



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



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# Doctorate



## Graduate School Practices of Literature (GSPoL)

University of Münster • Münster

### Overview

Degree	Dr phil
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• German</li><li>• English</li></ul>
Languages	Courses are held in German and English. Students may write their doctoral dissertation in either language.
Programme duration	6 semesters
Beginning	Winter and summer semester
Additional information on beginning, duration and mode of study	<p><b>Start dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• winter semester: 1 October</li><li>• summer semester: 1 April</li></ul> <p>Please refer to our <a href="#">academic calendar</a> for further information.</p>
Application deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applications for the following winter semester: 31 May (30 November of the previous year when applying for DAAD scholarships)</li><li>• Applications for the following summer semester: 30 November</li></ul>
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No
Description/content	<p>The Graduate School Practices of Literature (GSPoL) promotes a new understanding of literary/cultural studies as a discipline that is shaped by current developments in the philosophy of science and critical "turns" in the humanities and social sciences. These perspectives in literary/cultural studies involve a redefinition of its social and cultural impact and significance. Accordingly, we pay close attention to the relationship between literature and society, aiming to enhance their interaction for their mutual benefit.</p> <p>In view of these considerations, priority is given to three interconnected research areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Literature, Culture, and Society</li><li>2. Theories of Literature and Culture</li></ol>

## Course Details

<b>Course organisation</b>	<p>The curriculum, which is usually completed in three semesters, includes the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lecture Series/Workshops (9 ECTS credits):</b> These courses are closely related to the main research areas of the graduate school. They focus on the social and political function, or cultural work, of literary/cultural practices, recent theoretical developments in literary/cultural studies, and the role of literary/cultural studies in various professional contexts. Lecture series and workshops are taught by professors from the GSPoL as well as guest lecturers and visiting scholars from Germany and abroad.</li> <li>• <b>Colloquia (9 ECTS credits):</b> The colloquium is a forum where students present their work in progress (project outlines, book chapters, conference papers, etc.) and receive feedback from their peers and faculty.</li> <li>• <b>Project Teams (9 ECTS credits):</b> Project teams are reading groups in which students with similar projects and research interests discuss theoretical texts and concepts.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, this PhD programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elective Options (18 ECTS credits):</b> Elective options are meant to give students the opportunity to improve their professional skills and to gain practical experience in academic and non-academic contexts. Options include internships, academic teaching, publications, conference papers, practical and professional skills courses, committee work, and foreign language courses.</li> </ul> <p>In total, this doctoral degree is worth <b>180 ECTS credits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• doctoral dissertation (120 ECTS credits)</li> <li>• PhD defence (15 ECTS credits)</li> <li>• lectures/workshops, colloquia, and project teams (27 ECTS credits)</li> <li>• elective options (18 ECTS credits)</li> </ul>
<b>A Diploma supplement will be issued</b>	No
<b>International elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International guest lecturers</li> <li>• Specialist literature in other languages</li> <li>• International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context</li> <li>• Content-related regional focus</li> <li>• Language training provided</li> </ul>
<b>Integrated internships</b>	Students are encouraged to do internships that enable them to apply their academic knowledge and critical thinking skills in various work environments.
<b>Course-specific, integrated German language courses</b>	Yes
<b>Course-specific, integrated English language courses</b>	Yes

## Costs / Funding

<b>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</b>	None
<b>Semester contribution</b>	<p>Students must pay a semester contribution fee of 317.48 EUR per semester. This includes a "semester ticket" covering public transportation in the greater Münster area and throughout Germany.</p> <p>You can find more information here:  <a href="https://www.uni-muenster.de/studieninteressierte/en/einschreibung/semesterbeitrag.shtml">https://www.uni-muenster.de/studieninteressierte/en/einschreibung/semesterbeitrag.shtml</a></p>
<b>Costs of living</b>	We recommend that students budget at least 900 EUR per month to cover personal expenses (accommodation, living expenses, health insurance).
<b>Funding opportunities within the university</b>	Yes
<b>Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university</b>	<p>The GSPoL was selected for the DAAD Graduate School Scholarship programme, and it offers two three-year PhD scholarships for international doctoral researchers starting in the winter semester 2025/2026 (application deadline: 30 November of the previous year). Please refer to our <a href="#">website</a> for further information.</p> <p>In addition, the <a href="#">Rectorate</a>, <a href="#">Safir</a>, and the <a href="#">Equal Opportunities Office</a> offer funding for PhD students and postdocs.</p>

## Requirements / Registration

<b>Academic admission requirements</b>	<p>Admission is contingent on previous academic performance (usually a Master's degree in literary studies with an above-average GPA), the quality of the research proposal, and foreign language skills. Application documents include a degree certificate, proof of language skills, a curriculum vitae, an abstract and project proposal, a letter of motivation, and two letters of recommendation (applicants with a Bachelor's degree are required to submit three reference letters). The applicant's academic potential and language skills are further assessed in an interview with the admissions committee.</p> <p>Please refer to our <a href="#">website</a> for further information on the application process.</p>
<b>Language requirements</b>	<p>Applicants should be able to understand written and spoken German and English and to actively speak at least one of these languages. Accordingly, German and English language skills are required (level C1 in one language and level B1 in the other language at the time of admission; by the end of the programme, students must have moved from B1 to B2). Further subject-specific language skills may be acquired during the PhD programme. Please consult our <a href="#">website</a> or contact the GSPoL <a href="#">coordinator</a> for further information.</p>
<b>Application deadline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications for the following winter semester: 31 May (30 November of the previous year when applying for DAAD scholarships)</li> <li>• Applications for the following summer semester: 30 November</li> </ul>
<b>Submit application to</b>	<p>Graduate School Practices of Literature  c/o Germanistisches Institut  Schlossplatz 34  48143 Münster  Germany</p>

Please e-mail all required documents as a single PDF file to [koordinationsbuero.gspol@uni-muenster.de](mailto:koordinationsbuero.gspol@uni-muenster.de).

## Services

<b>Accommodation</b>	<p>As in all popular university cities in Germany, accommodation is in high demand and is not easy to find in Münster – but it's not impossible either!</p> <p>Please contact the International Office (Bachelor's and Master's students) or the CERes (doctoral candidates) of the university for advice. Please also note that the University of Münster (like most German public universities) does not have its own student halls of residence.</p>
<b>Structured research and supervision</b>	Yes
<b>Research training / discussion</b>	Yes
<b>Career advisory service</b>	The <a href="#">Münster Centre for Emerging Researchers (CERes)</a> and the <a href="#">Career Service</a> at the University of Münster offer career counselling as well as professional and transferable skills training.
<b>Support for international students and doctoral candidates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Buddy programme</li><li>• Specialist counselling</li><li>• Cultural and linguistic preparation</li><li>• Visa matters</li></ul>
<b>General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates</b>	The Graduate School Practices of Literature is a member of the <a href="#">smartNETWORK International</a> , which promotes the internationalisation of doctoral studies in Münster. Further support is provided by the <a href="#">Münster Centre for Emerging Researchers (CERes)</a> which gives advice on visa requirements and housing options and offers a wide range of soft and academic skills courses in German and English. In addition, the CERes organises social and cultural events for international PhD students at the University of Münster.

## Contact

### University of Münster

Graduate School Practices of Literature

Schlossplatz 34  
48143 Münster

✉ [koordinationsbuero.gspol@uni-muenster.de](mailto:koordinationsbuero.gspol@uni-muenster.de)

🌐 Course website: <https://www.uni-muenster.de/Practices-of-Literature/en/index.shtml>

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# International Programmes in Germany - Database

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)  
[www.daad.de/sommerkurse](http://www.daad.de/sommerkurse)

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Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing  
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## Disclaimer

The data used for this database was collected and analysed in good faith and with due diligence. The DAAD and the Content5 AG accept no liability for the correctness of the data contained in the "International Programmes in Germany" and "Language and Short Courses in Germany".

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