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Early Independence – Scientific Training in Graduate Schools

Dr. Annette Schmidtman
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DFG

Early Independence

- **Structured PhD programmes – the idea behind**
- **(International) Research Training Groups**
- **Excellence Initiative – Graduate Schools**





DFG Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs)

– the idea behind

- Obtaining a doctorate is at the same time the last stage of study and the first stage in life as a researcher
- In this decisive phase all doctoral candidates need to be given the necessary latitude to carry out independent scientific work, develop their own ideas and earn recognition for their work
- They require a demanding research environment that provides stimuli, makes exchange possible and, where necessary, ensures specialist support



DFG Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs)

- Structured PhD programme
- Thematically focussed research and
- Study programme at universities
- Established at scientific centres of excellence after
- Peer review process
- In all fields of science incl. medicine & the humanities
- Interdisciplinary research program
- Funding: 2 x 4,5 years
- No quota, bottom-up principle

N.B. the structured model of PhD training is NOT a taught doctorate

Funds for Research Training Groups

- Fellowships for ~10-14 PhD students, 1-2 postdocs, and undergraduate students
- Means for research materials, travel funds for students and researchers
- Workshops, summer schools, excursions, soft skill seminars
- Invitation of visiting researchers
- Sabbaticals and publication costs
- Coordination costs

Averaged budget of one RTG: ~ 500.000 € p.a.
240 RTG are funded (2009)



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International Research Training Groups (IRTG)

- PhD training and scientific cooperation worldwide

- Encourage bilateral cooperation and research training
- Joint research programme & study programme
- Integration of complementary expertise at centres of excellence
- Systematic coordination of bilateral research projects / joint supervision
- 6-12 month mobility period at partner university

