Mission and Genesis

International structural doctoral program for the promotion of social scientific young researchers, founded 2002 at the Institute for Social Sciences of Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

DAAD-funding 2002-2007 (473.000 €) Aim: Internationalization and transparent access routes, supervision agreement, professional coordination

German Excellence Initiative: (DFG-funds: 5.420.000 €) Aim: Promotion of a new and excellent generation of doctoral researchers, interdisciplinary research profile, research-oriented curriculum, and a national and international network of leading partner institutions

Standing university project from 2015 onwards: Online-application process, core curriculum, monitoring and documentation of the doctoral degree, BGSS-infrastructure and coordinating role

Target Group

Junior scientists working in research projects funded by third parties or at university chairs, foreign students holding a scholarship, currently 43 doctoral students.
https://www.bgss.hu-berlin.de/de/bgss/people/docres

Supporters

BGSS faculty with 29 members consisting of professors of the Institute for Social Sciences as well as leading researchers of the DIW, WZB and DZA, junior research group leaders and professors of other universities.
https://www.bgss.hu-berlin.de/de/bgss/people/faculty

Structured doctoral program for up-and-coming scientists

Annual international selection process on a rolling base, research-oriented Curriculum with output- and career-oriented milestones, annual track record procedure, offices with professional infrastructure.

Selection Procedure

Annual online-application- and selection process on a rolling base for young researchers with doctoral funding (research position, scholarship), selection focus on Exposé, theory- and method skills.

Staff/ Student Ratio

Provisional academic supervision by a BGSS faculty member during the first doctoral year, formal commitment of principal supervisor (with supervision agreement, admission to the faculty) after the successful completion of the Dissertation Prospectus at the end of the fist academic year.

Curriculum and Modules

Modules: Theory, Research Design and Advanced Methods; Supporting Courses; Individual Activities and Practical Work. Primary focus on current debates in the resp. field of research and methodological issues. The curriculum is complemented by the option to gather career-related competences. Result-oriented milestones support research progress of the doctoral projects over time.
https://www.sowi.hu-berlin.de/de/bgss/downloadmaterial/bgss-overview-curriculum-dp-2017.docx/at_download/file

Courses

First Doctoral Year
Literature Review 5 CP: Identification input to the research status
Research Design and Implementation 5 CP: Development Research Design (Dissertation Prospectus)
The Logic of Social Science Methods 5 CP: clarification of relevant methodological questions
Qualitative Methods and/or Quantitative Methods 10 CP: Acquisition of required advanced methodological knowledge

Second and third Doctoral Year
Theory Course(s) 5 CP
Doctoral Colloquium of the Supervisor 2 CP
Workshop for Work in Progress, 2 CP: Exchange within the Peer Group
Professional Development 2 CP: professional acquisition of competences
BGSS Graduate Conference 1 CP: Status and perspective of the final dissertation thesis

Milestones
Dissertation Prospectus (2nd semester), multiple chapters respectively journal articles (3rd-6th semester), submission and defence of the dissertation

Track Record

Annual data collection regarding curricular obligations performances with the help of a doctoral data base, creation of "Track Record" documents and a BGSS-certificate after graduation.

Institutional Embedding and Cooperation

Network Host function of Institute for Social Sciences
Cooperation network of partner research institutes (DIW, DZA, WZB, ZOiS) and Partner universities inter alia EUI, Duke, SNS di Pisa, HSE Moscow

Alumni

112 graduates since 2002. https://www.bgss.hu-berlin.de/de/bgss/people/alum