

RTG 2906 Curiosity

Applicant Information Event

A Göttingen tradition: After successfully defending their PhD students celebrate by climbing and kissing the “Gänseliesel” statue in the town square



What exactly is an RTG?

Research Training Group (German: *Graduiertenkolleg* abbrev. *GRK*)

RTG's are:

- ...established to promote early career researchers
- ...funded by the German Research Foundation (German: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, abbrev. DFG)

What does an RTG mean in “real-life” terms!?

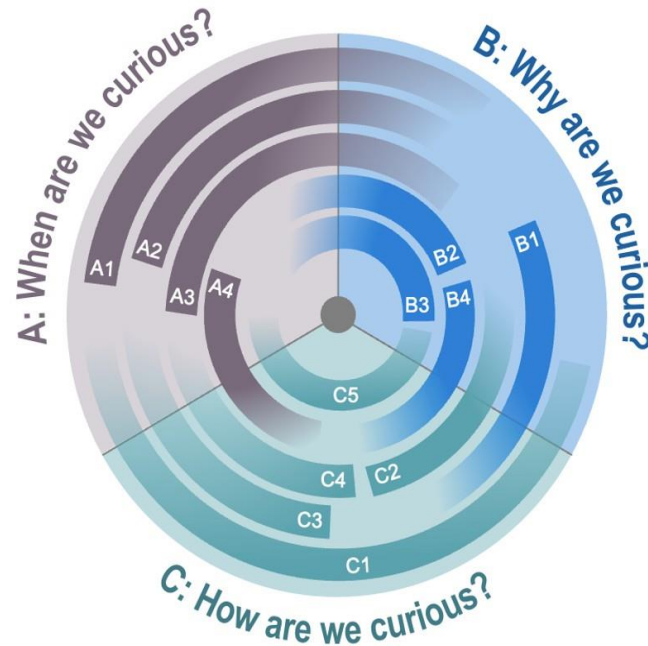
- You start the PhD alongside a **cohort of peers**
=> a great support network from day 1!
- You profit from regular **interdisciplinary exchange** with your peers
=> Retreats, Summer schools, RTG-courses

The RTG 2906 Community



What is the goal of RTG 2906?

Train a group of doctoral researchers to work towards an integrative framework of curiosity



RTG 2906 seeks to better understand the **proximate** factors, **ultimate** goals and **neurocomputational** mechanisms underlying curiosity

Where can I find out more about the research goals of RTG 2906?

Make sure to check the posters:



Research areas

RTG 2906 Curiosity comprises of several PhD projects, each of which is assigned to a primary research area, with links to other research areas:

Project A2: Active acquisition of ecological and social information in wild macaques

