the identity and the state of Europe beyond the classic comparative perspective.
European PhD in Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies

The European PhD in Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies (Sess.EuropePhD) is an international, interdisciplinary graduate program which builds upon the cooperation between nine partner universities in Europe and Israel. Sess.EuroPhD is coordinated by the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences at HU. The program’s aim is the development of knowledge regarding the interplay of economic and social phenomena based on empirical research by adopting the most appropriate and advanced statistical methods.

Focus

Research Areas

Methodological aspects of socio-economic research; The interrelationship between economic and social structure; Processes of change in economic organizations and institutions; Labor markets, employment, and inequality; Welfare state analysis and social security; Economic and social inequality and perceptions of social justice.

Research Collaboration

The following partner universities are currently admitting and training Sess.EuroPh.D candidates:

Universitat de Barcelona, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, University of Haifa, Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille, Sapienza Universita di Roma, University of Southampton, University of Tampere

Contact Information

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Web: www.europhd.org

Deadlines: September - December
Places: 2-4 per year
Scholarships: vary

European PhD in Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies

Social Sciences and Humanities
Fast Track for Teacher Education Students

The Fast Track PhD Program for Teacher Education Students is a newly established program at HU. It is implemented and coordinated as a joint activity by HU’s Interdisciplinary Centre for Educational Research and its Professional School of Education. The program offers PhD candidates a research-oriented Master of Education program followed by a two-year PhD program. Fast Track addresses highly-motivated teacher education students with an outstanding Bachelor’s degree and strong interest in teacher education and related fields. During the Master of Education and the doctoral phase the participants in the Fast Track program are expected to attend additional courses and lectures to improve their research skills.

Focus

The aim of the program is to supply extraordinary methodological resources for teacher education students to work on for a doctoral degree and to prepare either for an academic career in the field of teacher education or for a high-powered career in the school system. It supports the completion of a Master’s degree within two years, followed by the completion of a dissertation within another two years. Candidates receive intensive supervision from two senior researchers and have the opportunity to attend special workshops. The program offers opportunities for networking with international researchers associated with the PhD candidates’ supervisors and the chance to teach.

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Deadlines: February
Places: 12
Scholarships: 4
Funded through the Excellence Initiative, the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies (FSGS) supervises dissertations and promotes research in the field of literary studies that address texts from the European, American, Arabic and Asian cultural areas. Partner institutions include Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the University of Cambridge, the University of Chicago, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, and the Einstein Foundation.

The language of instruction is German.

Focus

The research areas covered by FSGS include:

1. Literature as a textual practice
2. Literatures in a transnational perspective
3. Literature and knowledge
4. Literature, (inter-)mediality, and the arts

Doctoral and postdoctoral students combine comparative text, media and cultural approaches with theoretical questions and identify connections between literary texts and cultural processes. Fields of research include the relationship between literary texts, the interconnections between literary texts and processes of linguistic reasoning, rhetoric and poetics, correlations between literature and other aesthetic media, as well as the mutual interdependence of literature and the discourse of knowledge. PhD candidates also take part in activities such as research colloquia with renowned visiting academics, seminars on methodology and literary theory, and courses and workshops in the field of transferable skills.

Contact Information

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Web: www.fsgs.fu-berlin.de/en

Deadlines: January
Places: 10 per year
Scholarships: 10 per year
“The research schools in Berlin are excellent institutions providing doctoral students with the relevant skills and competencies. They also offer courses on how to build professional relationships and networks in academia.”

/// Joseph Lengmang, Nigeria
Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies
The Graduate School of East Asian Studies (GEAS) is funded by the Excellence Initiative and offers area studies research on East Asia with thorough, discipline-based methodological training in social sciences. GEAS builds on existing strengths in area studies at FU Berlin, graduate programs in Germany as well as partner institutions in China, Japan and Korea. GEAS provides an extensive network of cooperative relationships with the leading institutions in East Asia and worldwide.

Focus

The doctoral training program at GEAS is organized around the central theme of institutions, which can be investigated from the perspectives of the social sciences, business and economics, anthropology, law, history and the humanities. The core research and empirical analysis will be conducted using interconnected lenses:

1. The origins and change of institutions in East Asia
2. The effects of institutions and the consequences of institutional diversity
3. Interdependence of institutions in East Asia in the broader regional and global context

The three-year PhD program is open to candidates with a master’s degree and knowledge of at least one Asian language. The program combines methods courses, research seminars, and Summer Schools with mandatory fieldwork in East Asia, with the provision of specific area-related transferable skills. Candidates will receive degrees in the department of their discipline under the supervision of three advisors and a faculty mentor in East Asia.

