



Information on

PhD – Programmes / Doctorates

available in Baden-Württemberg, Germany

 Thank you for your interest in study and research opportunities in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. High-quality education and excellent research institutions make our state an ideal location to pursue your postgraduate career. About 20% of Germany's research and development capacity is concentrated here in the Southwest. Internationally renowned universities and research facilities provide prime conditions for applied research, technology transfer and scientific networking. 

PhD – Programs / Doctorates:

If you are interested in studying for a PhD in Germany, follow our step-by-step guide on how to go about applying for admission. There are traditionally two options:

1. Independent Research under supervision of a "Doktorvater" or "Doktormutter"

The traditional and still prevalent system of reaching a PhD degree in Germany is through Independent Research. The individual research work of the doctoral student is usually accomplished under the supervision of one or more professors ("Doktorvater"). Attending courses at a university, fulfilling a structured curriculum or completing the thesis in a fixed period of time is not mandatory. The research work is presented in a thesis or dissertation which is the core element of the doctorate.

2. Structured PhD-Programmes

Conveying scientific research and fostering applied sciences, structured PhD programmes or IPP's (International Postgraduate Programmes) are a fairly recent development in German higher education.

Furthermore, numerous structured PhD programmes or IPP's with a focus on collective research are available at graduate schools, which have been established since 2006.

Structured PhD programmes offer doctoral students the following advantages:

- Flexible admission for foreign applicants, e.g. graduates holding a [Bachelor's degree](#)
- English largely used in courses and everyday work
- Team-based doctorate, frequently involving joint research projects which ensures that a constant process of exchange takes place with other doctoral students and supervisors



An overview of structured PhD-programmes offered at research universities in Baden-Württemberg is available in our general study programme database:

http://www.study-guide-bw.com/home/studying/universities/studying_search.html

Step-By-Step Guide: Independent Research under Supervision

Step One: Finding a supervisor

It is important to know that there is no central admissions or selection office for doctoral students. The decision is made solely by the accepting university, with the academic supervisor playing the key role.

- You may already know the professor's name from a publication relevant to your field. You can then look up his/her contact details in an external search engine or on the website of the tertiary education institution in Baden-Württemberg. Go onto the homepage of the relevant institution, look up your field of interest and contact the head of department listed.
- In some cases the Dean's office (Dekanat) can help as can the office of international affairs or even the counselling office.

Step Two: Contact your future supervisor

Contact your future supervisor by E-Mail or formal letter and provide him/her with the following information:

- A brief description of your field and topic of interest
- A short review of the relevant experience you have in this field
- Your curriculum vitae (résumé or profile)
- letters of recommendation better your chances

Important notes for PhD-candidates

- You can write your thesis **in English**, provided your Supervisor agrees. If you decide to write in German you will need to have passed the DSH (German language test) or TestDaF (German language test).
- Your university degree has to be recognised as being equivalent to a German degree. You can do this by simply sending a copy of your degree certificate to the dean of the relevant faculty. He/she will then send you a written assessment of its equivalent in Germany.



- Before admittance you will be asked to prepare a piece of scientific research which could vary between 50 – 100 pages (depending on the subject),as sometimes you may also be required to take a written or oral test.
- You will need a student visa (not a tourist visa)

At present, practically all doctoral programmes in Germany are tuition-free.

Further information: <http://www.daad.de/deutschland/forschung/promotion/04670.en.html>

Graduate Schools

Graduate schools are a fairly new phenomenon in Germany, but already well respected in the scientific community. Since 2006 a couple of graduate schools have been established in Baden-Württemberg. Situated in Freiburg, Heidelberg, Karlsruhe, Konstanz, Mannheim, Stuttgart and Ulm they offer PhD programmes that are mainly conducted in English to German and international students.

Further information:

http://www.study-guide-bw.com/home/research/graduate_schools/page.html

www.study-guide-bw.de



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Baden-Württemberg

The German Southwest.