PRs: Oliver Schülke, Julia Ostner

PhD: Kerne Rayner

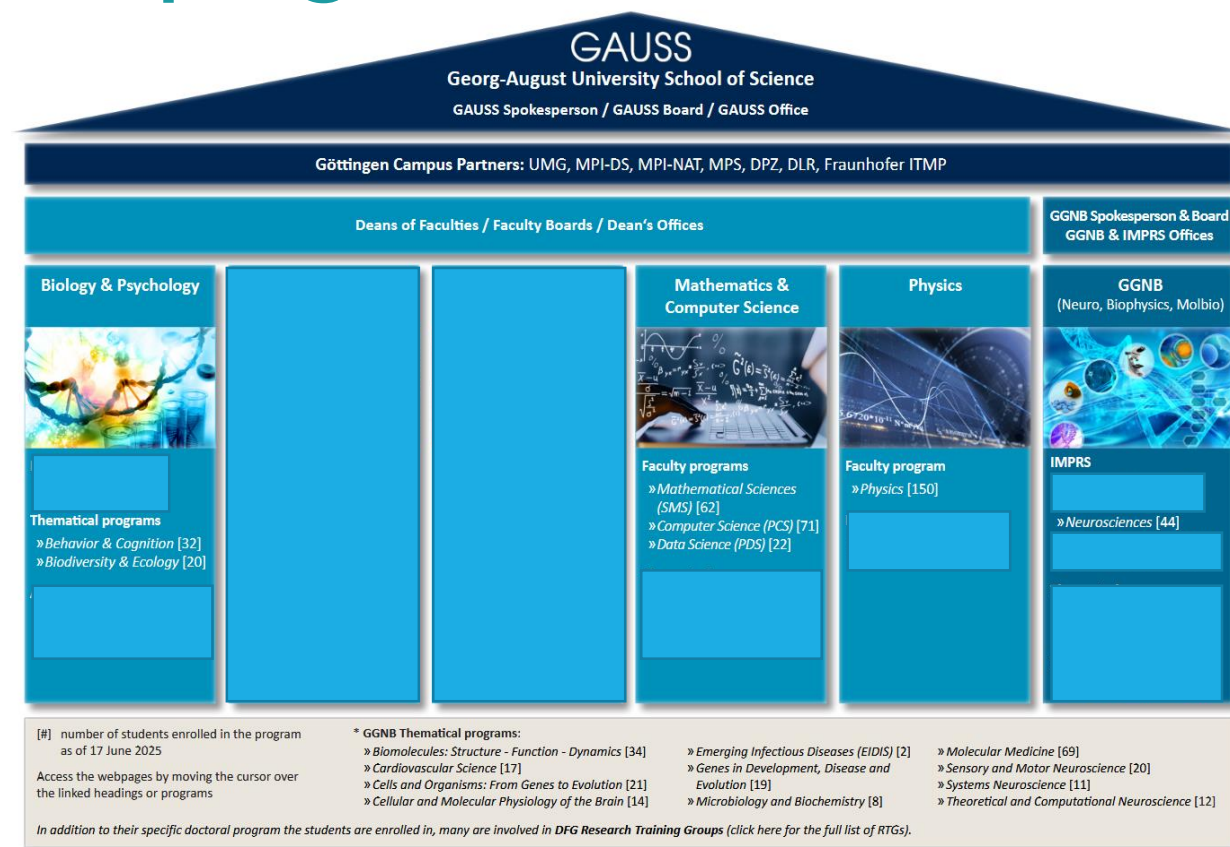
Project A2 will investigate factors that influence curiosity for ecological and social information in wild Assamese macaques. The PhD researcher will devise observational protocols to examine the social learning of foraging skills in a wild macaque population in Thailand (DPZ field site *Phu Khieo*). The data will be used to explore how curiosity for social information develops as individuals mature, and to explore the relationship between early life curiosity and proxies of evolutionary fitness.

- Click [here](#) to download project poster



What is the RTG qualification programme all about?

All doctoral researchers will be enrolled in a graduate program offered by the [Georg-August University School of Science \(GAUSS\)](#):



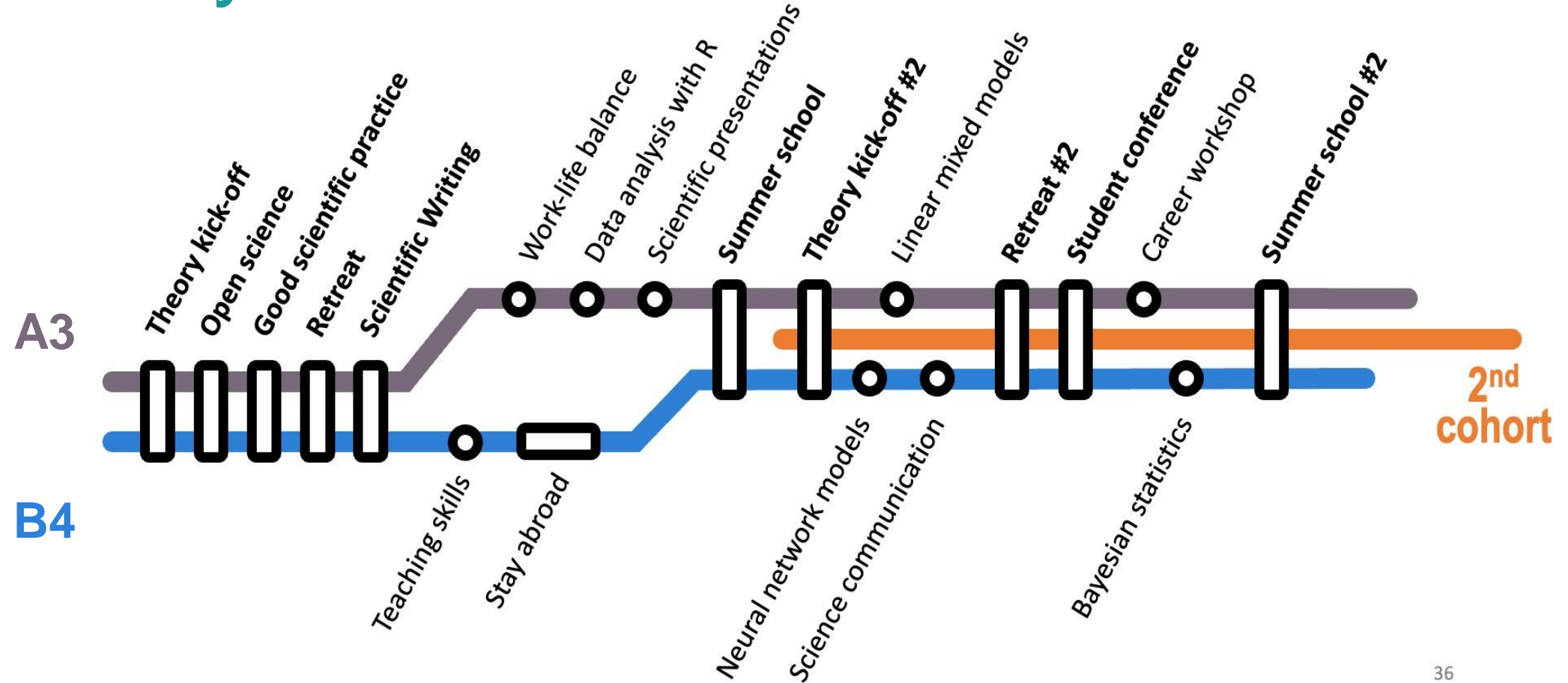
BUT RTG 2906 offers doctoral researchers a tailor-made qualification programme:

