

Statement

by the Minister of Science, Research and the Arts
in the State of Baden-Württemberg

Professor Dr. Peter Frankenberg

on the

Announcement of the First Results under the

Excellence Initiative

Ladies and gentlemen,

- As has been mentioned before, “graduate schools” are one of the pillars of the Excellence Initiative programme. Together with “clusters of excellence”, they are also the prerequisite for funding in the third line of the programme — “institutional strategies”.
- Excellent research requires excellent minds. In this regard graduate schools serve as building blocks for the future with long-term impacts. They enable outstanding doctoral students to be trained into excellent scientists and researchers, with ties to Germany. They help lay the cornerstone for the future excellence of German research.
- We consider graduate schools to be instrumental in helping universities enhance their profiles over the long term and creating top-level academic institutions in Germany that can hold their own internationally. Within broad areas of expertise, graduate schools offer the best environments for doctoral students, and as internationally prominent and integrative institutions, they promote these students’ identification with their respective universities.
- Competition in the Excellence Initiative has led to a broad search for innovative ideas on what constitutes good graduate training, and this has had a positive impact outside the programme as well.
- You may wonder what the difference is between these new graduate schools and the traditional DFG-funded Research Training Groups.
- A graduate school is supposed to enhance a university’s focus by promoting young researchers, thus adding academic and structural value to the university and its relevant departments. A Research Training Group, on the other hand, pursues a research agenda which, while also taking a long-term approach, is more narrowly focused and involves far fewer participants.
- Each of the graduate schools selected has presented a structure-building concept that ensures optimum conditions for doctoral students. Each of these schools employs top-

level academic personnel; guarantees appropriate selection, qualification and supervision concepts; promotes early independence; and is committed to integrating foreign doctoral students and to providing equal opportunities to male and female researchers.

As Mr. Winnacker has pointed out, expert reviewers from other countries particularly emphasised the necessity to promote young researchers. Graduate schools will be able to make important contributions in this regard.

It is therefore my pleasure to announce to you now the first round results for “graduate schools”. The following universities will receive graduate school funding of about one million euros annually for the next five years:

University	Title of the Graduate School
RWTH Aachen University	Aachen Institute for Advanced Studies in Computational Engineering Science
Free University of Berlin	Graduate School of North American Studies
Humboldt University Berlin	Berlin School of Mind and Brain
Technical University of Berlin	Berlin Mathematical School
Ruhr University of Bochum	Ruhr University Research School
University of Bonn	Bonn Graduate School of Economics
University of Bremen	Global Change in the Marine Realm
Dresden University of Technology	Dresden International Graduate School for Biomedicine and Bioengineering
University of Erlangen- Nuremberg	Erlangen Graduate School in Advanced Optical Technologies
University of Freiburg	Molecular Cell Research in Biology and Medicine
University of Gießen	International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture
Hannover Medical School	Hannover Biomedical Research School
University of Heidelberg	Heidelberg Graduate School of Fundamental Physics
University of Karlsruhe (TH)	Karlsruhe School of Optics and Photonics
University of Mannheim	Empirical and Quantitative Methods in the Economic and Social Sciences
University of Munich	Graduate School of Systemic Neurosciences
Technical University of Munich	International Graduate School of Science and Engineering
University of Würzburg	Graduate School for Life Sciences