

Content

Dear PhD-students, Supervisors and Project Partners,

The optimization of GGG's offers – which has been initiated after the evaluation in 2013 – proceeds: In this newsletter, we inform you about the planned reorientation of our qualification measures from 2015 on. Furthermore, you may find the following information and articles in the current issue:

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of Social Sciences

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New course conception from 2015 on

Reorientation of the qualification measures for PhD-students towards current needs

In the GGG evaluation in fall 2013, the course offers for PhD-students were rated very useful. On the basis of internal evaluations of the qualification measures, which the GGG carries out on a regular basis, we nevertheless identified additional demands of the PhD-students, which we would like to address.

The GGG especially emphasizes the areas of qualification and vocational preparation of the PhD-students. The course program supports the doctoral process by the interdisciplinary synthesis of methodic approaches and the teaching of cross-sector key qualifications during the PhD. In addition, the GGG provides qualification options for academic as well as for non-academic careers.

Each course is chosen according to university-wide quality criteria, evaluated and only continued after positive evaluation. Moreover, the need for additional courses is inquired in the evaluation as well. As a consequence, the course evaluations are by now largely in the grading range of 1 (corresponding to "A" in international grading scales) and the courses are accepted by PhD-students of all member faculties and institutes.

The feedback of ongoing course evaluations showed two demands for development:

First, there was and still is a high demand for method courses. Therefore, the focus on the interdisciplinary methods will be even more strengthened. So far, this area

was covered by the annual Interdisciplinary Methodological Week and courses on the statistics software R. Now, also courses shall be tested that aim at interdisciplinary methods for the preparation and realization of research projects, e.g. courses on the planning of empirical research work or on scientifically correct data evaluation.



Second, comments on the ongoing course evaluations showed that many PhD-students are unsure about which career path to take after their PhD – whether e.g. they want to stay in academia or pursue a career in economy, whether in the long run they want to aim at a career in research and teaching or whether orientation towards science management might be an interesting option. There is thus a need for orientation courses that address participants before orientation towards a specific career. Such courses were already tested, inter alia, in the year 2013 and enjoyed great popularity – now, they shall be integrated in the course program in the long term. Therefore, the GGG will e.g. offer a course on career management, which ran with great success in 2013, again in 2015. Since under these circumstances

a strict differentiation of professional competence courses in “academic professional competencies” and “non-academic professional competencies” is no longer productive, both areas were combined into the general area “professional competencies”. Already approved course offers for professional competencies will of course still be offered within this category.

We hope to cover the PhD-students’ needs and wishes even better with these innovations. Further suggestions or ideas are always welcome!

On www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de you will find the courses offered by GGG in 2015 from the middle of November on. The period of registration for the courses in the first quarter of 2015 starts with November 17, 2014.

News of the GGG

The GGG Welcome Day in retrospect

With 39 participants, this year’s Welcome Day on 07.05.2014 was visited very well. Within two hours, staff of the GGG and the International Student Services informed the visitors about prerequisites and aspects of a PhD in the social sciences at Göttingen University as well as about GGG’s offers for PhD-students, funding opportunities for the time of the PhD and offers by the International Student Services. Following these short presentations, PhD-students and students interested in doing a PhD had the opportunity to get detailed information on the topics covered in the talks at several booths. Many were happy to do so and we were pleased with numerous interesting talks and suggestions which we received in this way.

The composition of participants was very heterogeneous with all GGG member faculties and member institutes being represented: 49% of the participants were affiliated with the Faculty of Economic Sciences, 21% came from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, 18% from the Faculty of Social Sciences, 8% from the Departments of Forest and Nature Conservation Policy and Forest History, and Nature Conservation and Landscape Planning, respectively, as well as 5% from the Faculty of Law. 31% of all participants had an international background. Compared to their percentage in the GGG (17.3% in the year 2013), international PhD-students were

therefore disproportionately represented. This shows the special need of international PhD-students of the GGG for introductory events like the Welcome Day and supports our decision to completely organize the event in English.