- => Mix of compulsory and elective courses
- => Need to collect 20 Credits across 5 modules
- **Note.** The GAUSS graduate program requirements align with those of the RTG 2906 qualification programme!
- i.e. if you fulfil the RTG 2906 qualification programme requirements, you will fulfil those of the respective GAUSS graduate programme

Module	Courses/Events
1. Scientific Theory & Reflection	Theory kick-off workshops* Summer schools* Student-led conference* Retreats* "Stage 1" talks* (empirical or modelling work begins only <i>after</i> presenting planned projects)
2. Scientific Methods	Open Science practices* Statistics (Frequentist, Bayesian) Working with data (Eye-tracking, Behavioural, EEG) Neural network modelling
3. Research-oriented Teaching	"We teach, we learn"* Supervise graduate and undergraduate projects Teaching skills Teaching in intercultural classrooms
4. Science Communication	Scientific writing skills* Grant writing Scientific presentations Science communication Curiosity exhibit at Forum Wissen
5. Management	Good scientific practice* Leadership skills Work-life balance Intercultural competence Career workshop

* compulsory courses

This is what your PhD *could* look like:



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I'd like to apply - how do I go about this?

1. Check the advertisements on the RTG website:

▼ Projects & Job Advertisements

- **Project A1:** Developmental interplay of curiosity, meta-cognition and social learning [job ad](#), **deadline: February 20, 2026**
- **Project A2:** Active acquisition of ecological and social information in wild macaques [job ad](#), **deadline: December 20, 2025**
- **Project A3:** Predictors of curiosity in Guinea baboons [job ad](#), **deadline: January 15, 2026**
- **Project A4:** To know or not to know – emotional, motivational and person-related factors of seeking or avoiding information 2026
- **Project B1:** How does curiosity modulate the integration of novel external information into internal models of the world?

2. Make sure to know the requirements and the deadline.

2. Keep in mind that each project requires a different set of qualifications!

I'd like to apply - how do I go about this?

4. Read the “How to apply” section in the job advertisement *carefully*

- For Projects A1, A2, A4, B1, B3, B4, C3, C5, you need to **submit your application online via the University Portal** (each project has a unique Portal link)

E.g., this is the portal link for Project A1:

Please upload your application in one pdf file including the usual documents until 2/20/2026 on the application portal of the university using this link: <http://obp.uni-goettingen.de/de-de/OBF/Index/76192>. For more information get in touch with Aleksandra Bovt directly via E-Mail: abovt@un

- For projects A3 and B2 we ask you to **submit your application by email to bewerbung@dpz.eu**

5. Read the FAQs on our homepage

What documents do I include in my application?

1. A Motivation Letter
2. A Curriculum Vitae
3. Degree Certificates*
4. Language Certificates* **Certified copies*



Please aggregate your PDFs into one file ahead of submission!

Definition of certified copy: A duplicate of a document that has been verified as a true reproduction of the original by an authorised individual or organisation e.g., the Registrar's office of the University, a public notary, a local court, or a German embassy

Note. In case it is not possible to make certified copies of your certificates by the application deadline: proceed with your application and just submit a normal scan of your certificates -> should your application move into the next round, we will need to see certified copies

You do not need to provide you with references/contact information of referees at this stage but if your application moves into the next round, we will ask for this information (so it doesn't hurt to already line this up)

What does a “good” motivation letter look like?

