

PURSUING A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN GERMANY

INFORMATION FOR RWU MASTER STUDENTS

Project FH-Personal rwu-prof

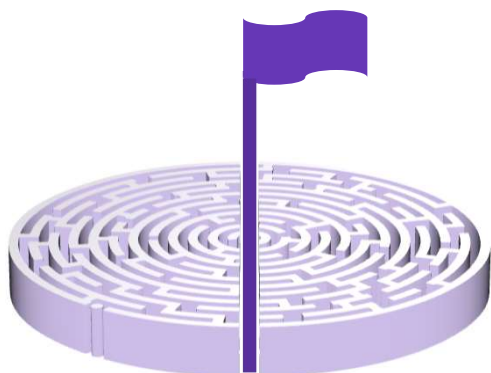
Pursuing a doctoral degree in Germany

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Introduction



- A doctorate proves the ability to conduct independent academic research
- A doctorate includes:
 - Doctoral thesis / dissertation
 - Oral examination (dissertation defense / viva)
 - PhD-related publications
- 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 maintain 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

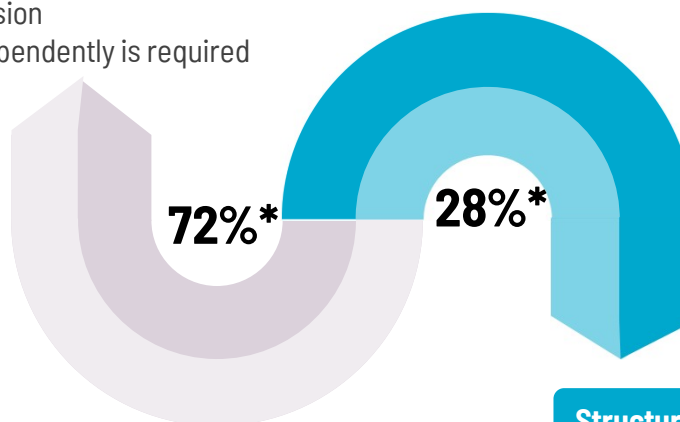
- You can pursue a doctorate at a university of applied sciences in form of a cooperative doctorate
- One supervisor at the university of applied sciences and one supervisor at the university
- The research project is usually located at the university of applied sciences
- Admission to the doctorate 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



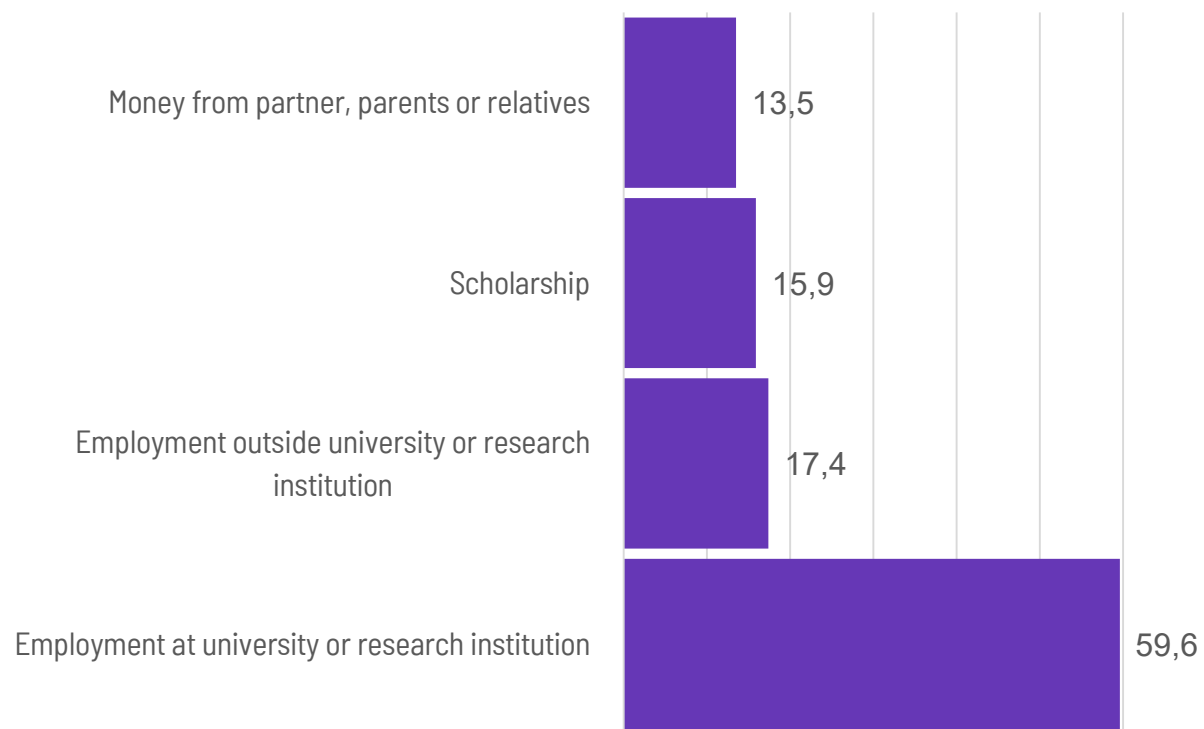
Structured program

- 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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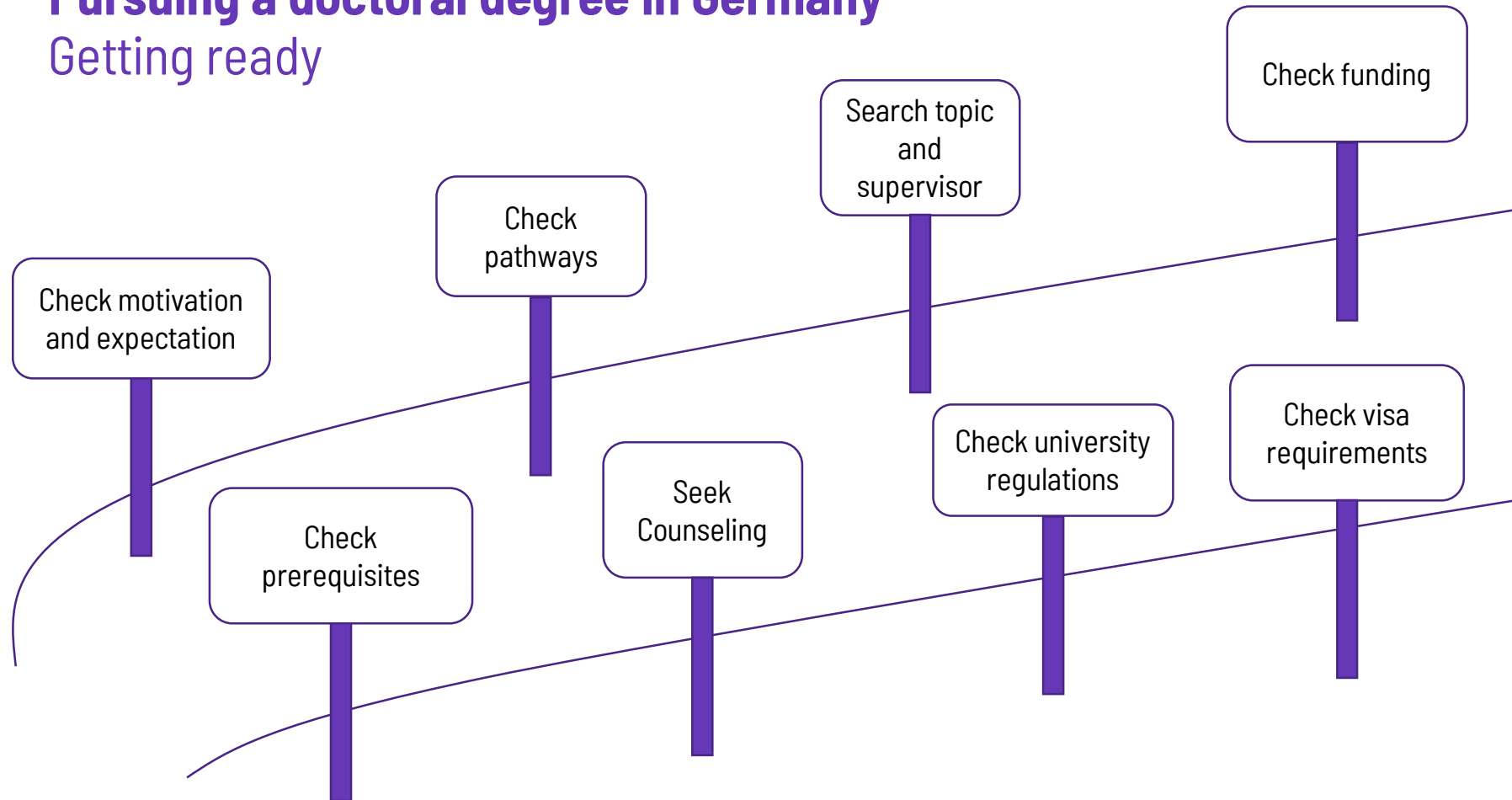
Funding



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

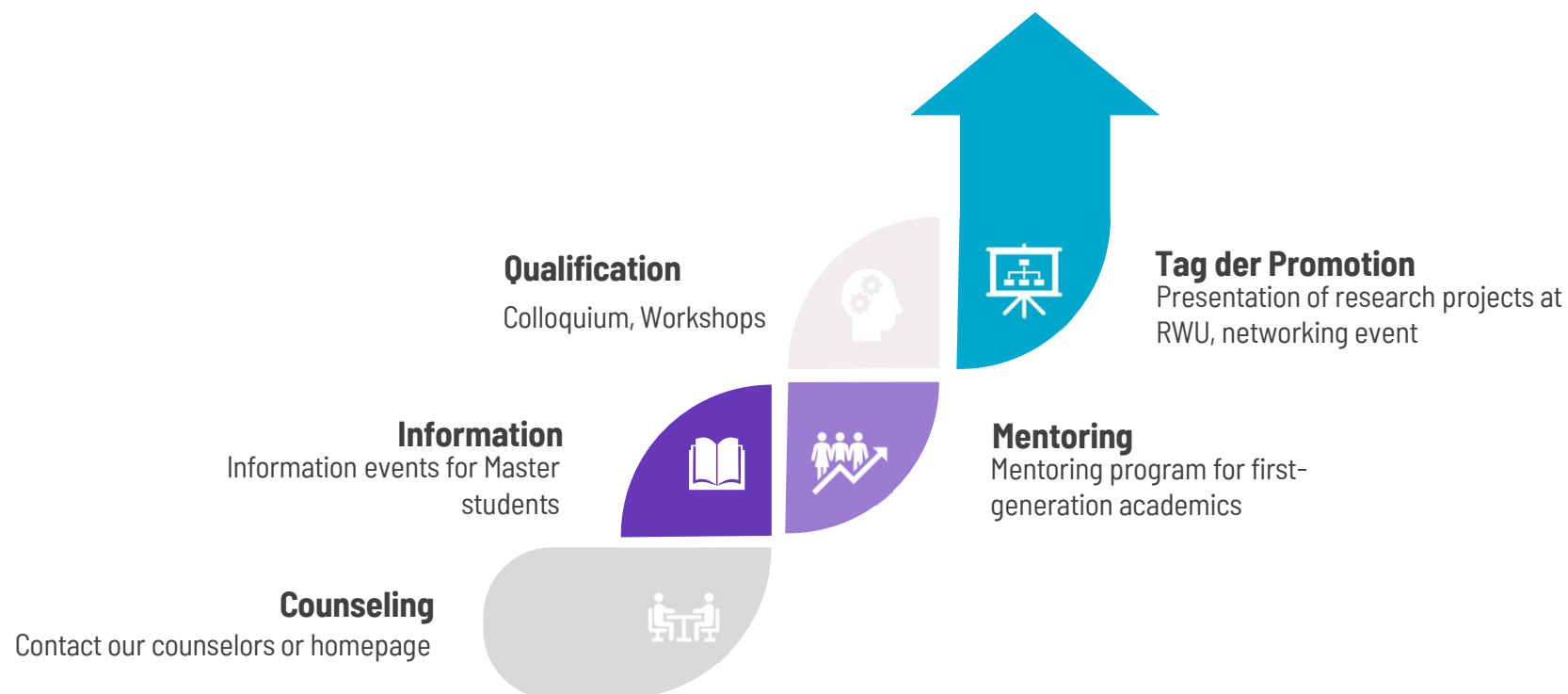
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Getting ready



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Support structures at RWU



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Further Information

Zeit [Ratgeber Promotion](#)

Goethe University Frankfurt [Promotionseignungstest](#)

DAAD [Promovieren und Forschen in Deutschland](#)

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Contact

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GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST