

Doctoral studies in Germany

University policy - Freedom and flexibility

Structure of Phd studies in Germany

University policy - Freedom and flexibility

- **German legal framework - education**

- ☐ Decentralized educational policy

- ✿ Germany is a federal republic with 16 states.



- ✿ Each state has a parliament of its own.

- ✿ Educational policy is made at the state level – each state determines its own university laws and regulations.

University policy - Freedom and flexibility

- **German legal framework - education**

- ☐ Higher Education Framework Act

-  State's liberty to draw up its own science and university policies.
-  A nationwide law –Higher Education Framework Act (HRG) – stipulates certain guidelines that apply to all states. State governments must take these into account when formulating their laws and regulations.

University policy - Freedom and flexibility

- **German legal framework - education**

- ☐ Conference of Education Ministers

This group of state ministers of education, science and cultural affairs regularly meets to decide on important educational policy matters on a national scale. www.kmk.org

- ☐ German Rectors' Conference

Most German universities are members of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK). The HRK conveys the interests of the universities to policy makers and the public. www.hrk.de

University policy - Freedom and flexibility

- **German legal framework - education**

- ☐ Creative freedom

- ✿ Universities enjoy a large degree of freedom to shape their profile.

- Consequently, regulations are not always the same at every university.

- ✿ HEIs have a certain degree of autonomy as regards to organisation and in deciding on any academic issues.
However, in the last two decades this autonomy has been increasingly broadened to include issues related to human resources and budget control.

University policy - Freedom and flexibility

• German legal framework - education

Higher Education Framework Act

Constitution:
Art. 5 guarantees
academic freedom;
legislative powers
with States

Each of the states
establish laws +
regulations

State laws give
universities a
large degree of
freedom in the
areas of ...

Organizational Autonomy

Financial Autonomy

Staffing Autonomy

Academic Autonomy

Structure of PhD Studies in Germany

Three Examples

Different ways of doing a PhD in Germany

Doctorate models

Individual doctorate
„apprentice model“

Structured doctoral
programmes

Individual doctorate „apprentice model“ at German Universities

- Thesis or dissertation being produced under the supervision of a professor.
- offers a great deal of flexibility, but demands a high degree of personal initiative and responsibility.
- A professor supervises a PhD student, who works on his subject in consultation with the professor, but largely independently.

Individual PhD at German Universities

- Duration: Three to five years
- Doctoral candidates can choose where they would like to conduct their research:
 - ☐ university
 - ☐ non-university research organisation
 - ☐ German company

Individual PhD at German Universities

- doctoral students need a carefully thought-out outline of their thesis to apply for a (temporary) doctoral post.
 - ❑ The outline is developed by the doctoral student and is not determined by the university teacher.
 - ❑ The doctoral student is looking for a supervisor that agrees to his/her thesis outline.

90% individual PhD doctoral candidates
10% structured doctoral programmes

Structured PhD programmes at German Universities

Over 700 PhD Programs in Germany

Structured doctoral programs **strong international orientation**

research proposals have to fit in with an existing PhD program

program frequently also covers academic and scientific methods or soft skills, such as presentation techniques; often offered in English.

PhD Students work steadily at realizing their research project within the team and with **intensive support from a group of academic staff.**

Often noticed criterions are:

- Duration: 3 years (6 Semesters, including elaboration of thesis and preparation of defense)
- European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)*
180 ECTS in total, thereof
 - 120 ECTS for Dissertation/Thesis
 - 20 ECTS for Defense
 - 40 ECTS for Seminars/Examinations
- Objectives of study programmes are defined

*Workload: 1 ECTS = 30 h/week, time of presentences + self study

Examples for structured PhD Programmes

1. University of Goettingen, Faculty of Economics
2. Ruhr- University of Bochum, Faculty of Philosophy
3. Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Faculty of Philosophy

Examples for structured PhD Programmes

1. University of Goettingen, Faculty of Economics*

Objectives:

To enable students to assume responsible tasks in research and teaching and in non-university professional fields.