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Deadlines: January
Places: 15
Scholarships: 12
The Graduate School of Global Politics (GSGP) invites students to pursue their PhD within a three-year structured PhD-program jointly offered by Freie Universität Berlin and four selected Chinese partner universities: Renmin University in Beijing, Fudan University in Shanghai, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and Jinan University in Guangzhou. As the only joint doctoral program between China and Germany in the Social Sciences, the GSGP aims to open a new phase of academic dialogue between the two countries.

Focus

PhD candidates at GSGP focus on dissertation topics in Global Politics (IR) and related Area Studies with a special emphasis on European-Chinese relations. They are uniquely positioned to

- become highly qualified experts in global politics,
- develop their dissertations while working closely with top scholars in their chosen fields of interest,
- expand their academic knowledge through a challenging study program,
- benefit from valuable international research experience through a research stay abroad at one of the partner institutions, and
- gain access to an exciting international academic network in European-Chinese relations.

After successfully finishing the program and their dissertation, GSGP PhD candidates will receive a doctoral degree from FU Berlin together with the joint certificate. Currently, the partner universities are working intensively on the introduction of a Joint Degree for GSGP PhD candidates – a first between the two countries in the Social Sciences.
The doctoral and postdoctoral program at the Graduate School of North American Studies (GSNAS) offers close individual supervision and excellent theoretical and methodological training in the fields of American Literature and Culture, History, Political Science, Sociology, and Economics. Interdisciplinary approaches and perspectives are particularly welcome.

**Focus**

GSNAS invites doctoral and postdoctoral projects analyzing the social, economic and cultural changes facing North America at the beginning of the 21st century, with specific emphasis on the discourses and diagnoses of crisis pertinent to domestic and foreign policy, economic development, the media, arts, culture, and religion. Historical perspectives are welcome. The program focuses on nine research areas:

- American Exceptionalism and the Rhetoric of Crisis
- Nation, Ethnicity, Diaspora, Borderlands
- The Polarization of American Politics
- Values in Conflict: Religion, Community, Identity
- Art, Aesthetics and American Culture
- Publics and Counterpublics
- Economic and Financial Crises
- Democracy and Inequality
- Globalization and (the End of) the American Century

The Graduate School offers up to 10 doctoral stipends per year. The curriculum consists of interdisciplinary seminars, courses on disciplinary research methods, and classes on teaching skills and management skills.

**Contact Information**

- Chair: Prof. Dr Ulla Haselstein
- Coordinator: Dr David Bosold
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  Graduate School of North American Studies
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**Deadlines:** January  
**Places:** 10-15  
**Scholarships:** 10 per year
This new, structured three-year doctoral program aims at preparing young scholars to initiate the next generation of basic research and theory-building on the welfare state and health care systems. We are specifically seeking researchers in the fields of political science, sociology and history who are willing to broaden their social scientific perspective to embrace interdisciplinary, historical, and intercultural dimensions, including medical and demographic perspectives.

**Focus**

The program tackles the topic of the future of the welfare state, with a particular focus on health care. In the 21st century, welfare states face enormous challenges: population aging, the emergence of post-industrial economies, globalization, transnational migration, European integration, and regional economic competition are some of the most well known problems. In the health care area, the consequences of the tremendous advances in genetic analysis and engineering, the pandemic spreading of infectious disease, the role of behavior, and coping with global inequality all pose an additional burden by increasing the costs of health care and complicating the decision on how to distribute health technology and services.

**Contact Information**

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**Deadlines:** last quarter of each year
**Places:** 3-5
**Scholarships:** vary

**Central research areas and topics are:**
The Global Welfare State, Migration and the Welfare State, Europe and the Welfare State, Challenges to the Health Care State, Welfare States, Inequality and the Life Course
The International Research Training Group (IRTG) “High Dimensional Non Stationary Time Series” is a joint PhD program offered by Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Xiamen University. The collaboration also involves other major statistics and economics institutions in Berlin: Freie Universität Berlin, the Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and Stochastics, and the German Institute for Economic Research.

