



Newsletter des Bonner Graduiertenzentrums für Promovierende

Bonn Graduate Center's Newsletter for Doctoral Researchers

Dear doctoral students,

Big ideas need room for development and strong support – as well as excellent fuel. This edition brings you both: inspiring portraits of doctoral students who secured stipends and awards, a clear overview of our funding and qualification opportunities, and the information on a small but meaningful upgrade to our space: a new coffee machine to revive your energy and spark exchange between workshops.

As our university celebrates renewing its status as a University of Excellence, we would like to take a moment to celebrate and also underline the ongoing commitment to supporting early-career researchers – a commitment which is affirmed and embedded in the strategy.

Editorial

Spring 2026



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The Bonn Graduate Center Team looks forward to welcoming you to our upcoming events!

We're excited to share these opportunities with you. Take a look, get inspired, and make them yours.

Wishing you an inspiring semester,

Your Bonn Graduate Center



By the way:

Follow us on **LinkedIn** to stay current on events, upcoming calls and further news...

Spotlight: Doctoral Scholarship Holder Eva-Maria Frank

We are delighted to introduce Eva-Maria Frank! In order to pursue her doctorate in philosophy, she successfully applied for a scholarship from the Heinrich Böll Foundation in 2024. In this interview, she shares her experiences from the application process and offers tips for a successful application.



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Why did you decide to finance your doctorate with a scholarship?

The other financing options – such as a position at another department or a part-time job outside the university – did not suit my situation. I really wanted to carry out my research project with my current doctoral supervisor, but there were no vacancies at her institute. Funding from an external position would have been a stopgap solution, as the extra work would probably have significantly prolonged my doctoral studies. Only secondly did aspects such as flexible time for academic

and non-academic activities during the doctoral phase and networking with other doctoral candidates become more important to me.

How did you find out about the right scholarship, or what helped you make your decision?

Choosing the right scholarship among the Foundations for Talented Students (“Begabtenförderungswerke”) was relatively easy for me, because I was able to rule out some options right away. I am not religious, and scholarships that are strongly tied to a particular subject did not fit my research project. It therefore quickly became clear that a party-affiliated or trade union foundation would be the most suitable option for me. In addition, my political involvement and the information on the foundations’ websites enabled me to assess which foundation would suit me best.

What support services did you use to prepare your scholarship application?

The amount of time you can spend preparing your scholarship application depends greatly on your personal circumstances and the deadlines set by the funding organizations. I was in regular contact with the doctoral advising service at the Bonn Graduate Center, which provided me with information about my chances of success and important requirements. I contacted the foundations directly with specific questions. Looking back, “close your eyes and go for it” probably best describes my short but intense preparation phase. It is possible to prepare an application in a short period of time.

In your opinion, what were the biggest challenges during the application and selection process?

One major challenge was the pressure that a successful application would determine

whether I could pursue my doctorate as planned. During the selection process, I found it difficult to assess my chances and not constantly think about what I could have done better. Added to this was the financial uncertainty during the transition period. Furthermore, the expectations of some foundations create structural hurdles that are particularly difficult to overcome for people who have to work part-time to finance their studies or who have other commitments.

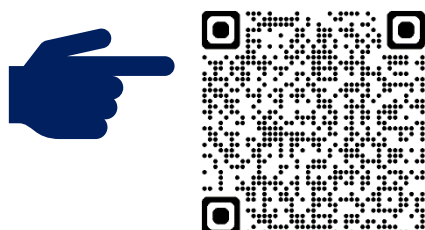
What are the three most important tips you would give to applicants for a doctoral scholarship?

The following considerations were particularly helpful to me:

- (1) Make sure that the scholarship is a good fit for you and your interests, and find out exactly what the foundation expects in advance, as this will increase your chances of a successful application.
- (2) In the selection interviews, it is important to be clear about your own attitudes. You were invited because of who you are and your abilities, so the foundation representatives have a fundamental interest in you.
- (3) Get support from people close to you to help you cope better with pressure and uncertainty.

