

Content

Dear PhD students, supervisors and project partners,

Summer time is the season for travelling – the GGG joins this trend and features a travel report on a summer school trip to London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), sponsored by the GGG, in this newsletter's editorial. In addition, you will find in this issue:

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Castles, Pubs and SPSS

Visiting the Methods Summer School at the London School of Economics and Political Science: A travel report by former PhD student Maraja Riechers.

Thanks to funding by the GGG, I took part in the course "Statistical Methods for Social Research using SPSS" at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) from August 18 to 29, 2014. The university is situated in the middle of London and despite the quite high amount of work one still has enough time to have a look at London. Besides all the beautiful touristic places like the British Museum, London Tower, Buckingham Palace and so on, Windsor Castle is definitely worth a visit (and can also be easily reached by train!). In the framework of the summer school more than 70 courses are offered at the LSE. Due to the high number of foreign

students there is always a great, friendly and interesting atmosphere. One gets to know people very fast and can enjoy the atmosphere away from the touristic places together. Visiting the many small pubs (which close frighteningly early) or cafés should not be left out when you are in London.

Regarding the university: The London School of Economics and Political Science is one of the leading universities worldwide in social sciences and therefore has high standards in training and research. With 17 associated Nobel laureates and 34 former heads of state, the LSE has a high status in politics and science and was one of the top five universities worldwide between 2007 and 2010. The Fulbright Commission describes the LSE as the world leading institution in social sciences.

Summer schools for PhD students

High-quality summer schools help PhD students in staying up to date with the latest scientific discussions and methods as well as in putting their own work up for discussions. In addition, they also offer the chance for networking within the scientific community. Therefore, the GGG supports the participation in summer schools by subsidizing the costs of travel and accommodation. Applications are possible at any time.

Due to the great demand this year, only a partial financing for the participation in a summer school amounting to 300 - 500 euros per year and person is available.

Please note that this funding option is not available for participations in conferences, research stays abroad or the organization of summer schools in Göttingen, since for these activities other funding possibilities do exist.

Further information on this GGG funding option can be found at:
www.uni-goettingen.de/en/441573.html

And I can only confirm this appraisal – I have seldom experienced such a great course! It was led by Dr. James Abdey and was perfectly organized. It encompassed a lot of information – from extended statistical applications to the professional usage of SPSS. Dr. Abdey was strongly application orientated and daily lectures alternated with computer-based practical seminars. We were about 20 persons in the course, which was even further split to reduce the number of participants at the practical seminars. The course started with the basics and got to a high level very quickly. It is therefore suited for beginners, for those who want to refresh their knowledge, but also for those who are already very well experienced at the topic. Since LSE has such a good reputation, one sits next to the 30-year-old employee of the UN in Brussels and the 19-year-old Cambridge/Canadian King's College Bachelor student. Dr. Abdey himself is a wonderfully funny and remarkable young man. His dissertation "To p or not to p" deals with p values. He is as witty as didactically clever and has a high level of technical expertise. Even learning formulas by heart was a lot of fun in his course.

In general, this course not only exceeded all my professional expectations, it also was a lot of fun. Because of the high amount of excellent documentation with which Dr. Abdey provided us, I will be able to revert to the lessons learned time and time again in the years to come. The LSE spared no expense to put the course in a nice frame and show the university in a favorable light. Waiters with silver tablets at strawberry tea, jazz reception and a general air of luxury surrounded the summer school. The university put

a lot of effort into showing itself at its best. Even the university's president emphasized how important and nice it was for him to host all the foreign students at the LSE. Even though the LSE lacks a central campus, there still was the feeling of solidarity among the institutions.

The only drawbacks were the high costs for the course (approx. 1.600 euros), which were however affordable thanks to the support of GGG, and the housing situation in London. I did indeed live in one of the areas of London that I consider to be one of the most beautiful ones (Canary Wharf). But even though one resides between beautiful multi-story buildings, banks and expensive hotels, there were rather loud mice in the walls of the shabby, tiny apartment, which I shared with five persons.

All in all, it was a really outstanding experience and I thank the GGG for making an attendance at this summer school possible for me!

With kind regards,

Maraja Riechers
(Former PhD student at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences & associated member of the PhD program "Biodiversity and Society")



Some course attendees, with Maraja (7th from left).

Information for Newcomers

Here, we provide information at irregular intervals for PhD students who just started their dissertation or are new in the GGG. Even though intended for newcomers mainly, this column also contains information relevant to experienced PhD students.

First, we would like to warmly welcome you! As the Graduate School of Social Sciences, we will accompany you during your PhD and do our utmost to support you.

Admission to a doctorate

You will find comprehensive and combined information on the first steps from admission to a doctorate to enrollment on the website of the [Office for Student Affairs](#).

All questions on prerequisites, deadlines for application, recognition of academic degrees and the PhD procedure will be answered by the deanery or the Study advisory office of the [respective faculty](#).