**Focus**

IRTG is a flag-ship PhD program with extensive DFG-supported funding, linking two top universities from Germany and China, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Xiamen University. The program is organized in eight vertebra-like sub-projects, such as forecasting high-dimensional time series, volatility, copulae. Together these constitute the backbone of the program.

IRTG is looking for outstanding students from across the world with strong quantitative backgrounds, preferably in statistics, economics, mathematics or other related fields. Upon entering the research program, PhD candidates receive supportive and systematic supervision. The aim of supervision is to prepare them for independent research as quickly as possible, while the program itself offers PhD-level courses, international exchange experience, extensive scholarships as well as renowned institutional cooperation.

**Contact Information**

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**Deadlines:** March  
**Places:** 6 per year  
**Scholarships:** 6 per year [1 scholarship, 5 positions]
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and FU Berlin will establish an International Research Training Group (IRTG) “Human Rights under Pressure – Ethics, Law and Politics” in 2014. Distinguished scholars from the MenschenRechtsZentrum at Universität Potsdam and the Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte will be associated with IRTG. Human Rights under Pressure will be funded by the German Research Foundation and the Einstein Foundation Berlin.

Focus

Providing a platform for cutting edge research on the most pressing contemporary challenges for the realization of human rights, IRTG offers young researchers a unique opportunity to conduct original research in one of three identified fields:

(1) human rights during crises and emergencies
(2) human rights and diversity
(3) human rights and globalization

Its qualification strategy comprises a three-year-program for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers who will participate in both jointly and locally held courses, e.g. a two-week intensive introductory course at Hebrew University, joint interdisciplinary colloquia, master classes, joint lecture series and annual summer schools in Berlin. Furthermore, the program provides for a compulsory mobility phase during which doctoral candidates will conduct their research at the respective partner university.

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Deadlines: January
Places: 40
Scholarships: 40 (20 in Berlin, 20 in Jerusalem)
The Integrated Graduate School (RTG) is part of the Collaborative Research Center (CRC) "Information Structure: The Linguistic Means of Structuring Utterances, Sentences and Texts". The CRC brings together linguists from UP, HU and FU Berlin working on various aspects of information structure.

Focus

The CRC is concerned with the study of information structure in the various disciplines of linguistics, including psycholinguistics and computational linguistics. Three aspects are of particular interest: the interaction of the relevant formal levels (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, the choice of lexical means, and the composition of texts), the general cognitive processing of information structure, a crosslinguistic typology of information, and structural devices.

The RTG offers a stimulating environment for PhD candidates interested in the study of language. PhD candidates are directly involved in the CRC’s research activities by affiliation with one of its projects; CRC external PhD candidates get the opportunity to work within a SFB project through short-term grants (up to 12 months). The RTG supports communication among candidates in the various projects and offers a comprehensive training program.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: December
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: 2 short-term scholarships
The Research Training Group (RTG) is based in the Department of Sociology at TU Berlin where it cooperates across three TU faculties as well as with UdK and the Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning. Twelve doctoral candidates and three associates are currently enrolled and are supported by a structured teaching program, academic congresses, visiting speakers and intensive supervision from one of the seventeen professors involved.

Focus

While innovation has shaped modern society from its inception, it is becoming more reflexive, heterogeneous, and ubiquitous. Reflexive innovation implies not just the intentional transformation of routine actions, but also the transformation of social practices based on continuously (re-)produced knowledge of innovation.

We study practices, orientations, and processes of innovations in and between areas, such as (a) science & technology, (b) industry & service sectors, (c) arts & culture, and (d) political governance, social planning of urban & regional spaces. We aim to develop a sophisticated view on innovation which embraces more than conventional economic perspectives. A series of case studies will be undertaken and analyzed comparatively so as to promote a deeper and empirically founded understanding of the meaning of innovation in contemporary society and the social processes it involves.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 17
Scholarships: 12
InterArt / Interart Studies

The International Research Training Group (ITRG) InterArt / Interart Studies at FU Berlin promotes young researchers in the Humanities with an innovative PhD project dedicated to phenomena straddling different art media. Its principal objective is to qualify doctoral researchers within the framework of a focused research program and a structured training strategy.

The main language of instruction is German.

Focus

Focusing on works of art and events over a wide range of time periods, the ITRG aims at devising new methodological approaches to emerging interart phenomena and at creating new aesthetic categories that might adequately describe the tendency in the arts toward multimedialization, hybridization, and performativization. The long-term goal is the development of new theories referring to different types of interart phenomena that cannot be grasped by a single discipline within fine arts studies alone.

