

## Content

### Dear Ph.D. Students, Advisors and Partners,

The GGG starts into a new year by presenting you our redesigned newsletter, which includes all the information regarding the process of Ph.D. studies and all the activities the GGG is going to offer. In the introduction you will find information regarding scholarships for Ph.Ds. In addition you will find a new section, created to provide information to Ph.D. students and advisors interested in business contacts (see page 3 in section "Business and Science"). Furthermore this newsletter contains:

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We wish you all a happy and successful new year and we are looking forward to your comments and feedbacks regarding our newsletter and our program

### Your Team of the

Göttinger Graduiertenschule  
Gesellschaftswissenschaften

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# Ph.D. Funding

## Scholarships for Ph.D. Students working on Individual Projects

**Scholarships are an important possibility to finance your Ph.D. The GGG supports you with all the information necessary to increase your chances of success in applying for scholarships. Also of course if you want to work on your doctoral thesis on your own.**

Before starting your doctoral research, several important steps have to be considered. In addition to finding an advisor, and getting approved by the faculty, another chief concern is the question of how to finance your research. Many Ph.D. students work as research assistants, or for the university administration. Others work outside the university e.g. for law firms or companies.

Thanks to the expansion of programs like our Research Training Group, more and more such jobs and scholarships

can be offered to Ph.D. students. Especially in social sciences though, a lot of students looking to get their Ph.D. depend on special support for individual projects. Therefore the German scholarship system offers a variety of possibilities for students to receive financial support and funding ([www.begabtenfoerderungswerke.de](http://www.begabtenfoerderungswerke.de)). But choosing from the variety of programs can be a problem, which is why most students apply for big programs (political parties, unions, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, "Stiftung des Deutschen Volkes", etc.), forgetting about smaller, lesser-known programs.



### Scholarship Consulting

Starting June 2012 the GGG is going to launch an information center for Ph.D. students, looking for possibilities to finance research projects in social sciences (see page 4). In addition to basic information regarding the various scholarship programs, the information center will offer individual consulting to help students choose the right program according to their field of interest. Most importantly though, the information center offers students help preparing their application, particularly planning their research.

Throughout the last years the University of Göttingen has proven to be very successful in gaining financial funding for Ph.D.-programs. The GGG alone connects 13 different Research Training Groups (RTG) and programs. Still, trying to get financial support for individual projects can be a difficult challenge. Experience shows that a lot of students have problems planning a bigger research project, even if they did learn how to write a research plan during their studies. However, creating a precise, well-structured research plan that fits the expectations of the respective foundation is of major importance for the application process.

Dr. Bettina Ross (chief administrator of the GGG) points out the importance of a well prepared application: "Besides a good idea for a research project, students need a financial resource that allows them to independently work on their thesis for several years. Finding the right scholarship program and an excellent application are key to ensure a successful Ph.D." That means that after clarifying the academically aspects with their advisor, students looking to start their doctoral thesis, should

consider consulting the GGG for help in order to increase their chances of financial funding. Writing a research plan also eases the process of getting a thesis started, due to the additional research and planning that a good plan requires.

### Planning the Application

Planning such an application one has to consider that allocating scholarships requires far in advance planning. Depending on the topic and the student's major, it takes up to three months to compile the necessary forms, including a research plan. After that it can take the different foundations up to six months to decide whether or not they grant a scholarship. Almost all foundations have application deadlines until which they accept applications. Missing those deadlines usually means another three to 12 months of waiting. Despite these inconveniences and the lack of social coverage that applicants have to face, getting into a scholarship program

can be very attractive. First of all it is sometimes the only way to get any financial support at all, but on the other hand the prestige that comes along with a scholarship cannot be underestimated. Apart



from this, recipients of financial funding usually enjoy more freedom than Ph.D. students working in companies. And in addition to financial funding a lot of foundations offer courses and special coaching

as well as access to exclusive networks. To get a general idea of the possibilities there are, the "Stipendienlotse" created by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) offers an excellent overview of the variety of different programs ([www.stipendienlotse.de](http://www.stipendienlotse.de)).

## Qualification

### Our courses in the 2nd quarter

Courses offered by the GGG take place every quarter with a registration period starting six weeks ahead of every term.

For more information go to [www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de).

To register for the following 2nd quarter courses send your registration to [ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de).

Fri. 13.04. and Thu. 10.05.	<b>Zeit- und Selbstmanagement während der Promotion und der Zeit danach</b>	Dr. Sabine Hoier
Mon. 23.04. and Tue. 24.04.	<b>Hochschuldidaktik I</b>	Dr. Christine Bäumler
Thu. 26.04./ Fri. 27.04. and Thu. 03.05./Fri. 04.05.	<b>Project Management in International Contexts</b>	Dr. Dorit Battermann
Mon. 07.05. and Mon. 14.05.	<b>Schreibwerkstatt I „Verfassen von Exposés“</b>	Ella Grieshammer
Thu. 24.05.	<b>Vom Thema zur Struktur – wissenschaftliche Argumentation für Juristinnen und Juristen</b>	Dr. Stephan Peters
Fri. 22.06. and Sat. 23.06.	<b>Hochschuldidaktik II „Aktivierende Methoden“</b>	Hannes Mehner
Fri. 29.06./Sat. 30.06. and Fri. 06.07./Sat. 07.07.	<b>English Presentation Skills, Advanced Level</b>	Clement Wulf

#### And this is how it works:

Each course is limited to 12 to 16 students – first come, first served. Four weeks before courses start, your registration will be considered obligatory. For detailed information about courses and a detailed description of the registration process go to [www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de).

