



HOCHSCHULE  
RAVENSBURG-WEINGARTEN  
UNIVERSITY  
OF APPLIED SCIENCES

# PURSUING A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN GERMANY

## INFORMATION FOR RWU MASTER STUDENTS

Project FH-Personal [rwu-prof](#)

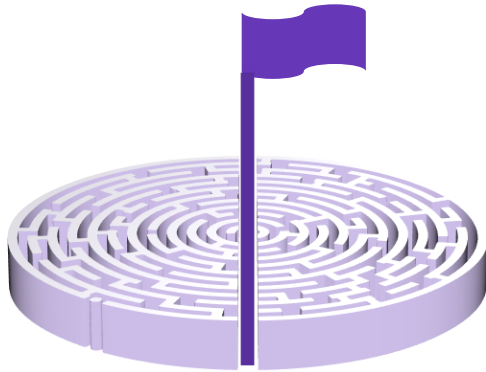
# Pursuing a doctoral degree in Germany

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- Individual vs. structured doctorate
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# Pursuing a doctoral degree in Germany

## Introduction



- A doctorate proves the ability to conduct independent academic research
  - A doctorate includes:
    - Doctoral thesis/dissertation
    - Oral examination (thesis defence or viva)
    - Publication (!)
  - Duration: usually 3-5 years
  - German doctoral degree: „Dr.“
  - Dissertation can be monographic or cumulative
  - Individual doctorate or structured program
- Individual doctorate or structured program

# Pursuing a doctoral degree in Germany

## Prerequisites

Excellent master's degree or equivalent in field of study or related field

Ability to independently pursue academic research

Ability to sustain interest in and work on a particular topic over an extended period of time

At many universities dissertations can be submitted in English, but knowledge of German is usually essential for a successful doctorate

# Pursuing a doctoral degree in Germany

## German university system

### Universities and universities of applied sciences (HAW)

The right to award doctorates is reserved for universities in Baden-Württemberg.

Your master's degree from a HAW (RWU) entitles you to apply for doctoral studies at German universities.

University doctoral regulations might include certain requirements for HAW master degree holders.

**No tenure track**

**Doctoral student  
vs. academic  
staff status**

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## Cooperative doctorate

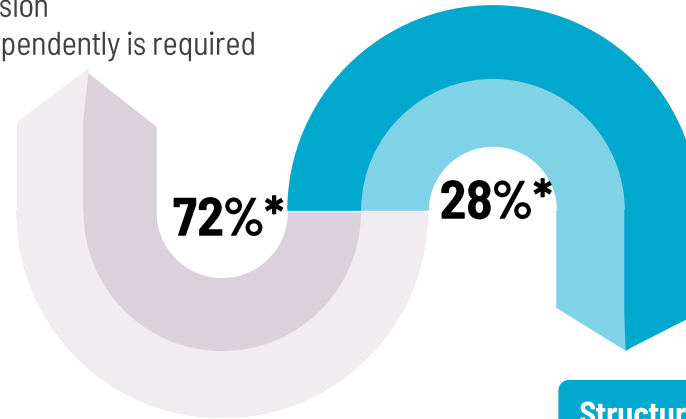
- You can pursue a doctorate at a university of applied sciences in form of a cooperative doctorate
- One supervisor at the university of applied sciences and one supervisor at the university
- The research project is usually located at the university of applied sciences
- Admission to the doctorate takes place at the university
- The doctoral degree is granted from the university
- Doctoral regulations vary between universities (and departments) – check carefully!

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## Individual doctorate vs. structured programs

### Individual doctorate

- Individual search for a supervisor
- Develop topic and apply for admission
- High degree of ability to work independently is required
- Flexible duration



