

About us

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) is the central funding organisation for research in Germany. Through a competitive award process, it supports people and projects in all branches of science and the humanities. It is especially committed to promoting early-career researchers, gender equality, and internationalisation.



Applications

DFG does not support doctoral researchers individually, but indirectly through the funding of programmes and projects. Grant proposals can only be submitted by researchers who have completed their doctorate.

Please note for all doctoral training options introduced here: Recruitment for fellowships and work contracts is handled directly by the leadership of the project or programme. Please send your application directly to the person in charge at the university.

Contact

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DFG Links

DFG funding programmes for young researchers:
www.dfg.de/en/magazine/research_careers

FAQ Doctoral Researchers in DFG-funded programmes:
www.dfg.de/gk/en → FAQ

Information on DFG-funded projects:
www.dfg.de/en/funded_projects

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Doing Your Doctorate in Germany – A Great Idea

Funding Opportunities
for Doctoral Researchers

Doing your doctorate – a great idea ...

Thinking about tackling a doctorate? Exploring a research topic in your area of interest and following it through all the way to a PhD?

There are good reasons to do so: a doctorate can be a springboard for your academic or non-academic career. The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) can support you in your quest. From our portfolio you can select the funding instrument that is most suitable for you and your project.

... in a Research Training Group

If you like working in a team and value a well-designed framework, a Research Training Group may be right for you. It combines an ambitious research programme with target-oriented supervision and academic freedom to form an ideal environment for your successful doctorate.

Each Research Training Group and its research profile is developed and guided by a group of senior academics to provide a strong framework in which you and your doctoral project are integrated. You can benefit from numerous networking opportunities with other doctoral researchers as well as with national and international guests and partners. With a reliable supervisory system and a study programme designed to complement your research focus, Research Training Groups offer a well-rounded opportunity to pursue your doctorate.

International Research Training Groups, in addition to the above features, also have an integrated exchange programme with a partner institution outside Germany.



... in a Graduate School

Graduate Schools are established under the German Excellence Initiative. They substantially help shape the academic profile of leading and internationally competitive universities in Germany. Compared to Research Training Groups, Graduate Schools are larger networks that cover wider areas of research and investigate overriding issues. Furthermore, Graduate Schools feature a comprehensive programme to support and foster early-career researchers.

Earning your doctorate in the context of a Graduate School offers the opportunity to further your career within a first-class environment. You participate in top-level international research based in Germany and benefit from high visibility, innovative supervision, and access to a multifaceted network, including both academic and non-academic institutions.

... in a DFG-funded research project

The attraction of doing your doctorate in the context of a research project funded by DFG lies within the impressive diversity of research ideas and initiatives that can be found across all academic disciplines. As a research assistant, you have the opportunity to contribute your knowledge and skills to the success of a clearly outlined research endeavour and work on your thesis within the framework of this project. At the same time, you can make full use of the project infrastructure.

You can also work as a doctoral researcher within a project that is part of a larger network of projects, such as **Research Units, Collaborative Research Centres, or Clusters of Excellence**. Many of these larger scale project groups also have integrated doctoral programmes from which you can benefit. Such project groups help shape the long-term research profile of universities in Germany. Groups of researchers collaborate under one umbrella to focus on the development of a particular research field.

Our GEPRIS database provides an overview of all projects and project networks funded by DFG.