A good motivation letter is **well-structured**, it should include:

- An opening paragraph

⇒ introduce yourself and give us a skeleton overview of what the letter contains

- Body paragraphs

=> outline your reasons for applying, why are you a good fit for this particular project?

=> What skills/experience do you possess that qualify you for the position? Hint: give concrete examples

- A clear conclusion

=> Bring your letter to a close and reiterate your interest before signing off

A good motivation letter is concise (ideally **not longer than two pages**)

Remember to proofread grammar and spelling - **first impressions count!**

Please note that each position advertised is different, make sure to **adjust your motivation letter** in case you apply for more than one position!

What does a “good” CV look like?

- A CV provides the reader with a concise overview of your life achievements to-date
- A strong CV might include the following sections:
 1. Personal details/Contact information
 2. Research objective or Personal Profile
 3. Education (listed in reverse chronological order)
 4. Professional appointments (work experience related to the position, list in reverse chronological order)
 5. Research publications (if applicable)
 6. Awards and Honours
 7. Grants (if applicable)
 8. Conference contributions
 9. Teaching experience (if applicable)
 10. Additional activities (e.g., “Service and outreach” activities)
 11. Languages and skills (e.g., Software knowledge)

Formatting tip -> be consistent (e.g., if using DD.MM.YYYY, don't switch to DD/MM/YYYY).
But don't lose yourself in the formatting - the content is what counts...

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I am interested in multiple projects; can I submit an application to more than one project?
2. I don't 100% fulfil the profile requirements, should I still apply?
3. I don't speak German but the job advertisement says German language skills would be advantageous, should I still apply?
4. I have my own idea for a project on curiosity and would rather do this than what the project suggest, should I still apply?
5. I have not completed my Masters yet, but will be done by Autumn 2026, can I apply?

FAQs

Do you have any questions? We have compiled answers to the most common questions in a single file. PhD FAQ can be downloaded [here](#).

Answers to these questions
and more can be found here:

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/open+positions/681638.html>

The system
has its perks,
e.g. country
& nationality
are being
shown in
German only.

Personal Information

Salutation*

Please choose

Title

Please choose

First name*

Surname*

Birth date*

11/28/2025

Country*

Please choose

Nationality*

Please choose

Street*

Phone number*

E-mail*

Confirm e-mail*

If you have a disability that should be considered in the application process, please fill in the following fields

Disability

Back

Next

Education

Please indicate your last university/professional degrees or your school-leaving certificate. Graduation one is the newest, three the furthest behind. If you have a "Degree 1" field under "Degree 1".

Please choose	Please choose
Name of facility	Name of facility
Place / Country	Place / Country
Graduation / Field of study / Apprenticeship as	Graduation / Field of study / Apprenticeship as
Grade	Grade
Graduation date / anticipated graduation date	Graduation date / anticipated graduation date
Description	Description
Verification(s) (only PDF-documents possible)	Verification(s) (only PDF-documents possible)

Work experience

Work experience

Please enter your last stations. Work experience 1 is the latest. 3 the furthest back.

Work experience 1

Employer

City, Country

from (month/year)

until (month/year)

Job description

Verification(s) (only PDF-documents possible)

Back

Work experience 2



Employer

City, Country

from (month/year)

until (month/year)

Job description

Verification(s) (only PDF-documents possible)



Requirements

Here you can enter further information on the individual requirements of the job. If there are no further requirements for the position, click on "Next".

, Computer science, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Cognitive Science



Keep in mind: each position
has different requirements!

Experience conducting experimental studies with human participants is not necessary but would be beneficial



[Introduction](#)

[Personal Information](#)

[3. Qualifications](#)

[Further information](#)

[Documents](#)

[Summary](#)

Preferably,
upload here
your
application
documents
compiled in
one file (max.
2 MB).

Dokumente

Please use descriptive file names (e.g. cover letter.pdf, resume.pdf etc.) and as file format PDF. If possible, please combine certificates in a s

Select files...

Other things you consider important for your application

[Introduction](#) [Personal Information](#) [3. Qualifications](#) [Further information](#) [Documents](#) [Summary](#)

Summary

Personal information

The summary of the application will not include the section „Requirements“.

- Please note that the portal needs time to save changes. If you struggle with upload, clearing the cache usually helps.
- Keep in mind that you cannot save changes and come back to the application later.
- If you face any problems, feel free to get in touch with us (rtg2906@uni-goettingen.de)!