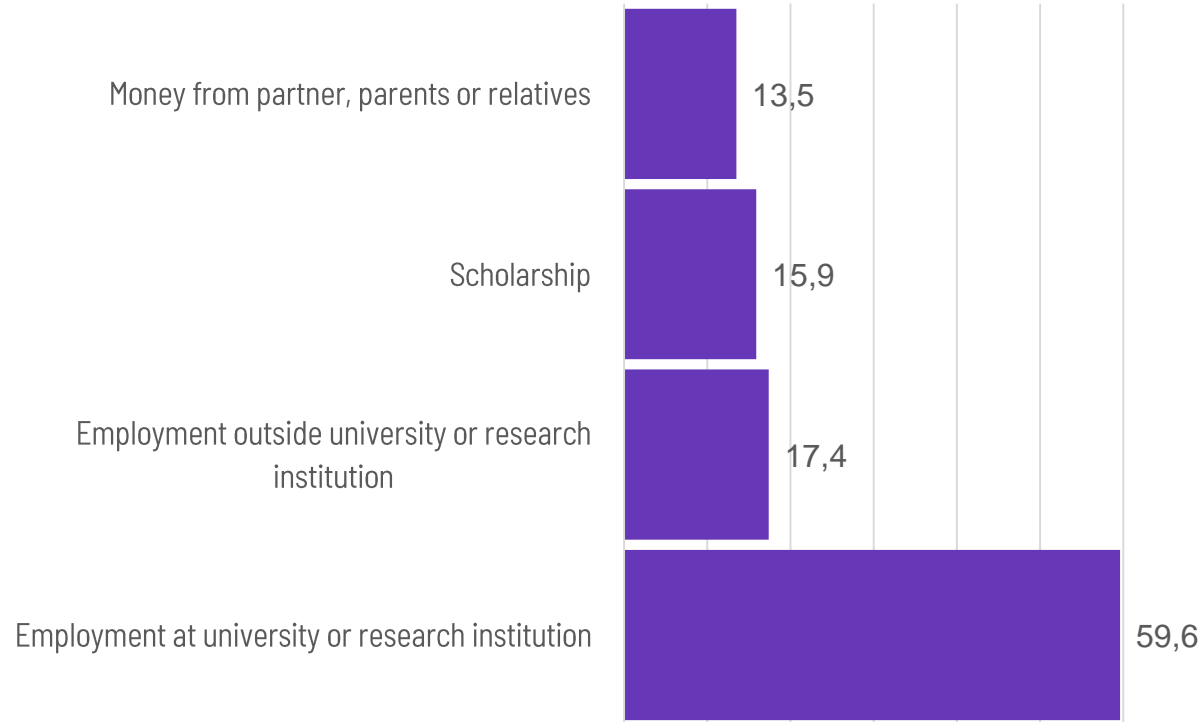
### Structured program

- Vacancies are usually announced
- Postgraduate school or doctoral program
- Accompanying courses
- Fixed duration

\*Shares measured by doctoral students at educational institutions in Baden-Württemberg  
Source: Destatis, Statistik der Promovierenden 2020, Tabelle 8