Considering the application process, please send your registration to [ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de) only!

# Business and Science

## The Favorable Balance of the SME-Network

**Based on the successful work of the SME-Network and the highly positive feedback from companies, assistance measures for SME and Ph.D. students will be expanded.**

The GGG's SME-Network ("KMU Netzwerk") is proud of the positive results achieved during the first three years of its existence. During these first three years, more than 300 collaborations between science and economy have been initiated by the SME-Network. Those collaborations range from business meetings, visits of different companies, meetings in various forums, to direct collaboration projects.

Both, corporations and students are highly interested in these kinds of offers, which is why the start of the networking-project's second phase just got its approval, ensuring the resources necessary for the next three years of successful work. This emphasizes the value of this future-oriented project says Prof. Dr. Kilian Bizer, spokesperson for the SME-Project.



### Added Value for Companies and Cooperation-Projects

By now several companies have successfully started working on numerous cooperation-projects initiated by the SME. During those so called practical-science-projects ("Praxisforscher") our partners are provided with expertise as well as professional personnel, enabling them to survey and optimize processes within their companies. This again enables companies to identify weak spots and to optimize processes and measurements, which again allows them to improve their market position.

**KMU** Netzwerk der Göttinger Graduiertenschule  
Gesellschaftswissenschaften (GGG)

### New Career Options for Ph.D. Students

Participating in those types of projects gives Ph.D. students the opportunity to analyze practice-oriented questions. In addition it gives them the opportunity to make contact with various employers and allows them to gain valuable insight into our regional economy system. Finally qualification and sponsorships are offered to facilitate access to jobs.

### New Sponsorships

To improve collaborations between Ph.D. students and companies, the SME-Network offers programs aiming to support students even before they start working on their Ph.D. thesis. Our goal is to increase contacts between social sciences and the market as early as possible. This is why in 2012 the SME started to support MA thesis projects that are related to regional aspects of our economy ("PraxisArbeiten").

Collaborations for future doctoral theses emerging from those practical projects can be funded by the SME-Network. The companies involved in those projects, benefit from learning about the latest approaches to solve internal issues.

### Contact

If you are looking for financial funding or if you want to learn more about the SME-Network and the opportunities we have to offer, please do not hesitate to contact our project coordinators:

Jaqui Dopfer: Tel. 0551-39-10646  
Christina Qaim: Tel. 0551-39-10630



## On our own Account

Please notice that starting with the publication of this newsletter the registration period for our upcoming courses has started. Ph.D. students interested in registering for 2nd quarter courses can do so from now on (see also page 2)

From now on this newsletter will be issued quarterly, providing information for Ph.D. students and advisors. It can be received via email or you can go to

[www.uni-goettingen.de/de/aktuelles/42253.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/aktuelles/42253.html).

**Our next newsletter will be published May 15, 2012.**



## News

### Representatives of Ph.D. Students at the GGG

In November the doctoral students elected a new spokesperson to represent them in the social sciences. As representatives Jan Höffler (econ. science) and Anna Ransiek (social sciences) will be there to support students as their contact persons. They will actively contribute in organizing the GGG and will represent the students' interests.

#### Jan H. Höffler

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Email: [jhoeffl@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:jhoeffl@uni-goettingen.de)

#### Anna-Christin Ransiek

Tel.: 0551-39-12884

Email: [aransie@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:aransie@uni-goettingen.de)

### Announcement of Scholarships

Starting October 2012 the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung (HBS) is going to fund eight scholarships and one postdoc position, in order to support the recently created RTG ("Qualifikatorisches Upgrading in KMU") of the GGG.

Focusing on questions of collaborations between science and economy, the development of regional markets, as well as the enhancement of career opportunities this project will support the SME's efforts in creating jobs for academics. In order to apply for this scholarship please consider the deadline which is April 9, 2012. For more information go to [www.uni-goettingen.de/de/316508.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/316508.html).

### Welcome Day

You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the GGG's annual Welcome Day, which is going to take place April 25, 2012 starting 11 a.m. During this event you will have the opportunity to meet other Ph.D. students, ask questions, and enjoy a selection of refreshments. The students' representatives along with the GGG are looking forward to welcome new Ph.D. students and students interested in learning more about the work of the GGG.

The event is going to take place in the Oeconomicum room 0.211 (Platz der Goettinger Sieben 3, 1st Floor behind the dean's office).