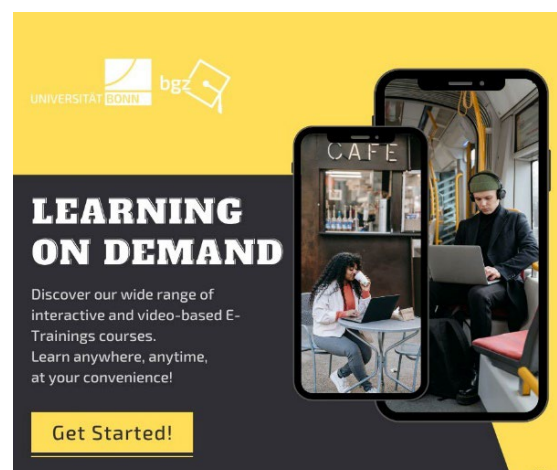
We would like to thank you for the interview and wish you continued success!

Learn more about opportunities to fund a doctorate at the University of Bonn



Learning on Demand: Two new E-Trainings

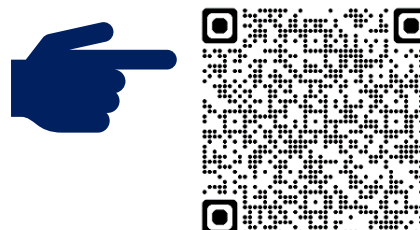
Our E-Training offers, **PINKTUM** and **TwentyOne Skills**, have been expanded by two additional online offerings.



The interdisciplinary course **Good Research Practice during Doctoral Studies** addresses key aspects of responsible conduct in research, including sound project planning, relevant legal considerations such as labor and intellectual property law, adherence to ethical standards, and appropriate handling of scientific misconduct. It is available in German and English.

The second new addition, **Understanding Research Ethics in Tech**, provides modular learning content aimed at deepening participants' understanding of research ethics and integrity in the context of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and genome editing.

Learn more about our E-Training offers



Funding Opportunities...

...for Doctoral Students



Dr. Robert Radu is happy to answer your questions on funding opportunities:
funding@verwaltung.uni-bonn.de



Invitation of International Second Supervisors

Deadlines: January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15

This funding line is aimed at doctoral students who want to invite their international second supervisor to their thesis defense or a supervisory meeting. The goal is to support international doctorates at the University of Bonn and to strengthen international networks.



Santander International Exchange Grants

Deadlines: January 15 and July 15

Santander International Exchange Grants aim to support doctoral students in building international networks and raising their academic profile. The grant includes funding for research stays by Bonn doctoral students at a strategic university partner, priority country or in a country of the NeurotechEU-Alliance as well as stays by doctoral students from the above-mentioned regions at the University of Bonn.



Participation in International Conferences

Deadlines: January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15

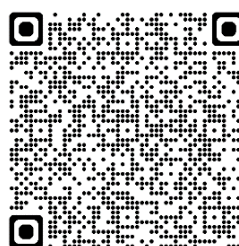
To further promote the internationalization of doctoral students from all subject areas at the University of Bonn, the Graduate Center supports conference participations abroad as well as the participation in summer or winter schools abroad (in-person or online). Prerequisites are active participation (such as poster presentation or talk), a letter of acceptance provided by the conference organizers and the formal admission as a doctoral student from the respective faculty.



Doctoral Workshops with International Visiting Scholars

Deadlines: January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15

This funding line provides funds to organize workshops and other small academic event formats in which doctoral students and visiting scholars (from post-doc level) work together on an academic topic.



 **Apply now!**

...for Postdocs



Participation in International Conferences

Deadlines: March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1

As part of the Argelander Program for Early-Career Researchers, the University of Bonn awards grants to support the active participation of postdoctoral researchers in conferences, summer schools, workshops etc. with international character. The aim of this funding line is to support researchers in building international networks.



Argelander Grant Starter-Kit (A) "Stepping Stone"

Deadlines: March 15, June 15 and October 15

This funding line aims to enable early-career researchers who would like to continue their academic career by moving to the University of Bonn to obtain a start-up position and to support them in securing third-party funding. The funding includes personnel funds for an own position, material resources to support research activities related to the third-party funding proposal as well as a comprehensive consultation program in preparation of the proposal and an academic career.



Argelander Mobility Grants

Deadlines: March 15, June 15 and October 15

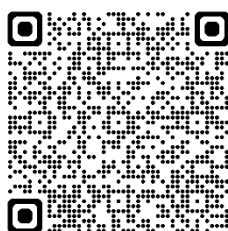
Argelander Mobility Grants support more experienced postdocs (one to five years after completing their doctorate) to gain relevant international experience. The funding finances a research stay for six to 12 months at a research institution abroad. Upon returning, the postdocs will receive further financial support to complete their research project and raise third-party funding. The grant supports the raising of research profiles, enhances academic independence, promotes collaborative research and fosters international networks.



