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PhD Programme Heritage Studies • Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg • Cottbus ........................................................................................................................................ 2
# Doctorate

**PhD Programme Heritage Studies**  
**Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg** • Cottbus

## Overview

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Degree</strong></th>
<th>PhD in Heritage Studies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doctoral degree or degree awarded by</strong></td>
<td>BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Languages</strong></td>
<td>All courses are held in English. The dissertation is written in English, and the oral defence takes place in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme duration</strong></td>
<td>6 semesters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning</strong></td>
<td>Winter and summer semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>More information on beginning of studies</strong></td>
<td>Winter semester: 1 October Summer semester: 1 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application deadline</strong></td>
<td>Applications are welcome throughout the year. For a start in the summer semester (1 April), submission of the complete application online is recommended no later than 1 November; for a start in the winter semester (1 October), submission is recommended no later than 1 May.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combined Master’s degree / PhD programme</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joint degree / double degree programme</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description/content</strong></td>
<td>Heritage Studies at BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg is an interdisciplinary PhD programme covering research questions on heritage in the fields of the humanities, architecture, and engineering. Highly qualified and committed colleagues from different schools of BTU are part of the programme, thereby strengthening the research profile of BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg in Smart Regions and Heritage. The programme is a further development of the highly successful Master’s degree in World Heritage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Details

Ongoing changes in the world and its cultural heritage require a new understanding of heritage and the need for new forms of knowledge transfer.

Tangible Heritage in the Context of Globalisation
This focus area examines tangible or built heritage, its transformation processes in the context of globalisation, its cultural significance, and its expression as cultural practise as well as risks and threats to the built fabric.

Sustainable Protection and Innovative Concepts of Heritage
The management of World Heritage sites should meet UNESCO’s standards of economic, social, ecological, and cultural sustainability. However, these may often conflict with each other. The balancing act between conservation regulations, demands of use, accessibility, marketing, and cultural goods poses great challenges. Existing management structures and concepts are to be evaluated regarding their participatory approaches as well as ecological, economic, and demographic effects.

Cultural Landscapes
In this focus area, the diversity of heritage in cultural landscapes will be examined, both in general and according to UNESCO’s concept.

Mediation of Heritage through Innovative Technologies/Memory of the World
This focus area connects to the strategic goals of UNESCO related to lifelong learning and computer-assisted learning as well as to the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, which protects documentary heritage in all its forms. Through its focus on the use of innovative technologies, this focus area is closely related to research on information and communication technologies developed at BTU.

Heritage and Conflict
This focus area is concerned with the problem of safeguarding cultural values embodied in buildings, monuments, and all types of urban space threatened by conflict. In post-conflict situations, heritage constitutes a fundamental asset for any societal recovery process. The extreme vigour of actual conflicts worldwide has initiated a vibrant discourse on adequate solutions and strategies.

Course organisation

The six semester presence-based programme consists of a mandatory curriculum of 30 ECTS, the dissertation (120 ECTS) and the oral defence (30 ECTS). You are supervised by at least one professor from the Faculty of Environment and Natural Sciences or the Department of Environmental Law who is an expert in the chosen research topic.

The five modules (6CP/each) focus on fostering your research skills as well as transferable skills needed to build your professional career:

- Academic Research and Methods
- Status Seminar ERM: Progress Reports PhD Thesis
- Research Colloquium at your Chair/Department
- Essentials of Grant Proposal Writing
- PhD Thesis Writing Skills

For the full curriculum, semester schedule and module description, please visit our website.

The BTU Graduate Research School offers additional workshops for all doctoral candidates at BTU on networking, subject-related qualification, scientific techniques, and transferable skills training.

A Diploma supplement will be issued

Yes
International elements

- International guest lecturers
- Integrated study abroad unit(s)
- Projects with partners in Germany and abroad
- International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context
- Content-related regional focus

Integrated study abroad unit(s)

Stays abroad for research and further qualification (e.g., conferences, field research) are possible and encouraged. Funding is possible through the BTU Graduate Research School.

Teaching/work obligations or opportunities

Teaching and research assistantships are possible.

Course-specific, integrated German language courses

No

Course-specific, integrated English language courses

No

Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR

None

Semester contribution

Apart from a few degree programmes, education offered at the BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg is without tuition fees. However, the university does charge a semester fee of around 311 EUR each semester, which includes the semester transportation ticket. It also covers costs for the Student Services Organisation (Studentenwerk) and the Student Council (StuRa).

Costs of living

Studies abroad often have different types of expenses from the ones you know from your home country. You are responsible for covering your own living expenses. Accommodation and other essential living expenses will amount to around 600-900 EUR/month. Of course, this amount depends entirely on individual lifestyle. The following list gives you an idea of some fixed and variable costs that you should take into account for your stay in Germany. Monthly costs: Rent (incl. utilities): 160-350 EUR, groceries: approx. 150 EUR, health insurance, medical fees, medication: approx. 90 EUR, miscellaneous (clothing, study materials, other activities): 200-300 EUR, total: 600-900 EUR You will not need to pay for public transport in Berlin and Brandenburg. The semester ticket for buses and trains operated by VBB is already included in the semester fee.

Funding opportunities within the university

Yes

Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university

Studying at BTU is mostly free of (study) fees. Because of this, there are only limited scholarship opportunities for international students. The International Relations Office is nonetheless pleased to be able to award a limited number of scholarships to international students already enrolled at BTU. You can find more information on BTU scholarship opportunities on our websites: http://www.b-tu.de/en/international/international-students/during-studies/scholarships.

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements

Academic admission requirements include a Master's degree (or equivalent) in heritage studies, architecture, building and conservation, urban/regional planning, or a related field in social sciences, law, and political science with a final grade of at least 2.3 according to the German grading
The application includes a comprehensive PhD proposal. We have a guideline on how to draft a PhD proposal on our website.

### Language requirements

A certificate of proficiency in English must be provided except for graduates of English language Master programmes in Germany and these countries.

Accepted tests and minimum scores include:
- TOEFL with a minimum score of 550 points (paper-based), 213 points (computer-based), or 79 points (Internet-based)
- Cambridge Advanced English Test (min. grade B)
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency (min. grade B)
- IELTS (min. 6.5)

### Application deadline

Applications are welcome throughout the year. For a start in the summer semester (1 April), submission of the complete application online is recommended no later than 1 November; for a start in the winter semester (1 October), submission is recommended no later than 1 May.

### Submit application to

For submission of your application, kindly visit our website.

## Services

### Possibility of finding part-time employment

There are job opportunities both in town and on campus. Nevertheless, please do not come to Germany expecting to be able to finance your entire studies by working. The study load is high, and it is not always easy to find a part-time job. Students from non-European countries are allowed to work either 120 whole days or 240 half days annually. The 120-day rule is not affected by mandatory internships or student assistance jobs at university. Students from EU member countries, the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland can work without restrictions during their studies in Germany.

### Accommodation

BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg is a university with three locations where numerous student dormitories are provided. Students can choose between different room types.

In Germany, it is also very common for students to live alone or with friends. If three or more people share an apartment together, this is called a "WG" in German ("Wohngemeinschaft", which means a shared flat).

### Structured research and supervision

Yes

### Research training / discussion

Yes

### Career advisory service

The BTU Career Centre offers support for students and graduates.

### Specific specialist or non-specialist support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event
- Buddy programme
- Accompanying programme
- Specialist counselling
Located on three campuses and with almost 70 study programmes, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg offers a broad spectrum of market-oriented programmes as well as traditional degree programmes. From the natural sciences and engineering to economics, cultural studies, and even health sciences, BTU offers a wide range of courses. Our 13 study programmes taught exclusively in English are very popular among both German and international students from all over the world.

BTU is partnered with over 160 universities throughout the world, which provides students with a multitude of excellent opportunities to spend part of their time studying or conducting research abroad. Furthermore, in cooperation with our international partner universities, BTU offers a wide range of double-degree and joint-degree programmes.

University location

Cottbus is located in the north-east of Germany, between the country’s capital, Berlin (100 km), and Dresden (120 km). With a population of approx. 100,000 citizens, Cottbus is the second largest city after Potsdam in the federal state of Brandenburg. The Polish border is only approx. 30 km away. The location of Cottbus offers a convenient starting point for trips into the picturesque region of Lower Lusatia. The landscape of Lower Lusatia is characterised by the Spreewald with its small canals and waterways as well as by the Slavonic minority called Sorbs or Wends. Their language, similar to Polish, is still used and spoken in Lower Lusatia. For this reason, many of the road signs and informational boards in Cottbus and the surrounding region are written in both Sorbian and German. Cottbus gained importance as a trade centre in the 12th century. Parts of the original city wall from the 14th century as well as the beautiful townhouses around the old market square are proof of the city’s early splendour. Additionally, the city is characterised by buildings from the "Wilhelminian" times of rapid industrial growth in Germany, which occurred towards the end of the 19th century. The city that first rose to prominence with its cloth and linen weaving industry soon evolved into a growing centre of brown coal mining.

Senftenberg is the centre of the Lusatia Lake District. Former excavation and mining pits have been flooded in order to create the largest...
artificial lake system in Europe, with a total of 23 large lakes. The water sports area "Senftenberger See", with its water surface of 1,300 hectares, offers exceptional sailing and surfing opportunities, and it is suitable for all kinds of water sports. Senftenberg has thus become a tourist attraction within the region.

Contact

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Office for PhD Programmes

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https://www.facebook.com/btucs/
https://twitter.com/BTU_CS
https://www.instagram.com/btucs/

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