After you found a professor who will supervise your PhD, please clarify financing e. g. with your supervisor. Dr. Kristin Schröder from the [GGG PhD-Funding Guidance](#) offers you advice concerning the search for funding possibilities.

After admission at your faculty, please [enroll](#) at the university's Registrar's office. Enrollment is mandatory for PhD students, too.

Doctoral studies

There are three ways to a doctorate in social sciences at Göttingen University:

- individual doctoral degree at the Faculty of Law,
- within a PhD degree program at the Faculties of Agricultural Sciences, Forest Sciences, Social Sciences or Economic Sciences or
- within a program, e. g. a research training group.

To earn an *individual doctoral degree*, you write your dissertation at the chair of your professor at the Faculty of Law.

In a *PhD degree program* you undergo a structured study program next to writing your dissertation or your scientific papers (cumulative PhD), respectively. You attend method and key skill courses as well as colloquia for usually 20 credits. In the four mentioned faculties in Göttingen, there is only this form of doctoral studies.

A "*program*" groups PhD students to a specific topic. These groups work interdisciplinary and cross-institutional. You may find the [current programs](#) which are members of the GGG online.

It is recommended or mandatory (depending on whether you chose individual or structured doctoral studies) that you enter into a PhD agreement with your supervisor which defines start, topic and the involved parties of your PhD. You should regularly discuss the progress of your work with your supervisor, at least once per year. These discussions should also address the compliance of good scientific practice. This is a negotiated agreement in science. To avoid scientific misconduct, [Göttingen University](#) and the [DFG](#) have published a collection of recommendations.

In PhD degree programs or in a program you are not only accompanied by one person but by a thesis committee. This committee comprises at least two, usually three PhD supervisors and you. Its purpose is that you regularly speak about the progress of your PhD and that you come to a solution together in case of difficulties.

All doctoral studies have in common that the dissertation is submitted to the faculty and that the oral final exam is taken at the faculty. The respective deanery thus accompanies all formal steps of your PhD.

Support by the GGG

You are automatically a member of GGG as soon as you are admitted to a doctorate in one of the PhD degree programs or at one of the [member faculties](#) of the GGG.

We kindly ask you to send our [questionnaire](#) to the GGG right at the beginning – and to update it if needed – to allow us to contact you. These data will only be used within the GGG.

There are no additional obligations associated with your membership. In fact, you have access to:

- the GGG [course program](#),
- the GGG [counseling offers](#),
- the [Helpdesk for International PhD students](#) as well as
- GGG [funding measures](#).

You will find an overview of the GGG team, our offers and application deadlines on the GGG homepage (www.ggg.uni-goettingen.de) and in the newsletter at hand. If you are registered at GGG, you will receive the newsletter automatically. Should this not be the case, please send us an email – for example if you belong to the university staff and want to receive this newsletter as well.

If you are reading the paper version of this newsletter, you can find the included links as hyperlinks at:

www.uni-goettingen.de/en/498088.html

Qualification

Our courses in the fourth quarter 2015

As of now, you can enroll for the following courses of the fourth quarter 2015 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
07.10. - 09.10.2015	Praktische Grundlagen der Mitarbeiterführung	Dr. Sabine Hoier
05.11. & 06.11.2015	Gute wissenschaftliche Praxis	PD Dr. Dr. Gerlinde Sponholz & Helga Nolte

And this is how it works: The GGG divides the course year into four quarters. You can sign up for courses of a quarter six weeks before begin 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 send your application exclusively to ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de.
Please consider the applicable registration procedure.

Free places in a workshop of Methodological Week September 14 to 17, 2015

Places are still available in the workshop "Diskurs- und Dispositivforschung – eine Einführung" (in German only) of this year's Methodological Week. If you are interested, you can find further information and the possibility to register at: www.methodenwoche.uni-goettingen.de

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
16.10.2015	„...plötzlich lehren!“ Meine Rolle als Lehrende/r	Angelika Thielsch
20.11.2015	Meine Rolle als Feedback-Geber/in	Claudia Deisler-Buder
10.12.2015	Lernwege kreativ gestalten – Meine Rolle als Impulsgeber/in	Dr. Alan Hansen
08.02. & 09.02.2016	Vom Rat-Suchen zum Beraten – Meine Rolle als Berater/in	Dr. Jutta Wergen

Further information and registration can be found at:

www.uni-goettingen.de/en/365991.html

Sponsorships

The Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences provides funding and scholarships for PhD students of social sciences. Further information on the grants for 2016 will be published in the middle of November 2015. 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
WeWiMento	1 year	15.11.15	Mentoring and qualification	PhD students and Postdocs aiming at a career in science management
KaWirMento	1 year	28.02.16	Mentoring and qualification	PhD students and Postdocs aiming at a career in economy
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 available resources	PhD students who want to network in a professional context

GGG News

No fax anymore

The GGG can no longer be reached by fax. After years of mostly reliable service, our fax machine has become more and more of a dust-catching technology dinosaur. When it finally started to whimper permanently, we sent it into retirement. In other words: From now on we can only be reached by telephone and e-mail, i. e. by ways of communication that you are used to anyway.