The following disciplines are covered:

1. Art History
2. Comparative Literature
3. Cultural Anthropology
4. Cultural Theory
5. Film Studies
6. Musicology
7. Theatre and Dance

Contact Information

Chair: Prof. Dr Dr h.c. Erika Fischer-Lichte
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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 20
Scholarships: none
The Research Training Group (RTG) offers outstanding young researchers a full-time, internationally competitive doctoral program with financial support in the form of scholarships. With its participating faculty, the RTG represents all major academic institutions in economics in Berlin.

Focus

The RTG’s doctoral program is based on the unifying research theme, Interdependencies in the Regulation of Markets. With a focus on regulatory issues, the doctoral program combines demanding course work with individual research, which begins at a particularly early stage. Each PhD candidate is intensively supervised by two RTG faculty members.

The RTG works in close cooperation with the Berlin Doctoral Program in Economics and Management Science (BDPEMS). The group’s research agenda focuses in particular on the interdependence of regulation in and between the three market segments:

- product markets
- labor markets
- financial markets

PhD candidates are taught state-of-the-art knowledge of theoretical and applied economics that is essential at the frontier of economic research. They are in touch with the international research community in economics and become part of Berlin’s unique academic environment.
The International Max Planck Research School for Moral Economies of Modern Societies (IMPRS Moral Economies) is a joint international PhD program run by the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, as well as FU, HU and TU in Berlin. PhD candidates are offered a scholarship for up to four years, and use of the excellent research facilities at the MPI for Human Development.

Focus

IMPRS Moral Economies investigates values, emotions and habits that inform and inspire social formations which have emerged since the eighteenth century in Europe, North America, and South Asia.

Researching moral economies means exploring the ways in which values and emotions reinforce or contradict each other in modern societies. This can be approached on the level of major ideas and concepts as well as on the level of social interaction and institutional settings. Moral economies are embedded in social relations, which are in turn framed by institutions.

IMPRS Moral Economies creates a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment by providing a first-class doctoral education. The four-year academic program offers seminars, workshops, annual summer/fall schools, guest lectures, and research stays at an associated institution. Candidates pursue a PhD in History and are supervised by at least one member of the school’s faculty.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: December
Places: 6 per year
Scholarships: 6 per year
The International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course (LIFE) is a joint international PhD Program offered by the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, FU, HU, the Universities of Michigan, Virginia and Zurich. The target research of LIFE is the development of human behavior from infancy to old age. LIFE adopts an integrative and interdisciplinary approach to identifying, understanding, and possibly ameliorating the mechanisms and conditions that shape the human life course.

Focus

LIFE offers candidates unique training in the dynamics of human behavior on different time scales. These include long-term changes, such as in the evolution of culture and emergence of institutions of learning, and short-term changes, such as in individual education processes, lifespan development, and institutionally regulated life-course processes. LIFE unifies a wide range of disciplines from the behavioral, computational and social sciences as well as the neurosciences. As a collaborative research school, LIFE combines discipline-based training in the study of the life course with enhanced interdisciplinary and international perspectives.

The program has five core components:

1. collaborative supervision of research training
2. semi-annual fall and spring academies
3. seminar courses at the participating institutions
4. additional workshops
5. research stays abroad
The graduate program Knowledge of the Arts is located at an institution where a variety of arts are not only taught and researched but also practiced. The program sheds light on the processes of negotiation by which artistic knowledge is articulated and legitimized. The program is financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

The language of instruction is German.

Focus

The focus of the program is on knowledge of the arts, which is studied as an implicit, habituated, incorporated and process-orientated form of knowledge.

Based on interdisciplinary collaboration of the arts, art history, media studies, philosophy, engineering and pedagogy, the graduate program is developing a model for understanding how knowledge is generated in the arts and how the concept of art-related science can be conceptualized in a contemporary way.

The research program pursues forms of artistic knowledge as cultural techniques for deriving ideas.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 12
Scholarships: 12

The graduate program offers 12 grants for PhD candidates as well as one post-doctoral position.
Latin American Studies from a Comparative and Transregional Perspective

The doctoral program at FU Berlin’s Institute for Latin American Studies enables young researchers to write their thesis in their chosen areas of specialization (Cultural and Social Anthropology, Gender Studies, History, Literature and Cultures of Latin America, Economics, Political Sciences and Sociology) in the context of an interdisciplinary and internationally oriented curriculum and research program. The program is largely concerned with the states, cultures and societies of Latin America. The main languages are Spanish and English.