Beside their own autonomous scientific research work (dissertation) the students should for this purpose absolve a PhD study programme →

* University of Goettingen, Faculty of Economics, Pruefungs- und Studienordnung, 27.03.2012, non-official translation

1. University of Goettingen, Faculty of Economics1

What should the students absolve?

For example

- absolve a research oriented additional qualification
- acquire deepened scientific professional knowledge
- be enabled to work interdisciplinary, in teams and in an effective scientific method of operating
- master the newest theories and methods of economic sciences, to reflect and use them critical ... and to produce innovative scientific professional knowledge

The graduates are qualified for leading positions in the world for employment but also for a scientific career as scientist.

1. University of Goettingen, Faculty of Economics

The study programm in three steps

Module Title	courses/hours	ECTS	Duration / semesters
1. Scientific competences*		10	1. – 4. semester
• Doctorate colloquium	42 h	3	
• Research methods	42 h	4	
• Interim result balance	14 h	3	
• Scientific communication	10 h	2	
• Elaborating scientific publications	0 h	4	

1. University of Goettingen, Faculty of Economics

The study programm in three steps

Module Title	courses/hours	ECTS	Duration / semesters
2. Professional Deepening		4	
• Specialist deepening or	28 h	4	
• Issue specific deepening	28 h	4	

1. University of Goettingen, Faculty of Economics

The study programm in three steps

Module Title	courses/hours	ECTS
3. Interdisciplinary Module and key competences		6
• Scientific Teaching	70 h	4
• Interdisciplinary research	30 h	2
• Advanced Presentation techniques	0 h	2
• Coordination of practice projects	0 h	2
• Coordination of research projects	0 h	2
• Scientific Management	14 h	2

2. Ruhr University Bochum, Faculty of Philosophy*

Objectives of the PhD study courses

The students should

- be introduced in to the research culture of the Faculty and in to their different research styles, be enhanced and advanced in to methodological knowledge
- be competent to interdisciplinary cooperation
- acquire key competences in research and teaching
- overcome isolation and one-sided orientation during their elaboration of thesis and receive an improved supervision

- Ruhr Universitaet Bochum, Study regulations for the PhD course of studies of Philosophy, 2nd July 2010, non – official translation

2. Ruhr University Bochum, Faculty of Philosophy

PhD study courses are modularized

- European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)*
180 ECTS in total, thereof
 - 120 ECTS for Dissertation/Thesis
 - 20 ECTS for Defense
 - 40 ECTS for Seminars/Examinations

2. Ruhr University Bochum, Faculty of Philosophy

The study programm

Module	courses/hours	ECTS	Duration / semesters
Module 1		6	1. – 6. semester
• Doctorate colloquia	3 / 84 h		
Module 2		10	
• Specialist deepening	5 / 14 h		
Module 3		4	
• Research colloquia	2 / 56 h		

2. Ruhr University Bochum, Faculty of Philosophy

The study programm

Module	courses/ hours	ECTS	Duration/ semesters
Module 4		20	1. – 6. semester
• Key competences, various activities, e.g.	For each activity	5	
▪ Scientific publications			
▪ Scientific management			
▪ Workshops/conferences			
▪ Teaching			

3. Martin-Luther-Universitaet Halle-Wittenberg, Faculty of Philosophy*

- Duration of study program: 2 years; excluding elaboration the of the thesis and preparation of defense of thesis
- Duration of elaboration of thesis: 3 years
- Detailed objectives of study program are not defined
- Module structure is defined:

• Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Study regulations for the PhD course of studies of Philosophy, I,II,III, 9. February 2011, non – official translation

3. Martin-Luther-Universitaet Halle-Wittenberg, Faculty of Philosophy*

Module structure

Module Title	courses/hours	ECTS	Duration / semesters
Research colloquia	28 h x 4 semesters = 112 h	20	1. – 4. semester
Doctorate colloquia	28 h x 5 semesters = 140 h	20	1. – 5. semester
Interdisciplinary Module	14/ max 28 h x 4 semesters = 14 h/112 h	10	1. – 4. semester
Key competences	variable	10	1. – 4. semester
Elaboration Dissertation/ Thesis		120	1. – 6. semester