Argelander Grant Starter-Kit (B) "Research Funds"

Deadlines: March 15, June 15 and October 15

The aim of the funding line is to prepare postdocs at the University of Bonn for the start of an academic career in the transitional phase after the doctorate and to support them in securing third-party funding. The funding includes material resources for research activities in preparation of a grant application as well as a comprehensive consultation program.



Apply now!

Spotlight on: Santander Grant Host Dr. Joshua Ntajal

The Santander Grants offer international doctoral students a unique opportunity to come to Bonn for several months and conduct research here. At the same time, they also enable host institutes in Bonn to benefit from international expertise and establish or deepen research collaborations. We spoke with Dr. Joshua Ntajal from the Department of Geography about his experiences hosting the Santander Grantee Christian Kwesi Owusu, a doctoral student from the University of Cape Coast (Ghana), for three months.



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What motivated you to support Christian Kwesi Owusu's application for a Santander Grant and enable him to spend time as a guest researcher at your institute?

International collaboration has been a key initiative of the Institute of Geography (GUIB), University of Bonn. This collaborative initiative is facilitated through the Santander Grant. I was motivated to support Christian Kwesi Owusu's application to spend time as a guest researcher at the Institute of Geography

because he was an advanced PhD researcher at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, with an interesting research project related to the combined impact of land use and land cover change and microplastics on freshwater ecosystems in Ghana. The interdisciplinary nature of his research requires additional resources, including laboratory testing and analysis of water samples from Ghana, to support the realization of his research objectives. It was quite challenging to materialize his research project while in Ghana, due to limited access to research equipment. Additionally, there were other colleagues at the institute who work on similar research topics in the Rhein River (between Bonn and Cologne). It was a win-win situation to bring the two parties together for mutual exchange of expertise and resources.

What research project did Christian bring to your institute, and how did it develop further through the exchange on-site?

Christian Kwesi Owusu brought a critical research topic on the influence of land use on microplastic pollution in freshwater ecosystems, which was found to be important and timely in both Global North and South, especially in the West African coastal countries, where rivers discharge directly into the sea, enabling exchange between the ocean and the inland water systems. Further development from the exchange on-site is a joint research project (proposal draft in progress), which sort to further include health implications from the dependence on food systems from such polluted water resources along the coast of West Africa. This is a joint research project between GUIB, RWTH Aachen University, the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, and partner institutions in Ivory Coast and Togo.

How did you, as host, benefit from his research stay?

"(...) it provided me with opportunities to broaden my research and scientific network and engagement as a young scientist"

As a host, it provided me with opportunities to broaden my research and scientific network and international

engagement as a young scientist. It has strengthened my network and international visibility in West Africa. I have received an invitation to give a guest lecture and organize training activities on hydrological modeling for students at the Department of Geography and Regional Planning at the University of Cape Coast. Additionally, I have been contacted by researchers from other Universities to enlighten them on the application process for the Santander Grant.

What advantages do you generally see for doctoral students, especially from Ghana, in spending time researching in Bonn?

There are numerous advantages, and one of them is access to well-equipped laboratories for running research samples from Ghana. They have access to the supercomputers at the University of Bonn and could develop and run models that require high computing power. It is also a huge opportunity to benefit from the expertise of senior researchers and scientists in Bonn, serving as a chance to gain new perspectives and a deeper understanding of some critical aspects of their projects. The doctoral students also engage in intercultural activities in Bonn, which serves as an opportunity to learn and appreciate other cultures.

What practical tips would you give to doctoral students who would like to come to Bonn for a research stay? What should the host institute bear in mind?

It is important for a potential doctoral student to first of all search for a host institute and a

contact person in Bonn who can then provide the necessary documents to support their applications for grants. It is also crucial to look out for the specific grants of interest (e.g., Santander Grant) and important dates, including grant application openings and deadlines. The student's motivation for the research stay must be explicit with an innovative project topic and key expectations. The potential host must have up-to-date information on the requirements of the University of Bonn for guest researchers, including early registrations at the University to obtain host agreement documents. The host should also bear in mind that the international doctoral students will need a room to stay in Bonn and must provide them with information on the available hostels and student dormitories in Bonn.

We would like to thank you for the interview and wish you all the best and every success for the future!

Find out more about the Santander International Exchange Grants



Further Feedback:

"My desire has been to build an international network and a solid foundation for my academic career. The Santander Grant has made my dream a reality!" (Grantee 2023)

Spotlight on: Santander Scholarship Holder Kow Ahor Essel-Yorke

We spoke with Santander scholarship holder Kow Ahor Essel-Yorke from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, about his experiences during a three-month research stay at the Department of Geography at the University of Bonn.



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What motivated you to apply for a Santander International Exchange Grant and to spend time as a doctoral student at the Department of Geography at the University of Bonn?

My motivation for applying for the Santander International Exchange Grant was to strengthen the scientific foundation of my doctoral thesis and to collaborate directly with experts in eco-hydrology, hydro-geomorphology, and river basin modeling. The Department of Geography at the University of Bonn, in particular the AG Evers Eco-Hydrology and Water Resources Management Research Group, provided an ideal environment that was closely related to my research on restoring river health in data-scarce areas. The exchange

helped me improve my skills in remote sensing, hydro-geomorphology, and geospatial modeling, receive valuable academic guidance, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. This grant allowed me to fully immerse myself in this research environment, which significantly improved both the technical quality and overall impact of my doctoral thesis.

What topic are you focusing on in your doctoral project, and how has the Santander Grant helped you to develop it further?

My doctoral project, entitled “AI-Driven Spatio-Temporal Eco-Hydrological Modelling for River Health Restoration: The Case of the Pra River Basin, Ghana,” examines how machine learning, remote sensing, and eco-hydrological modeling can aid in river restoration, particularly in areas with limited data. The Santander International Exchange Grant has greatly supported this work by providing me with access to advanced analytical tools, expert supervision, and a dynamic research environment at the University of Bonn. The guidance provided by my host, Dr. Pınar Pamukçu Albers, and the research group has significantly improved the direction and quality of my doctoral thesis, refined my modeling techniques, enhanced my data analysis methods, and increased the scientific and practical relevance of my research for sustainable river basin management.

What did you especially like about your time in Bonn?

My stay in Bonn was characterized by a welcoming academic environment and a vibrant research culture. Through my collaboration with my host research group, I came into contact with helpful, inspiring experts who generously gave me their time. I greatly appreciated the joint meetings, open discussions, and constructive feedback, which helped me to sharpen my research focus. The peaceful atmosphere of the city, scenic

landscapes, and the multicultural community enriched my experience. The combination of academic, professional, and social opportunities made my stay in Bonn both productive and rewarding.

Did you experience anything unexpected or surprising during your research stay in Bonn?

"I was really impressed by the warm and cooperative atmosphere in Bonn's academic environment."

I quickly integrated into the research team, where colleagues freely exchange ideas and resources. The peaceful, well-organized, and bicycle-friendly environment of the city also made it easier for me to settle in. I appreciated the strong support I received from both academic and administrative staff. My biggest difficulty was registering as a guest researcher, which initially delayed my access to essential services. With the help of my host, the problem was resolved, but clearer guidance before my arrival would have made the start smoother.

What practical tips would you give to doctoral students who would like to come to Bonn for a research stay?

Doctoral students planning a research stay in Bonn should contact their host early on to clarify expectations and resources and familiarize themselves with the university's IT and library systems. Start looking for accommodation in good time, as it can be in high demand. A rented bicycle is a practical way to get around. Participate in research group activities to build connections and get feedback, and explore the city's culture to make the most of your stay.

We would like to thank you for the interview and wish you all the best and every success for the future!

Doctorate plus Certificate Add-Ons

You are a doctoral student or early postdoc and have obtained a Doctorate plus certificate in one of our three career tracks? Then apply for an add-on in the respective track!



Research Track: Apply for a two-part individual career coaching session focused on planning a career in academia. Female researchers can apply for four sessions. The coaching (150 minutes in total) is available in German or English and in-person or online.

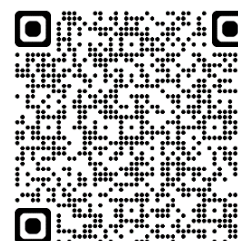


Research Management Track: Gain initial, everyday insights into the professional field of science management during a one to four-day job shadowing. Places are allocated according to availability.



Business and Organizations Track: Apply for a two-part individual career coaching with a focus on non-university career options. The coaching sessions (90 and 60 minutes) can be conducted in German or English and in-person or online.

Learn more about our certificate add-ons within the Doctorate plus program





Your Skills and Training Opportunities in the Summer Term 2026

The Doctorate plus skills and training program in three career tracks allows you to broaden your academic and transferable competencies and prepare for your envisaged career path:

- **Research Track:** Workshops in this track prepare for an academic career at a university or a research institution.
- **Research Management Track:** The training offered in this track qualifies for a career at the interface of science and administration.
- **Business and Organizations Track:** The skills



Eileen Bradley is happy to answer your questions on Doctorate plus and coaching: bgz@verwaltung.uni-bonn.de

and competencies you can acquire in this track equip you for a career beyond academia, e.g. in industry, NGOs or your own start-up.

Language	DE	Deutsch
	EN	English
Track		Research
		Research Management
		Business and Organizations

Learn more about the Doctorate plus Certificates and the 'Add-ons'



April 2026	R	RM	BO
Stress Management Seminar - Stay Calm during Your Doctorate In-person April 14 – May 12, 2026 EN			
Basics of the Law on Fixed-term Contracts ('WissZeitVG') Online April 15, 2026 EN			
Didaktische Visualisierung – Grundlagen In-Person 17. April 2026 DE			
Studierende beraten - Grundlagen Online 21. April 2026 DE			
Prüfungsangst verstehen und wirksam vorbeugen Präsenz 22. April 2026 DE			
Feedback und Evaluation - Grundlagen Präsenz 23. April 2026 DE			
Mastering the Doctorate: Flexible Time and Project Management for Doctoral Students Online April 27 and 28, 2026 EN			
Praxiswerkstatt: Schriftliche Prüfungen gestalten Präsenz 27. April 2026 DE			
Your Research Has Value – Explore Its Potential Using LEGO In-Person April 27, 2026 EN			
Argumentation in Scientific Writing Online April 28 and 29, 2026 EN			
Your Science as a Board Game: A Beginner's Workshop in Game Design In-Person April 28, 2026 EN			
Praxiswerkstatt: Mündliche Prüfungen gestalten Präsenz 29. April 2026 DE			
Version Control with Git In-Person April 29 and 30, 2026 EN			

May 2026	R	RM	BO
Linux Introduction Course In-Person May 4 and 5, 2025 EN			
Prüfen und Bewerten – Aufbau Präsenz 5. Mai 2026 DE			
Introduction to Working with Git In-Person May 6, 2025 EN			
Introduction to Working on HPC Clusters In-Person March 6 and 7, 2026 EN			
Studierende beraten – Aufbau Online 6. Mai 2026 DE			
Didaktische Visualisierung – Aufbau Präsenz 7. Mai 2026 DE			
Introduction to Business Administration for Doctoral Students Online May 7 and 8, 2026 EN			
English Refresher: B2/C1 Online May 8, 13 and 29, 2026 EN			
Feedback – Aufbau Präsenz 8. Mai 2026 DE			
Cultivating Confidence in Academia: Practical Tools for Navigating Imposter Syndrome In-Person May 8, 2026 EN			
From Perfectionist to Productive In-Person May 19, 2026 EN			
Writing Retreat for International Doctoral Students			

In-Person May 9 and 10, 2026 EN	
Research Data Management - A Crash Course	
Online May 12, 2026 EN	
Science and Society - How to Make Impact	 
Online May 13, 2026 EN	
Finanzen und Controlling im Wissenschaftsmanagement	
Online 19. und 20. Mai 2026 DE	
Praxiswerkstatt: Schreibaufgaben zur Förderung wissenschaftlicher Schreibkompetenz entwickeln	
Präsenz 20. Mai 2026 DE	
Promotionsfinanzierung - Fokus: Stipendien	
Online 20. Mai 2026 DE	
Diversitätsgerechte Lehre	
Präsenz 21. Mai 2026 DE	
Writing Strategies, Time Management and Motivation	
In-Person May 22, 2026 EN	
Introduction to Statistics	
In-Person May 27-29, 2026 EN	
Building Your Academic Career: CVs & Applications	
In-Person May 28 and 29, 2026 EN	