Several participants also contacted the GGG after the event in order to seek advice e.g. in financing matters. Many have furthermore passed on the information obtained at the Welcome Day to their colleagues who could not participate themselves and who have now on their part approached the GGG with requests for consulting. We are pleased with the effective results of a successful day!



On our own account

Please note especially that with publication of this newsletter the login window for the coming courses is open: PhD-students can now register for GGG courses of the fourth quarter 2014.

This newsletter is published quarterly. It is available to the PhD-students and supervisors of Social Sciences as well as to all interested parties. The newsletter is provided online (www.uni-goettingen.de/en/42253.html). You can also obtain it by e-mail. The next newsletter will be published on November 17, 2014.

This newsletter is supposed to inform you about fundamental issues regarding doing a PhD, contribute to a closer contact between you and the GGG team and thus help you to be informed in time about all offers of the graduate school. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact our team (see last page of the newsletter). Of course, you can also find additional information regarding the different projects online.

Qualification

Our courses in the fourth quarter

As of now, you can enroll for the following courses of the fourth quarter at ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de. Detailed information on our courses and on further courses for PhD-students offered by cooperating institutions can be found at www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de.

| Date | Topic | Referee |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 03.11. & 24.11.2014 | Von der Idee zum Projektantrag | Dr. Wolfgang Adamczak |
| 17.11.2014 | Open Access Policies / Verlagsverhandlungen (will be conducted in German language) | Margo Bargheer |

And this is how it works: The GGG divides the course year 2014 into four quarters. You can sign up for courses of a quarter six weeks before the beginning of that respective quarter. 12 to 16 PhD-students can participate in a particular course. Places are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Four weeks before start of the course, application is considered binding; this applies to all applications. You can also find detailed information on individual courses and the application procedure at:

www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de

Please only use the following email address for registration: ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de.
Please consider the applicable registration procedure.

Courses on teaching methods in higher education for PhD-students and new teachers

We would furthermore like to draw your attention to the following courses of the division for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Göttingen, which target especially PhD-students:

| Date | Topic | Referee |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 31.10.2014 | „...plötzlich lehren!“ Meine Rolle als Lehrende/r | Angelika Thielsch |
| 01.12. & 02.12.2014 | Und jetzt soll ICH sagen was richtig ist... Vom Rat-Suchen zum Beraten | Dr. Jutta Wergen |
| 14.01. - 16.01.2015 | Introduction to Teaching & Learning in Higher Education | Daan Romein |

Sponsorships

The Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences provides funding and scholarships for PhD-students of social sciences. The respective measures will be published on the GGG website in the course of the year:

www.ggg.uni-goettingen.de/GGG-sponsorship

The following funding options are available for the coming months:

| Funding measure | Duration | Application deadline | Funding amount | Target group |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GGG Family Grant | 4 – 6 months | 15.01.15 | € 1,200-1,300 per month | PhD-students with children under the age of twelve or who look after care-dependent family members and therefore need time for finishing their PhD |
| Research Assistantships | 3 months at 20 h | 15.01.15 | € 308 pre-tax x 3 months WHK | Foreign PhD-students who carry out a three-monthly research project |
| KaWirMento | 1 year | 31.10.14 | Mentoring and qualification | PhD-students and PostDocs seeking a career in economy |
| WeWiMento | 1 year | 31.01.15 | Mentoring and qualification | PhD-students and PostDocs seeking a career in science management |
| Participation in a summer school | Flexible | Flexible | Depending on available resources | PhD-students who would like to attend an international summer school that offers direct benefit for their PhD thesis |
| Forum of PhD-students | Flexible | Flexible | Depending on expenditure | PhD-students who want to network in a professional context |

We present

Judith Kaschner



Since April 2014, Judith Kaschner is the new contact person for international PhD-students of the Göttingen Graduate Schools of Social Sciences and Humanities. She studied English and Scandinavian Literature and Culture with focus on medieval language and literature, runes and manuscripts, and graduated in 2013.

From 2010 to 2012, she has been working as an assistant in the Admission Office of the Agricultural Faculty, coaching both German and international applicants for master- and PhD-studies and monitoring the admission process. She was employed at the Deanery of the Faculty of Humanities with a similar function in 2013. Furthermore, she was a member of the Faculty of Humanities' Committee for Study Affairs and the

Structure and Budget Commission (SHK), where she took part in decisions regarding, amongst others, the study and examination regulations of the study program offered at the faculty.