Focus

The program promotes innovative research on topics concerning Latin America, with a compulsory focus on interdisciplinary methods. From transregional, transcultural and comparative perspectives, research projects analyze current and historical problems of Latin American societies in the context of globalization. The complex transformations in Latin America are research-relevant topics as are the perception and reception of the intellectual production of the region.

The program offers a range of events such as lecture series, research method workshops or guest lectures. PhD candidates benefit from a broad network as well as the institute’s research contacts in Latin America.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: February, June
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: none

Candidates, whose supervisors are members of the Institute for Latin American Studies and who hold a scholarship, can apply for admission to the program.
Ludwig Rosenberg Kolleg: Historical Relations between Labor Movements and Modern Jewry

The Ludwig Rosenberg Kolleg (LRK), named after the chairman of the Confederation of German Trade Unions Ludwig Rosenberg (1903-1977), is an interdisciplinary PhD Research Group funded by the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung and affiliated to the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies Potsdam. Scholars and fellows will take part in a coordinated course program, a colloquium and specific working groups.

Focus

LRK promotes excellent PhD projects focusing on the historical relations between Labor Movements and Modern Jewry from the mid-19th till the mid-20th centuries. This covers all forms of Jewish labor organizations, Jewish individuals engaged in the respective movements, the specific perception of the “Jewish question” in those movements, as well as their attitude towards anti-Semitism. Fields of research are:

1. Jewish labor organizations, including socialist, national-autonomist and Zionist groups
2. Biographies and collective biographies of activists in the Labor Movements against their Jewish background
3. Debates on Judaism and the “Jewish question” in the respective Labor Movements
4. Anti-Jewish tendencies within the Labor Movements, as well as their different reactions and attitudes towards modern anti-Semitism

LKR focuses on History, Jewish Studies, and Cultural History, but is also open to scholars of Sociology, Political Science/Theory, European Anthropology, and other related disciplines.

Contact Information

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: 8
The Graduate Center (GC) at the German Institute for Economic Research Berlin (DIW) provides excellent training in economics to PhD candidates from around the world. Participants receive both intensive academic training as well as individually tailored supervision of their dissertations.

The GC allows PhD candidates to apply their knowledge in the professional research environment of DIW Berlin, one of Germany’s leading economic think-tanks.

### Focus

The GC offers a four-year program of in-depth training in economics leading to a PhD from one of Berlin’s universities. The first year comprises a curriculum of high-level courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics. During the last three years PhD candidates are provided with on-the-job training in one of DIW Berlin’s research departments.

Typical research areas include applied topics in macroeconomics, microeconomics, public economics, environmental economics, and social policy.

Graduates of the GC graduates are outstandingly qualified in the scientific analysis of economic and social policy issues with excellent methodological skills, experience in handling empirical data, and detailed knowledge of economics.

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**Contact Information**

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Web: www.diw.de/gc

**Deadlines:** March  
**Places:** 15 per year  
**Scholarships:** 15 per year

There are no tuition fees. Participants receive scholarships.

Applicants must hold a Master’s degree in economics or related sciences.

The program starts in October. The application deadline is the end of March.
The PhD program on Public Economics and Inequality is a joint graduate school run by the Economics Department at FU Berlin and the Hans Böckler Foundation. It offers a coordinated course program taught by both local and international researchers.

Focus

Economic inequality has been on the rise in many industrialized countries since the 1980s. This phenomenon has raised a number of issues which shape the focus of the graduate school:

1. Income inequality and redistribution over the life-cycle
2. Behavioral economic analysis of social welfare systems
3. Intergenerational mobility and capital taxation
4. Taxation of economic elites and their resilience
5. Empirical analysis of tax and social policy

In the first year the PhD candidates attend lectures on theory and empirical methods in the field of public economics. Internationally renowned experts teach short courses of three lectures on a subtopic of the program and discuss the candidates’ research proposals. This allows candidates to align their research with the latest scientific results at an early stage to the latest scientific results. In the second and third years, candidates focus on their research and present their work in the graduate school’s weekly seminar, at workshops organized by the graduate school and at international conferences. Candidates are encouraged to undertake a research stay abroad.
The German-French doctoral program “Syntagmata and Collocations in the Sentence and in Discourse. Structure, Fixation, Grammaticalization” offers structured doctoral training in the field of linguistics. It is funded by the Deutsch-Französische Hochschule / Université Franco-Allemande and takes place at Universität Potsdam and the Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense. Grants are provided to help cover expenses for travel and accommodation at the partner university.

