



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



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Doctorate



Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies

Freie Universität Berlin • Berlin

Overview

Degree	PhD in Social Sciences, Area Studies, History, Law, Economics
In cooperation with	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS), German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hertie School – The University of Governance in Berlin, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English
Languages	100% of the courses are held in English.
Programme duration	6 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	Usually 31 January for the following winter semester (September) (Please check the website regularly for updates.)
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No

Description/content

The **Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies (BGTS)** is the full-time doctoral programme of the Cluster of Excellence "Contestations of the Liberal Script" (SCRIPTS) at Freie Universität Berlin in cooperation with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Hertie School, Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW), German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) and Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien (ZOiS).

The BGTS offers a rigorous and dynamic English-language programme for exceptionally talented and motivated graduate students in the field of global and transregional studies, bringing together a broad spectrum of disciplines, from the social sciences to area studies to history.

The programme focuses on contemporary controversies about liberal orders from a historical, global, and comparative perspective. It is particularly focused on global and transregional processes analysed by social science or historical methods. Research at the BGTS focuses on the structures, risks, and opportunities of cross-regional interaction at various levels. Research areas include the causes and consequences of contestations of the liberal script, alternatives to the

liberal model, and implications of the contestations for politics, societies and individuals in the 21st century.

The doctoral programme consists of three years of study, starting in September of each year. The bulk of the candidates' workload will take the form of independent thesis research. Apart from this, all candidates are required to successfully complete content-oriented survey courses, colloquia on research methods, and multidisciplinary skills workshops. Candidates will also be required to present the results of their research regularly at research colloquia and at academic conferences.

Do you want to be a part of the vibrant and talented BGTS community? The application period begins in December. An exceptionally strong university degree in political science, international relations, sociology, economics, law, or a related discipline is required.

Course Details

Course organisation

Your time at BGTS will seem relatively brief – our intensive three-year (180 CP) programme balances independent research with a structured curriculum. Unlike traditional doctoral education in Germany, our students have the unique opportunity to take part in content-oriented survey courses, colloquia on research methods, and tailored multidisciplinary skills workshops to gain a sharper academic focus. A team of three supervisors, comprising members of the BGTS faculty as well as external and international supervisors, supports each PhD candidate during his or her studies.

International elements

- International guest lecturers
- Language training provided
- Projects with partners in Germany and abroad
- International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context

Course-specific, integrated German language courses

Yes

Course-specific, integrated English language courses

Yes

Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR

None

Semester contribution

In total, the semester contribution amounts to 304.40 EUR. It includes a fee of 181.40 EUR for the transportation ticket contribution. This allows you to use public transportation in Berlin for free. Other costs covered by the semester contribution include a 50 EUR enrolment fee, a 63 EUR semester contribution to the student support service ("studierendenWERK Berlin"), and a 10 EUR contribution to the student union.

Costs of living

Compared to other European countries, the cost of living in Germany is quite reasonable. However, the cost of living has also risen somewhat in Germany in recent years. The prices for food, accommodation, clothing, cultural events, etc. are slightly above the EU average. You will need around 950 to 1,200 EUR each month to cover your living expenses. The biggest expense is monthly rent, which is between 400 and 700 EUR in Berlin.

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements

Anyone who has completed a Master's degree in social sciences, area studies and history as well as economics and law (usually comprising a total of 300 European Credit Transfer System [ECTS] credits including the Bachelor's degree) is eligible to apply. The term "social sciences" refers to political science and sociology. The programme is open to applicants of all nationalities and shows no preference to EU citizens.

Your final grade point average should be at least 2.4 (according to the German grade system), in other words, "good". In ECTS terms this corresponds to a "B" average, starting at 79%. As grading systems vary from country to country, grade point average is only one factor among many upon which selection is based.

If you haven't completed your Master's degree programme at the time of application, you may still apply, but you must provide official documentation (e.g. academic transcript and official diploma) of your successful completion of a Master's degree before enrolling in the PhD programme.

If your official diploma is not ready at the time of your application, you are required to send some proof of your academic performance (e.g. a current transcript) instead. After this, please send us a letter from your university as soon as you have completed your Master's degree, confirming the completion of your studies. This letter will allow you to provisionally enrol at BGTS while awaiting your official degree diploma.

Language requirements

The expected level of English proficiency is C1 (or better) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, which translates into other tests as follows (scores indicated are minimums):

- IELTS: 8.0
- TOEFL PBT: 603/677
- TOEFL CBT: 263/300
- TOEFL iBT: 110/120
- TOEIC: 785

If you are not a native English speaker or if the language of instruction at your previous university was not English, we will ask you to provide evidence of strong English language skills. Please include English language test results in your application if this applies to you. English language tests should not be more than two years old at the time of your application to the BGTS and should be uploaded in your online application form as a PDF or JPEG document.

The PhD programme at the BGTS does not require German language skills. However, we recommend that you study German during your time with us. This will help you in your daily life in Berlin, including communicating with others at the university. German language courses for international doctoral candidates are offered by the Dahlem Research School at Freie Universität Berlin.

Application deadline

Usually 31 January for the following winter semester (September)
(Please check the website regularly for updates.)

Submit application to

Each year, the call for applications is open from approximately 1 December to 31 January. Applications for our PhD programme must be submitted online. For more information, please see the website: <https://www.scripts-berlin.eu/birt/bgts/bgts-application/index.html>.

All required documents must be submitted online by the deadline. Late submission of documents is not permitted.

Services

Possibility of finding part-time employment

There are many ways of earning money while you study, for example as waiting staff, academic assistants, or private tutors. Knowledge of German will improve your chances of finding a part-time job, but it isn't necessarily required. However, it is important to be aware of the legal regulations.

The student support service at the university, called studierendenWERK Berlin, and the local representative of the "Bundesagentur für Arbeit" (Federal Employment Agency) can provide information about jobs for students. When searching for a job, look at online job boards, ads in local newspapers, and notice boards on campus.

Accommodation

You have the option to stay in a public/private student dormitory or in a private (shared) apartment. Student dormitories are not administrated by the university itself, so Freie Universität Berlin does not have any on-campus housing. However, it works together with "[studierendenWERK Berlin](#)" regarding student accommodation.

If you do not wish to stay in a student dormitory, you can try to find a room or an apartment on the private housing market. Many students in Berlin live in shared apartments ("WGs"). You can find these offers online (e.g. [WG-gesucht](#) or [Kleinanzeigen](#)) or on notice boards on campus.

Available rooms/apartments near the university are rare. Therefore, students mostly commute from other parts of the city. The commute via public transportation usually takes between 30 minutes and an hour, which is considered a normal travel time in Berlin due to the city's size.

Structured research and supervision

Yes

Research training / discussion

Yes

Career advisory service

The [Career Service](#) of Freie Universität Berlin aims to support international students at Freie Universität by providing information, advice, and events related to career planning, internships, and job applications.

Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event
- Accompanying programme

General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates

The [International Student Support](#) team at FU Berlin regularly offers information events that include Q&A sessions. While personal office hours are not available due to our team size, students can contact Info-Service Study for general inquiries, or seek assistance from the General Academic Advisory Service or Psychological Counselling for more complex concerns. Additionally, the team continually enhances its expertise in international affairs, thereby contributing to FU Berlin's internationalisation process.



Faces of SCRIPTS

Susan Bergner, doctoral researcher at the BGTS, talks about her experience in the graduate school and the wider framework of the Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS.

» more: <https://youtu.be/JMfkC1QZ-dM?feature=shared>

Freie Universität Berlin



"Holzlaube" of Freie Universität Berlin

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Freie Universität Berlin is a leading research institution. It is one of the 13 German universities being funded through the German government's Excellence Strategy and is part of the only University Consortium of Excellence, the [Berlin University Alliance](#), which consists of four partners in Berlin: Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

You can choose from more than 180 subject areas. No matter which area you are interested in, be it archaeology, physics, Jewish studies, law, or psychology, you will find your subject at Freie Universität Berlin.

As an international university, Freie Universität Berlin has partnerships with numerous universities across the world and maintains offices in Beijing, Cairo, Eastern Europe (Tbilisi, Georgia), New Delhi, Moscow, and São Paulo. About 17 percent of the students come from abroad, as do 38 percent of the doctoral students. At Freie Universität Berlin, you will meet people from all over the world.

Various support services are available for students. In particular, students who are new to a German university and to Berlin will profit from these services, for example, the introduction week, the mentorship programme, or the Student Services Centre. UniSport offers programmes ranging from Aikido to Zumba, which are very popular among students. The many cafeterias and canteens on campus offer

food and drinks; this also usually includes fair trade, organic, vegetarian, and vegan options. Environmental protection and sustainability are generally important topics at Freie Universität Berlin, and there are many opportunities to get involved in related activities offered by students and the university.



University location

Freie Universität Berlin is one of the major universities in the capital of Germany. It is located in the green district of Dahlem, in the south-western part of the city. There is no other campus in Berlin that is as green as the campus of Freie Universität Berlin. You can simply step out of the university buildings to enjoy outdoor activities: lunch on one of the many terraces and rooftops, swimming in the nearby lakes, or reading between cherry and apple trees. Dahlem is also home to one of the biggest botanical gardens in Europe. By using public transport, you can easily access the heart of Berlin and enjoy its cultural life and diversity. The U3 subway line connects Dahlem with the popular and central districts of Schöneberg, Kreuzberg, and Friedrichshain; however, all of the other districts can also be easily reached.

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 <https://www.facebook.com/freieuniversitaetberlin/>

 https://twitter.com/fu_berlin

 <https://www.linkedin.com/school/freie-universitat-berlin/>

 https://www.instagram.com/fu_berlin/

 <https://www.youtube.com/c/FreieUniversitaetBerlin>

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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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