As the new contact person at the Helpdesk, Judith Kaschner offers help and support concerning all problems of daily life that international PhD-students living in Göttingen may encounter. Close connections to the departments and institutions of the university will allow her to quickly find the appropriate contacts in case of complex problems. Furthermore, she will be organizing small events and get-togethers as well as trips to culturally and historically interesting places and towns, where international and German students of GGG and GSGG can connect and chat in a relaxed atmosphere.

Further information can be found at:
www.uni-goettingen.de/en/58616.html

At a glance

Measures for the promotion of doctoral studies for PhD-students of the social sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences of Göttingen University supports additional courses in its PhD program as well as individual measures for PhD-students in the budget year 2014. Potentially eligible individual measures are measures aiming at internationalization, active participation in training courses, conferences and summer schools, editing costs as well as publications in reviewed journals. You will find further information on the measures and on the application procedure at:

www.uni-goettingen.de/en/488063.html

U4 network: Call for proposals for student and researcher mobility

The U4 network promotes mobility of students, PhD-students as well as researchers between the U4 partner universities Göttingen, Ghent, Groningen and Uppsala. The aim is to support international research of PhD-students, the development of joint projects as well as the identification of new possibilities for cooperation in research, teaching and administration.

This call for applications offers funds for the following types of mobility:

From Göttingen to Ghent, Groningen and Uppsala (Lump sums for travelling and accommodation):

- Bachelor/Master/PhD stays, up to six months
- Master/PhD conference attendance
- Postdoc/Professor research stays, up to 60 days

From Ghent, Groningen and Uppsala to Göttingen (Lump sums for accommodation):

- Master/PhD short-term stays, up to two weeks
- Postdoc/Professor short-term stays, up to 8 days
- Postdoc/Professor research stays, up to 60 days

The deadline for this call is October 15, 2014.

You will find further information on the project, contact details as well as application forms at:

www.uni-goettingen.de/en/120189.html and www.u4network.eu



Events

The GGG is hosting different events to which we would like to cordially invite you. You can already make a note of the following events. Additional information and starting times will be provided on our website, in leaflets, and by the team of the GGG.

City trip to Goslar and visit of the brewery on October 16, 2014

We are planning a trip to Goslar, a small town at the foot of the Harz Mountains. A guided city tour of two hours will take us to all important places of the beautiful historic town. As a special highlight, we will visit the brewery Brauhaus Goslar and have a short guided tour through the brewhouse, where we can also taste the local specialty Gose beer (optional). Before we return to Göttingen, there will be some time for shopping or having a snack at the Brauhaus. Further information and registration can be found at:

www.uni-goettingen.de/en/490787.html

Talk and information at the SoWi GO! on November 18/19, 2014

At this year's SoWi GO! you can, among other things, find information on the possibilities and the framework conditions of

a PhD in the social sciences. On one of the two days, the GGG will offer an information talk on this topic and be available to answer your questions. For the exact date, please have a look at the website of SoWi GO! shortly before the event:

www.uni-goettingen.de/de/193334.html

Visit to the old Botanic Garden and get-together at Café Botanik, November 4, 2014

We are planning to visit the old Botanic Garden in Göttingen and the curator himself, Michael Schwerdtfeger, is going to give us a guided tour of the grounds and green houses. Afterwards, we want to spend some time at the Café Botanik, located right at the entrance to the old Botanic Garden, and chat in a relaxed atmosphere while having a coffee or tea. Further information and registration can be found at:

www.uni-goettingen.de/en/490991.html

Team

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Dr. Bettina Roß

Executive Direction

Conceptual questions and issues for the future, PhD-programs, advice for PhD-students, funding (including SME network travel grants) and general questions.

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Claudia Kohrell

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SME-Network of the GGG



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This Newsletter will be sent to all members of the GGG. In case of questions or remarks, please contact ggg@uni-goettingen.de.

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