Welcome Day 2015 in retrospect

With a new concept, this year's GGG Welcome Day took place on the grounds of the Conference Center at the Historical Observatory on June 10, 2015. In addition to information on funding, counseling and qualification offers of the GGG, which were



provided in a talk and at bar tables, this time we organized a grill buffet. This "GGG Barbecue" promoted networking among the PhD students and with the GGG team.



Both the counseling and the barbecue were well received by the 21 participants. We are pleased with the successful event and thank you for helpful suggestions regarding the organization, which we will consider for planning next year's event. Additional hints and tips are always welcome - just write to ggg@uni-goettingen.de!

You can find further information as well as pictures of the event at:

www.uni-goettingen.de/en/512561.html.

At a glance

Room bookings in the LSG on a day-to-day basis for PhD students

As of now, PhD students can book rooms in the Learning and Study Building via eCampus for the current day. With this offer, the Göttingen State and University Library (SUB) wants to solve previous difficulties of PhD students looking for workspace available at short notice. The initiative developed from a SUB workshop with PhD representatives of the graduate schools. Further measures are underway.

The GGG is pleased with the results of the workshop and, given the success, encourages all PhD students to approach their PhD representatives or the GGG with their wishes and suggestions.

“Genderlabor” – Call for Presentations until August 20, 2015

Starting in the winter semester 2015, the Göttingen Center for Gender Studies (GCG) in cooperation with the Graduate School of Humanities (GSGG) and the Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences (GGG) will host the “Genderlabor”, a series of research project presentations by master students, PhD students and Postdocs as well as occasional theoretical/methodological guest lectures and panel discussions.

The “Genderlabor” will presumably take place on Thursdays from 4 pm to 6 pm, starting in October 2015. The Call for Presentations is open from now until 20.08.2015 (see also www.uni-goettingen.de/en/42253.html, right column under “News and Notes” in the news section). Presentations can be submitted in German and English.

Dorothea Schlözer Mentoring Program: Application until August 30, 2015!

Applications for the new round in the Dorothea Schlözer Mentoring Program are welcome until August 30, 2015. The program addresses female doctoral and postdoctoral researchers at Göttingen Campus, striving for a career in academia. With its three columns mentoring – training – networking it aims at supporting female researchers on their way into leadership positions. Further information can be found at: www.uni-goettingen.de/mentoring

Third Academic Writing Week of the International Writing Center on September 7 to 11, 2015

The third Academic Writing Week of the International Writing Center takes place from September 7 to 11, 2015. This year it is not only open for students, but also for PhD students. In addition, there will be a consultation by the Center of Methods in Social Sciences. Deadline for registration is August 30, 2015. For more information visit: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/484830.html

Next application phase of the WeWiMento program starts on October 1, 2015

Applications for the third round of the mentoring program “WeWiMento – Paths into Science Management” are welcome from 01.10. until 15.11.2015. The program addresses doctoral or postdoctoral scientific employees of all fields of the Göttingen Campus that are interested in a career in science management. The program is offered in German only. More information at: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/444696.html

On our own account

Please especially note 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 2015.

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 at www.uni-goettingen.de/en/42253.html.

You can also obtain it by e-mail. The next newsletter will be published on November 16, 2015.

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 about all offers of the graduate school in time. 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.

Events

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

Visit to the Klostermarkt in Northeim on September 19, 2015

To give you an impression of medieval times in Germany, we are planning a trip to Northeim, where the Klostermarkt is taking place: The streets will be filled with crafters and musicians, merchants and jugglers, reviving the spirit of centuries long past. Further information and registration can be found at: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/518728.html

Guided tour to Göttingen on October 17, 2015

The Helpdesk invites all PhD students of GGG to explore Göttingen together: The well-known Goose Girl will be the starting point for a guided tour to the most important sights of Göttingen, explaining their tradition and part in the town's history. Further information and registration can be found at: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/504073.html

Karaoke evening at the Irish Pub on November 10, 2015

To bring some spirit to a dull November night, the Helpdesk invites you to spend an exciting evening together in the Irish Pub, not only with drinks and chat, but also Karaoke for those brave enough to sing. Further information and registration can be found at: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/519080.html

Day of study finance on November 18, 2015

On this year's day of study finance ("Studienfinanzierungstag"), the GGG will give a talk in collaboration with the Göttingen Graduate School of Humanities (GSGG) on reasonable options to finance a PhD (only in German). The GGG will also be represented with a booth and be available for further questions (in German and English). More details and the exact time will be announced in time in the newsletter and on the homepage.



Attendees of the GGG-trip to Goslar in March 2015, organized by the Helpdesk for International PhD students.

Team



Dr. Bettina Roß

Executive Direction

Conceptual questions and issues for the future, PhD-programs, advice for PhD students, funding and general questions.

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Dr. Kristin Schröder

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Publishing information

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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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