

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.

The DFG supports doctoral researchers in Research Training Groups and research projects by funding doctoral positions in these programmes. While you cannot submit a proposal for individual funding to the DFG before completing your PhD, you can apply to open positions at the Research Training Groups and projects. Consequently, you need to submit your application for a PhD position to the head of the respective Research Training Group or project that you are interested in.

Contact

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DFG funding programmes for early career researchers:

www.dfg.de/research_careers

Information on DFG-funded projects (GEPRIS):

www.dfg.de/en/funded_projects

FAQs for those interested in doctoral training:

www.dfg.de/gk/faq/en

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Doing Your Doctorate in Germany – A Great Idea

Funding Opportunities
for Doctoral Researchers



Bluesky | [@dfg.de](https://bluesky.dfg.de)



Mastodon | [@dfg_public@wisskomm.social](https://dfg_public.wisskomm.social)



LinkedIn | Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
– German Research Foundation



Instagram | [@dfg_public](https://www.instagram.com/dfg_public)



Youtube | [@DFGbewegt](https://www.youtube.com/DFGbewegt)

Doing your doctorate – a great idea ...

Are you 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: for example,
a doctorate can boost your career. The Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research
Foundation) can support you in that quest. For
your PhD project, you can choose from multiple
thriving research environments that receive funding
by the DFG.



... in a DFG-funded research project or group

The attraction of doing your doctorate in the context of a research project funded by the DFG lies within the impressive diversity of research ideas and initiatives 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 profit from the project infrastructure.



... in a Research Training Group

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

Developed and guided by a group of researchers, each Research Training Group has a clear research profile. You can benefit from numerous networking opportunities with peers, postdocs, as well as international guests. A transparent supervision system and a training programme that prepares you for your future career round off the profile of the Research Training Group.

... in an International Research Training Group

In this special type of a Research Training Group, the exchange with partner institutions outside of Germany is an integral part. During your doctoral training, you will spend about six months at a university abroad and profit from the exchange with international peers and researchers.



You can also work within a project that is part of a larger network of projects, such as Research Units, Collaborative Research Centres, or Clusters of Excellence. Groups of researchers collaborate and focus on the development of a particular research field. Such project groups help to shape the long-term research profile of universities in Germany. Some of these larger-scale project groups have integrated doctoral programmes to guide you through your PhD.

Our GEPRIS database provides an overview of all projects funded by DFG including contact details for your application.