### Job offer: Project Consultant

In order to optimize consulting and support for Ph.D. students the GGG is looking to create a part-time position for a project manager. Our goal is to optimize the support for individual students so as to increase their chances in receiving scholarships and funding (see also editorial). This position needs to be filled by June 1, 2012. Deadline for applications will be March 4, 2012 (postmark accordingly). For more information go to [www.uni-goettingen.de/de/316508.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/316508.html).

### Conference "Biodiversity and Society"

Biodiversity is one of the main fields of research in sciences at the University of Göttingen. Partially funded by the SME-Network (GGG) and organized by 30 Ph.D. students (all of them majoring in "Biodiversity and Society") the conference is going to take place 14th – 16th November, 2012. Main goal of this event is to give scientists and scholars researching in the field of biodiversity, an opportunity to meet other academics and to learn more about the interdisciplinary connection between societal issues and biodiversity. In addition well-known guest-speakers will make their contribution, making this conference an attractive event for the general public. Afterwards to sum up the convention presentations and results are going to be published. More information about the exact schedule, the call for papers (CFP), and contact persons will be available soon at [www.uni-goettingen.de/biodiversitaet-gesellschaft](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/biodiversitaet-gesellschaft).

### Announcement for Conference Funding

The next conference funding ("Tagungsförderung") will be announced in May 2012. For more information go to [www.uni-goettingen.de/de/downloads/103158.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/downloads/103158.html)

## Fast Facts

### Free Tickets for CeBIT-Convention

We are happy to announce that, in cooperation with the technology transfer office the Research Service of the University of Göttingen is able to provide students, interested in visiting this year's CeBIT, with free tickets. Anyone interested please contact us at [ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de). Enjoy a trip to this year's CeBIT!

### Information about Cooperation Partners

From now on in this section we will provide you with additional information about GGG's partners. If you want to place your information in this section, please contact us at [ggg@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:ggg@uni-goettingen.de). Deadline is May 2, 2012.

# Sponsorships

The GGG constitutes funds and scholarships for doctoral students working in the field of social sciences. Throughout the year those resources are offered online on our homepage ([www.uni-goettingen.de/de/121041.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/121041.html)). For this year we are proud to present the following offers: .

Type of Funding	Duration	When?	Amount of Funding	Requirements
4 Scholarships for Practice Projects	Flexible	Starting 2012	400 € each	Ph.D. Students looking to start a practical research project together with SMEs
4 Scholarships for Practical Research Projects (PraxisForscher)	Each 6 Months Max.	Starting 2012	25% Research Assistant	Ph.D. Students looking to start a research project together with SMEs
2 Scholarships for International Conventions	6 Months; 43 hrs per Month	Offered twice a year	Research Assistant (plus 1.840 € material expenses)	Ph.D. Students interested in organizing International Conventions and Events
26 Travel Grants	Per Travel	Permanently Offered by the Faculties	400 € max per Project	Ph.D. Students interested in visiting Conventions and Events in other Countries
GGG Scholarships	2 to 6 Months	Starting October 2012	To be announced	Ph.D. Students; Details to be announced
Ph.D. Forum	Flexible	Annually Starting 2012	Depending on Type of Project	Ph.D. Students looking for Networking Opportunities
8 HBS-Scholarships	2 to 3 Years Starting October 2012	Announcement in February	1.150 € per Month	Ph.D. Students applying for RTG "Qualifikatorisches Upgrading in KMU"
1 Partner-Scholarship	25 hrs each	Jan. 2012	340 € per Partnership	Ph.D. Students that support Foreign Ph.D. Students
1 Teaching Assistantships	4 Months each	Jan. 2012	250 € per Month	Foreign Ph.D. Students interested in Teaching
4 Research Assistantships	3 Months each	Jan. 2012	350 € per Month	Foreign Ph.D. Students interested in doing Research

## Do you know...?

### New Staff Member at the SME-Network of the GGG



Last December succeeding Lasse Becker, Jaqui Dopfer joined our team as our new project coordinator. Jaqui is a graduate engineer with several years of work experience in the fields of measurement technique and control engineering. Managing material flows, sustainable developments in companies, evaluating processes and process results as well as dealing with environmental issues are part of her 20 years work experience.

At the KMU Jaqui Dopfer will support Ph.D. students, focusing on travel grants and international conventions.

To contact Ms. Dopfer call +49 551 39 10646 or send an email to [jacqui.dopfer@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:jacqui.dopfer@uni-goettingen.de).

## Events

You are cordially invited to join us for this year's following events. More information about exact locations and times will be announced on our homepage, in our flyer, and by the staff of the GGG.

### April 25

"Welcome Day" For all doctoral students who would like to learn more about the GGG

### May 8

"Praxisbörse" An opportunity to learn more about job possibilities, for regular students and students who already started working on their Ph.D.

### June 13

"International Summer Party of the GGG"

### October 15-18

"Interdisciplinary Methodenwoche"

### November 14-16

"International Conference of Biodiversity and Society"

# Team

We are here to support you

## Office Administration



**Dr. Bettina Roß**

*Chief Administrator*

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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](mailto:ggg@uni-goettingen.de).

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