PURSUITING A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN GERMANY
INFORMATION FOR RWU MASTER STUDENTS

Project FH-Personal rwu-prof
Pursuing a doctoral degree in Germany

Outline

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Introduction

- A doctorate proofs 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
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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
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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

- Money from partner, parents or relatives: 13.5%
- Scholarship: 15.9%
- Employment outside university or research institution: 17.4%
- Employment at university or research institution: 59.6%

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

- Check motivation and expectation
- Check pathways
- Search topic and supervisor
- Check funding
- Check prerequisites
- Seek Counseling
- Check university regulations
- Check visa requirements
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Support structures at RWU

Qualification
Colloquium, Workshops

Information
Information events for Master students

Counseling
Contact our counselors or homepage

Tag der Promotion
Presentation of research projects at RWU, networking event

Mentoring
Mentoring program for first-generation academics
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Further Information

Zeit Ratgeber Promotion

Goethe University Frankfurt Promotionseignungstest

DAAD Promovieren und Forschen in Deutschland
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