Focus

The doctoral program investigates collocations and their emergence in European languages. Under syntagmata and collocations we consider two extremes in the connectivity of words in their occurrence in texts and discourses. Whereas syntagmata are understood to denote sentence constituents of more than one word that, as a rule, can be assembled freely, the formation of collocations is limited by semantic conditions. The syntagma is regarded as a combination of two or more consecutive units.

The program focuses on the following areas:

(a) In-depth study of the significance-oriented collocation concept and elaboration of the semantic

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: 2, 18 mobility allowances

and syntactic determinants of the occurrence of collocations, (b) Comparison of collocations of lexemes with similar meaning in European languages, (c) Analysis of collocations in selected text types.
The THESys Graduate Program is the doctoral program of HU’s Integrative Research Institute on Transformations of Human-Environment Systems (IRI THESys). It is organized by the institutes and faculties of HU that collaborate in the IRI THESys together with regional partners, e.g. PIK (Potsdam), IAMO (Halle), IGB (Berlin).

Focus

The THESys Graduate Program offers PhD candidates an ideal environment for doctoral research within the scientific scope of IRI THESys. Research at IRI THESys focuses on the use of land and resources, urbanization in the 21st century, climate change impact as well as intra-/intergenerational environmental justice. Scientists at IRI THESys come, for example, from agricultural economics, social anthropology, geography, philosophy, physics or economics.

The THESys Graduate Program is open to all PhD candidates from institutions involved in IRI THESys on application. The guiding principle behind doctoral research in the program is to foster disciplinary depth embedded in an interdisciplinary context. Thus, the curriculum covers modules on developing interdisciplinary competencies, deepening disciplinary specialization, entering new disciplines and training key competencies. Moreover, the program offers its students summer schools and access to travel funds.

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Deadlines: March, September
Places: 20 per year
Scholarships: only travel and course fee scholarships
The International Graduate Research Training Group (ITRG) “The World in the City” is a collaboration between TU, HU and FU Berlin, Columbia, Fordham, NYU, City University of New York, University of Toronto and York University in Toronto.

The interdisciplinary program is located at the Center for Metropolitan Studies at TU Berlin.

**Focus**

The focus is on the following questions:

1. How has metropolitanism developed since the nineteenth century? To what extent did individual forms of metropolitanism emerge during different time periods and in different areas of the world? What overarching features, transfers, or appropriations exist in a global world?

2. What impact did the nineteenth century’s surge of globalization have on the development of metropoles? Which role did/do external networks play in the internal construction of metropolitan identities, everyday practices, and architectures?

3. To what extent do modern metropoles enable processes of globalization in the first place?

Each cycle of the program runs for 3 years. The 12 fully-funded doctoral fellows, 2 post-docs, and 3 associated PhD candidates come from a variety of disciplines. Moreover, the program offers an intensive curriculum and advising program, including a research stay abroad.
The Zentrum Jüdische Studien Berlin-Brandenburg

The Zentrum für jüdische Studien Berlin-Brandenburg (ZJS), founded in 2012, is a joint project between HU, FU, TU, UP, the Abraham Geiger Kolleg and the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies. Funded through the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Center has three focus areas: to educate the next generation, to connect the existing, diverse range of Jewish Studies as well as to contribute to internationalizing the research and teaching done in the Berlin-Brandenburg region.

Focus

ZJS offers a broad range of research fields thanks to the involvement of the four universities, two institutes and a number of associated institutions. It facilitates the development of networks in transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to history, philosophy, Jewish Studies, theology, literature and music, and art history in the Berlin-Brandenburg region.

The areas of research include the history of the emergence of Jewish Studies, Berlin as a location of Jewish emancipation, the dialogue between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam – the so-called monotheistic triangle – as well as memory cultures, especially the testimony and memorial culture on the Shoah. ZJS is an excellent base for taking a PhD in Berlin and Brandenburg with a coordinated course program involving unique workshops and various research groups. The program takes 4-6 semesters in which PhD candidates attend the general colloquium and one research group per semester.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: none
Thinking Differences: Structures – Order – Communication

The Franco-German PhD research group is an integral part offered by multi-disciplinary doctoral program of the EHESS (l’École des hautes études en sciences sociales) in Paris and the doctoral programs at the relevant institutes in Berlin institutes. Teaching staff and PhD candidates come from History, Art History, Social Sciences, and Law.

Our focus is on methodological issues of comparative history and histoire croisée, and on issues of interdisciplinary work as well as the diverse (national and disciplinary) traditions of the respective academic research fields. The PhD research group is funded by the Franco-German University.

Focus

The institutions involved in the group are EHESS in Paris and HU, FU, TU, the Centre Marc Bloch and the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB).

Doctoral fellows receive financial support for research stays in France or Germany respectively. Every PhD who does research in the partner city receives intensive mentoring from the local teaching staff. There are regular meetings of smaller working groups and an annual workshop for all members of the network. Only registered PhD candidates from the institutes in the research group may apply. Applications should be sent to the program representatives: in Germany, Prof. Dr Gabriele Metzler at the Institute of History at Humboldt Universität; in France, Prof. Dr Rainer Maria Kiesow or Dr Falk Bretschneider, both at EHESS.

Contact Information

Chair: Prof. Dr Gabriele Metzler
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Web: www.differences-differenzen.de

Deadlines: 
calls and deadlines vary
Places: no fixed number
Scholarships: none
The LLM and PhD program “Transnational Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention – An International and African Perspective” is run by the South African-German Centre for Transnational Criminal Justice. The center is founded on long-standing cooperation between the Law Faculties at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the University of the Western Cape. It has been funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) since 2008 in the framework of the “African Excellence Initiative” of the German Federal Foreign Office.

Focus

The LLM and PhD program aims at educating African and German students for leading positions at both national and international level. The guiding theme of the programme is ensuring good governance through a functioning criminal justice system.


Following the LLM course, each year up to three African graduates are offered a PhD scholarship to study at the University of the Western Cape and at HU.

PhD candidates attend PhD classes in Cape Town and Berlin in which they present and discuss their research work. Up to three scholarships can be provided, especially to African graduates of the LLM programme. The total number of PhD students is limited to 12.

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www.cjd-sa.org

Deadlines: October
Places: up to 4 per year
Scholarships: up to 3 per year
The Research Training Group (RTG) Visibility and Visualisation – Hybrid Forms of Pictorial Knowledge at Universität Potsdam explores forms of visualization in science and art with a view to understanding how knowledge and reflective structures are constituted. Combining computer science, cognitive science, and natural sciences with methods drawn from the humanities and social sciences as well as analyses of artistic practice, the RTG aims to examine how the significance of visual phenomena has changed over the course of recent decades.

The language of instruction is German.

Focus

Research at the center takes as its starting point the seemingly unlimited distribution, manipulation and archiving of visual data, digital delimitations of the experience of space and time, and the incessant destabilization of the difference between reality, imagination and fiction. An essential focus is on the interplay between visibility and visualization in various media and technical methods of production, as well as reflections of these in art and science. We thus consciously intend to cover a wide spectrum: from an analysis of the apparatus and mediatic conditions of production, via concrete practices of visualization and their application to image codes and orders of sight, to scientifically demonstrable eye movements. Rather than focusing solely on individual disciplinary analyses of particular types of image or exemplary processes of visualization, research at the center includes different forms, practices and strategies of visibility and visualization.

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Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 20
Scholarships: 13
Walther Rathenau Kolleg: Liberalism and Democracy

The Walther Rathenau Kolleg (WRK), named after the Foreign Minister of Germany during the Weimar Republic, is an interdisciplinary PhD Research Group funded by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and affiliated to the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies Potsdam. The scholars and fellows take part in a coordinated course program, a colloquium and working groups.

Focus

WRK promotes excellent PhD projects focusing on the topics of liberalism and pro-democracy movements since the late 18th century. This includes all forms of Jewish movements, Christian-Jewish and German-Jewish relations, perceptions of the “Jewish question”, Antisemitism and counter-reactions to Antisemitism. Fields of research are:

1. Crisis and future of the democratic constitutional state
2. Continuities and discontinuities of European post-war liberalism
3. Rise and development of the civic women’s movement in the context of the liberalization of European societies
4. Liberal-democratic cultures of remembrance in a European comparison
5. Jewish biographies in connection with liberal movements

WKR focuses on History, Jewish Studies, Literature and Cultural History, but is also open for scholars of Sociology, Political Science, European Anthropology, and other related disciplines.

Contact Information

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Web: www.mmz-potsdam.de

Deadlines: calls and deadlines vary
Places: 30
Scholarships: none; via Naumann Foundation
Wicked Problems, Contested Administrations: Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy

**W**icked Problems, Contested Administrations: Knowledge, Coordination, Strategy (WIPCAD) offers a structured qualification program to international PhD candidates of public administration at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Universität Potsdam. The common research focus is on “wicked” policy problems, such as climate change, demographic transition or international conflicts.

**Focus**

WIPCAD offers its doctoral researchers a structured course program that reflects the thematic, conceptual and theoretical focus of the overall research agenda. During the three academic years every doctoral candidate receives training in the areas of

- Concepts and Theories of Public Admin. Research
- Methods and Research Design
- PhD Colloquium
- Language and Presentation Skills

Initially, the course program familiarizes the doctoral candidates with the main empirical, conceptual and theoretical debates. Beginning with the 2nd semester, PhD candidates have increasing opportunities to shape the content of their classes as emerging theoretical or methodological aspects are included at their request. From the 3rd semester onward, greater flexibility is provided and fewer courses are taught in order to allow field research, summer schools or other project-related seminars.

**Contact Information**

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Web: www.wipcad-potsdam.de

**Deadlines:** calls and deadlines vary
**Positions:** no fixed number
**Places:** 6-8
Being a European phenomenon as far back as its emergence as a political and social movement in the late 19th century, the radicalization of Antisemitism followed similar patterns in large parts of Europe. This research group takes the radicalization of Antisemitism as its focus and investigates the process of radicalization at the beginning of the “short 20th century”. Key topics of concern are specific national characteristics as well as similarities across nations regarding the transfer of political ideas and the interconnectedness in the radicalization process.

The research group’s working language is German.

Focus

As the “great seminal catastrophe” of the 20th century, World War I sent out social, political, economic, cultural and mental shockwaves into European societies which reach well into the present. Its outcome was the breakdown of “old Europe” and its global political and economic hegemony. In the light of the disastrous and traumatic experience during the war and the revolutions and crisis that followed, the “old” Antisemitism escalated at the outset of the “age of extremes” into more and more extreme forms. The research group systematically explores Antisemitism in Europe during the “Great War” and the early post-war years, looking at new motives in the language of radicalized Antisemitism. Its primary focus is to investigate the radicalized physical violence against Jews from a comparative perspective.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FU</td>
<td>Freie Universität Berlin</td>
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<td>HU</td>
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<td>UP</td>
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<td>AIP</td>
<td>Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam</td>
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<td>BMBF</td>
<td>Federal Ministry of Education and Research</td>
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<td>CAS-MPG</td>
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<td>CP</td>
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<td>CRC/SFB</td>
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<td>DLR</td>
<td>National Aeronautics and Space Research Centre</td>
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<td>Emmy-Noether-Nachwuchsgruppe</td>
<td>Independent junior research group</td>
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<td>Excellence Initiative</td>
<td>Funding program (initiative) by the German Research Foundation and Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)</td>
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<td>Acronym</td>
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<td>FhG</td>
<td>Fraunhofer Society – German applied-research organization</td>
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<td>FMP</td>
<td>Leibniz Institute of Molecular Pharmacology</td>
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<td>GFZ</td>
<td>Helmholtz Centre Potsdam – German Research Centre for Geosciences</td>
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<td>GmbH</td>
<td>Limited (Liability Company) or Corporation (AE)</td>
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<td>HPI</td>
<td>Hasso Plattner Institute</td>
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<td>IAMO</td>
<td>Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economics</td>
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<td>IGB</td>
<td>Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries</td>
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<td>IMPRS</td>
<td>International Max Planck Research Schools</td>
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<td>IRTG</td>
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<td>MDC</td>
<td>Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine Berlin-Buch</td>
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<td>MMZ</td>
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<td>MOOC</td>
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<td>Max Planck Society - German research organization</td>
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<td>Technische Universität Dresden</td>
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<td>WGL</td>
<td>Leibniz Association: Association of independent German research institutions</td>
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