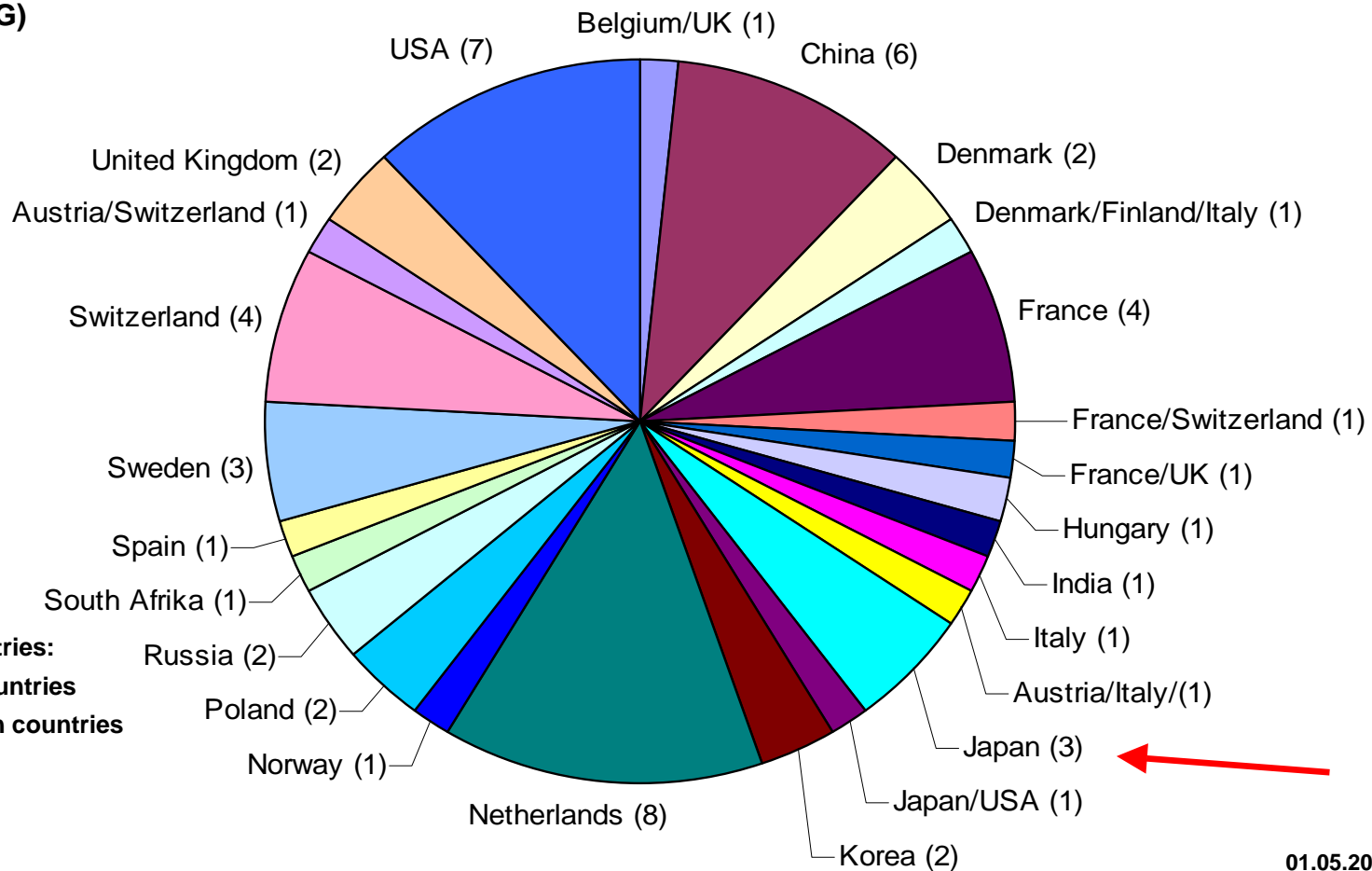


International Research Training Groups

- PhD training and scientific cooperation worldwide

N = 58
(out of 240 RTG)

21 different countries:
- 15 European countries
- 6 non-European countries



Graduate Schools

Graduate Schools *Highest level research training*

- **39 Graduate Schools**
- **approx. 1 million €p.a. each**

- Structured research training in an excellent research environment
- Internationally competitive centres of top-level research by promoting young researchers
- Huge proportion of budget for professional management
- 45-500 PhD students, undergraduates, postdocs, junior researchers, professorships
- International recruitment of PhD (25%)

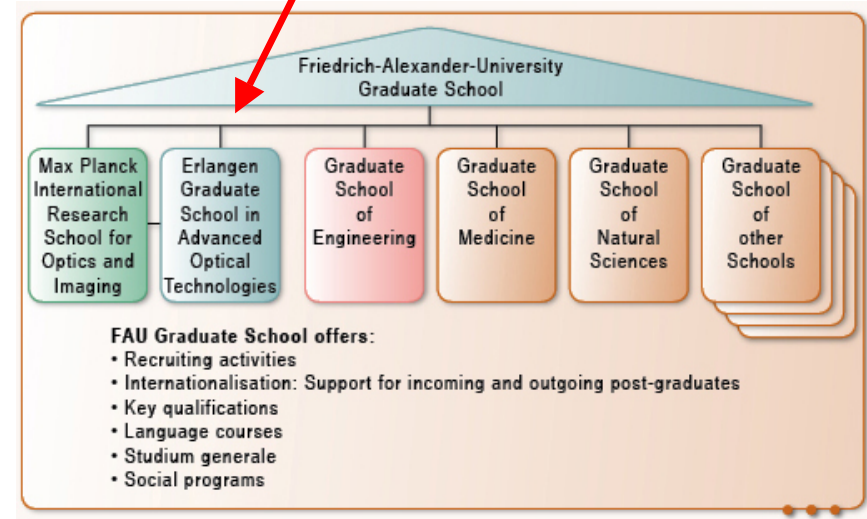
List of Graduate Schools currently funded:

http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/coordinated_programmes/excellence_initiative/graduate_schools/lists.html

From Research Training Groups.. To Graduate Schools

More of the same?

- Structured research training in an even larger and excellent interdisciplinary research environment
- Incorporating non-university research institutions in the region
- Best possible structures for PhD students, e.g. career centres
- Professional leadership and efficient management
- Number of PhD students: 45 – 500
- Implemented as permanent infrastructure after DFG funding has ended



<http://www.aot.uni-erlangen.de/SAOT/glance/index.shtml>

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**Thank you for
your attention !**

Dr. Annette Schmidtman

**Graduate Schools, Research Careers
-Head of Division –**

annette.schmidtman@dfg.de

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