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## Funding

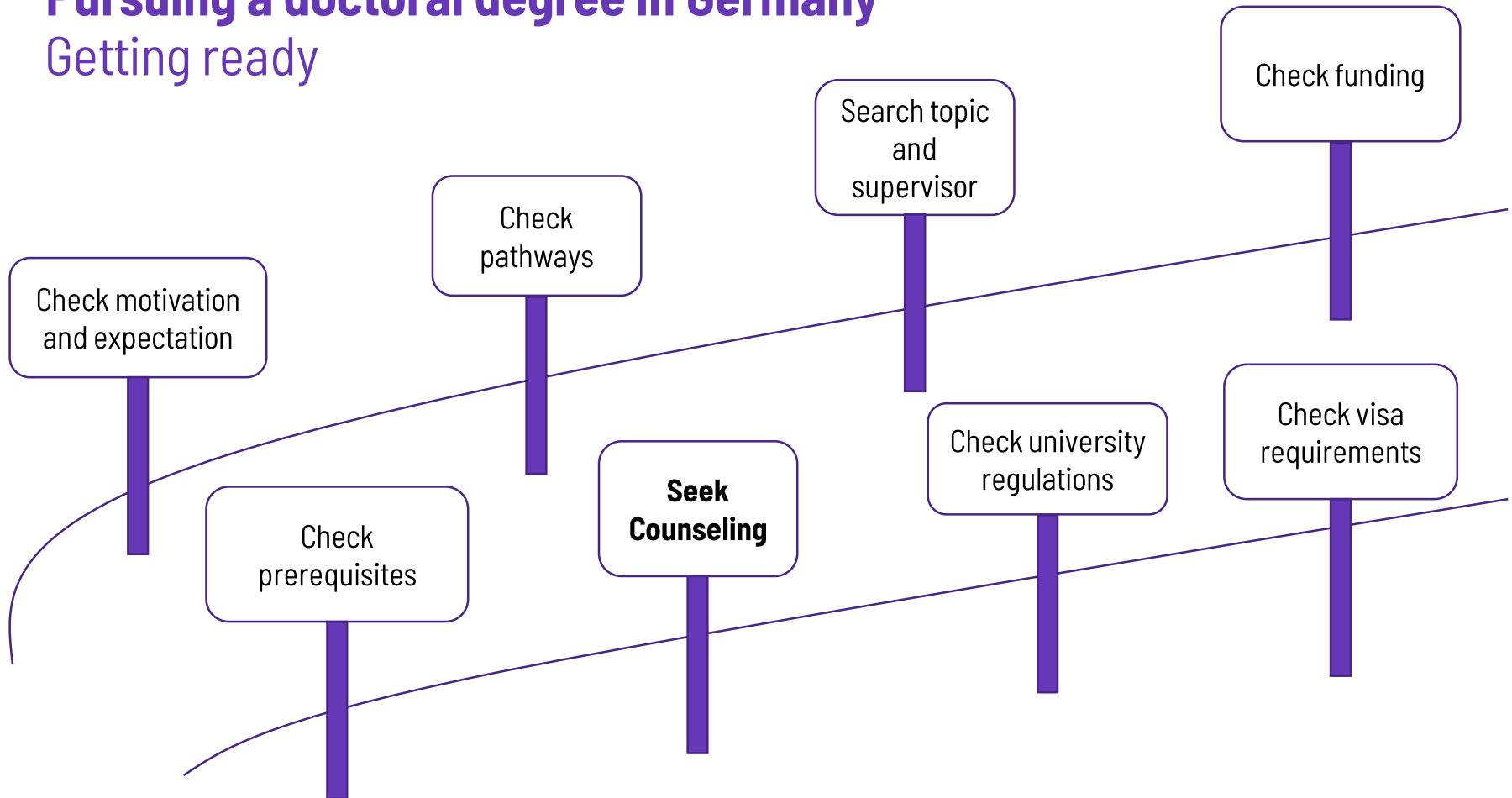


Source: DZHW Brief 04/2020: Die Finanzierungs- und Beschäftigungssituation Promovierender; Institut für Innovation und Technik (it)



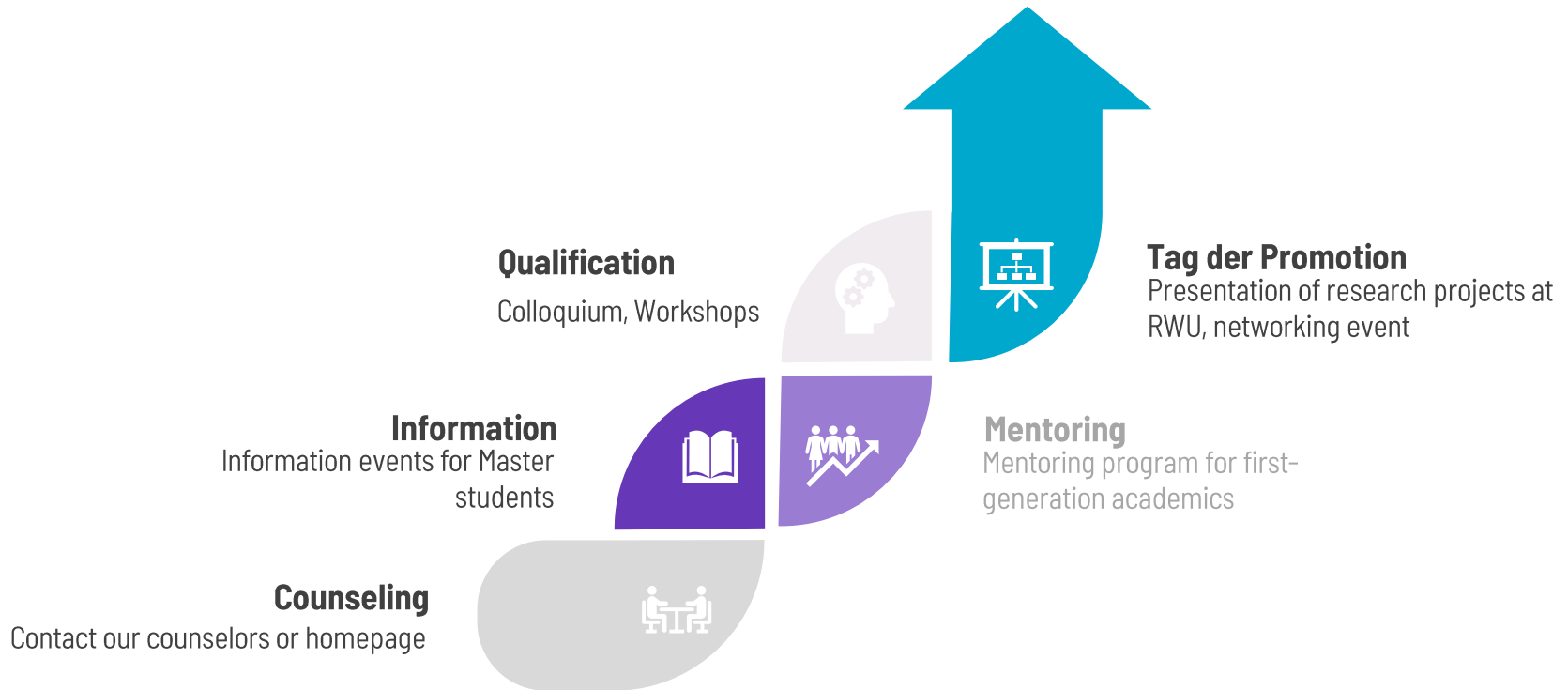
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## Getting ready



# Pursuing a doctoral degree in Germany

## Support structures at RWU



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## Further Information

Zeit [Ratgeber Promotion](#)

Goethe University Frankfurt [Promotionseignungstest](#)

DAAD [Promovieren und Forschen in Deutschland](#)

# Pursuing a doctoral degree in Germany

## Contact

Project FH-Personal **rwu-prof**



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<https://forschung.rwu.de/promotion#tab-509>



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GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST