



Workshop II Research in Germany – Land of Ideas New Initiatives – More Opportunities

Place: Hyatt Regency Cambridge

Time: Sunday, January 31, 2010, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM
(Breakfast buffet opens at 8:00 AM)

Contact: Dr. Katja Simons (simons@daad.org), Phone: 212.758.3223 ext 217
www.research-in-germany.de

Register: Please register at <http://www.research-in-germany.de/ecf2010>

Welcome and Overview

(Charles View Ballroom, 16th floor, all participants)

Claudia Schütt

Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany

Beatrix Wegner

Assistant Head of Division 218: Cooperation with North and South America
Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Sehnaz Özden

Head of Corporate Employer Branding & Recruiting, Continental AG

Workshop II: Earning a PhD in Germany

(Paul Revere, Main Level at Front Entrance, Hyatt Regency Cambridge)

This workshop is targeted to advanced undergraduate and graduate students and provides information on how to look for the right academic fit in Germany. The main focus will be on earning a doctoral degree in Germany. All disciplines are welcome. Possible funding opportunities will be explored.

Moderators: Dr. Sebastian Fohrbeck, Director, DAAD New York

Dr. Rolf Peter, Head of Section C1 (Cooperation with North America), German Rectors' Conference (HRK)



Introduction to Graduate Studies in Germany

Megan Brenn-White

Executive Director, Hessen Universities

1. Why choose Germany?
2. Master's Degrees in Germany (terminal; as entry to PhD Program; Special: joint/dual degrees, Erasmus Mundus etc.
3. Earning a PhD in Germany (traditional; PhD "Programs" (structured, fast track)
4. Funding (tuition; grants; teaching; multi-year funding starting with the Master's level for a PhD candidate is rare)

Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Manfred Bischoff

Executive Director, Institute of Structural Mechanics
Universität Stuttgart

1. Advisor principle, qualification phase, doctoral thesis and defense.
2. Assessing the academic profile as well as scientific quality of individual schools, research groups and professors.
3. International study programs (M.Sc.) in Germany: your foot in the door to a PhD position and another indicator for potential PhD opportunities.
4. Career/Job opportunities after PhD (academia, industry)

1.)

Admission process and funding

Dr. Stephan Schröder-Köhne

Head of Office
University of Würzburg Graduate Schools

Admission for doctoral projects and funding thereof are regulated in a very heterogeneous way in German Universities. Traditionally, individual and informal agreements were made between a prospective doctoral student and a supervisor, only marginally involving faculties or the university at large. This is currently changing to a considerable extent and universities have started to implement a more formal and competitive admission processes, usually involving (panel) interviews and involvement of the Graduate School from the very beginning. I will discuss some recent developments in this respect drawing on the procedures at the universities participating in the symposium.

Funding is a very mixed bag as well in Germany, largely owing to the fact that there are many different sources of money and forms of payment. I will discuss some common sources and some recent policy changes brought forward by the German Research Foundation, the DFG.

Comments by

Prof. Dr. Rudolf RübSamen

Director, Institute for Biology II
Research Academy Leipzig



Q & A

2.)

Case Studies/Examples

Juliane Tiemann/ Karoline Holländer/ Michael Klimke/ Ernst Rank

TUM Graduate School/ TUM International Graduate School of Science and Engineering (IGSSE),
Technische Universität München;

In Germany individual supervision of doctoral candidates has a long tradition. Recently a number so called “Promotions Kollegs” and newly founded Graduate Schools with structured doctoral studies using a core curriculum are setting new benchmarks. German universities are discussing new and more efficient ways of training their young researchers. Technische Universität München is among them with the foundation of the TUM Graduate School following the structured model.

Berit Dannenberg

Helmholtz Assciaton

Prof. Dr. Eveline Baumgart-Vogt

Director, International Giessen Graduate School for the Life Sciences (GGL),
Justus-Liebig-University Giessen

Larissa Dickhaut & Dieter Brockmann

International Graduate School in Molecular Medicine Ulm

Venio Piero Quinque

TU9 Executive Director

Q & A

3.)

Testimonial

TBC

4.)

Support Services for Students

Dr. Tessa Hegetschweiler, Stephan Schütze

Graduate Academy, Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena

The availability and range of services offered to PhD students determine to a great extent how students benefit from their experience at the institutions. In general, student support services assist students with basic requirements and facilitate their everyday life at university. The aim is to help ensure that students not only achieve academic success but have a personally enriching experience as well.



Additional comments by
Prof. Dr. May-Britt Kallenrode, Vice-President for Research, University of Osnabrueck

5.)
Concluding Remarks & Discussion