

### STAYS ABROAD DURING THE DOCTORATE

#### LEAFLET

A stay abroad during the doctoral phase offers several advantages. In addition to broadening your own cultural horizon and acquiring unique experiences or deepening your language skills, you can expand your academic network beyond national borders or become part of an internationally active academic environment. In addition, a stay abroad sharpens your own research profil and increases your career opportunities in academia or in non-university professional fields.

As far as the dissertation itself is concerned, a stay abroad will provide you with crucial data and results from direct field research or give you the opportunity to visit archives and research institutions for a longer period of time. Through the scientific and international exchange with colleagues on site, you will also get to know new research cultures and methods, which can offer you valuable new impulses and new perspectives for your own work.

As a general rule you have two options for linking the doctorate with a stay abroad. Either you can complete the doctorate entirely abroad, or you can go abroad for a limited time for the purpose of a research stay. In the case of a [binational doctorate](#) (Cotutelle de thèse), you are generally expected to spend a part of the doctoral period at the respective university abroad with which a cooperation agreement has been concluded.

If you plan to complete your doctorate abroad or go abroad for a limited research stay, it is essential that you inform yourself in advance about the specific features of the doctorate in the respective country, the structures of the universities there, the costs (living expenses or fees if applicable) and the necessary language skills. If the doctorate is to be obtained abroad, it is also important to find out about the average duration of the doctorate, legal requirements, and the titel awarded with regard to its validity in Germany. Guidance on the classification of foreign qualifications in the German education system is provided by the German website [anabin – Das Infoportal zu ausländischen Bildungsabschlüssen](#).

In addition to your personal motivation, you should also be strategic when choosing a stay abroad, i.e. always keep in mind the goal of your research work as well as the right time and duration of a longer research trip. The latter in particular plays a decisive role. A stay abroad is possible at any time, but the timing should be adapted to the course and progress of your project. For example, a stay abroad too early could be unfavourable as the dissertation has not progressed far enough to benefit sufficiently from a stay abroad; a stay too late may in turn hinder the (timely) completion of the dissertation. The preparation of a timetable also plays an important role in a possible application for funding of the stay through third-party funds and must be well justified there.

The duration of a stay can range from one month to one year, and may also be longer. When contacting a foreign university, you can make use of existing networks and partner universities of your own university or the respective faculties or of individual contacts of university teachers.

## FINCANCING AND PROMOTION OF A STAY ABROAD

Financing a stay abroad is certainly one of the biggest challenges to be overcome. There is a wide range of funding bodies to choose from when applying for a scholarship, such as:

- The [DAAD \(German Academic Exchange Service\)](#), which is one of the world's largest funding organisations for international exchange for students and (young) researchers and offers a wide range of scholarships abroad for research and study stays all over the world. The duration of the stays abroad ranges from 1-6 month(s) (short-term scholarships) to one year (in exceptional cases even more). Click here for the [DAAD scholarship database](#) (available in German only).
- The state-supported organisations for the promotion of gifted students (so-called „[Begabtenförderungswerke](#)“) also support doctoral candidates with scholarships that can be used for doctorates abroad or temporary research stays abroad.
- The [Fulbright Commission](#) whose doctoral candidates programme enables four to six-month research stays in the USA.
- The [Franco-German University \(FGU\)](#), which offers various grants that enable doctoral candidates to complete research stays or their doctorate in France.
- The [European University Institute](#), which maintains an exchange programme with over 30 different universities and institutions worldwide as part of its scholarships for the disciplines of history, law, political science, economics and sociology.
- The [Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft](#) (DFG) which does not offer fundings for doctorates abroad, but gives doctoral candidates in the DFG's Research Training Groups the opportunity of a research stay abroad. In international Research Training Groups, a stay of several months at the partner institutions is part of the programme by the Research Training Group.

The [BMBF's scholarship database](#) (available in German only) also offers the opportunity to search specifically for smaller funding bodies for doctorates abroad or international research stays, which focus on specific research topics or individual countries.

Please note that it can take a long time from the application to the start of the funding and thus the start of the research stay. You should therefore inform yourself in good time about the individual deadlines of the different programmes. Early and comprehensive planning is therefore essential!

Doctoral candidates at the University of Erfurt, who are entitled to [research-related material and travel expenses from EPPP funds](#) or from scholarships can also use these for travel expenses during research stays. Instructions for the reimbursement of travel and research expenses can be found on the [Graduate Services website](#).

The Research and Graduate Services will gladly answer any further questions regarding doing the doctorate abroad at [nachwuchsfoerderung@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:nachwuchsfoerderung@uni-erfurt.de).