June 2026	R	RM	BO
Getting It Done. How to Complete Your Dissertation - Methods and Motivation			
Online June 1 and 2, 2026 EN			
How to Appear Self Confident and Present: Best Practice Techniques for Scientists	  		
Online June 2, 2026 EN			
You can say what you want! Assertiveness-Training for Female Researchers	 		
In-Person June 8 and 9, 2026 EN			
Publish or Perish: Unseriöse Publikationspraktiken erkennen und bewerten			
Online 9. Juni 2026 DE			
Wie erstelle ich ein Promotionsexposé?			
Online 10. Juni 2026 DE			
Artificial Intelligence Tools: Responsible Use and Applications in Research and Academia	 		
Online June 11, 2026 EN			
Data Visualization with Python	 		
In-Person June 11, 2026 EN			
Managing Scientific Projects	 		
Online June 11 and 12, 2026 EN			
Academic Poster Design			
In-Person June 12, 22 and 23, 2026 EN			
Podcasts in der Lehre			
In-Person 12. Juni 2026 DE			
Demokratisches Handeln in der Lehre fördern			
Präsenz 17. Juni 2026 DE			
Studierende bei der mediengestützten Vermittlung wissenschaftlicher Inhalte anleiten			
Präsenz 19. Juni 2026 DE			

Positive Fehlerkultur: Fehler als Chance für das Lernen	
Präsenz 22. Juni 2026 DE	
Disputationstraining	
Präsenz 23. und 24. Juni 2026 DE	
How to Write and Publish a Review Article	
Online June 24, 2026 EN	
Effective Strategies for Academic Writing	
In-Person June 25 and 26, 2026 EN	
From Lab to Leadership: Transferable Skills for Industry Success	
Online June 25 and 26, 2026 EN	
Lernen in Bewegung – Bewegte Lehre gestalten	
Präsenz 26. Juni 2026 DE	
Flip your class! Mehr Zeit für die Präsenz	
Präsenz 29. Juni und 3. Juli 2026 DE	
Mastering Grant Applications: Identifying Funding Opportunities and Crafting Successful Proposals	 
Online June 30 and July 1, 2026 EN	
Moderating Meetings and Events in Academia: Achieve Your Goals through Effective Communication	 
In-Person June 30 and July 1, 2026 EN	
Shape the Future: From Research to Impact	
In-Person June 30, 2026 EN	
A Self Empowerment Series for International Doctoral Students - Growing Through Challenge	
In-Person June 30, July 7 and 14, 2026 EN	

July 2026	R	RM	BO
When Everything Feels Important: How to Say No Without Guilt	  		
Online July 1 and 2, 2026 EN			
SciComm BASIC Inspire a lay audience! A hands-on introduction into science communication	  		
In-Person July 2, 2026 EN			
Introduction to Good Research Practice - Protecting Scientific Integrity	 		
Online July 3, 2026 EN			
Statistics with R - an Introduction			
Online July 6 and 7, 2026 EN			
Introduction to Programming with Python	 		
In-Person July 7 and 9, 2026 EN			
Veröffentlichung wissenschaftlicher Arbeiten			
Präsenz 8. Juli 2026 DE			
AI in Literature Reviews: Opportunities, Limitations, and Good Practices			
Online July 9, 2026 EN			
Intercultural Training for Doctoral Students	  		
In-Person July 10, 2026 EN			
Karrierooption: Wissenschaftsmanagement? Arbeitsfelder, Kompetenzprofile, Karrierestrategien			
Online 10. Juli 2026 DE			
Leadership Essentials - What Does it Take to be an Inspiring Leader in Academia?	 		

Online July 14 and 15, 2026 EN	
Your Research Has Value – Explore Its Potential With AI In-Person July 14, 2026 EN	
Praxiswerkstatt: Kreative Ideenfindung durch Brainstorming-Methoden aktivieren Präsenz 15. Juli 2026 DE	
AI and Writing of Funding Applications - Navigating Opportunities and Challenges Online July 16, 2026 EN	 
Doing a Doctorate: A Path for You? Essential Insights to Help You Decide Online July 16, 2026 EN	
Practical Tools for Strategic Innovation Management In-Person July 21, 2026 EN	
Advanced Git In-Person July 22 and 23, 2026 EN	 
Job Interviews for a Career Beyond Academia In-Person July 29, 2026 EN	
Navigating Academia: Strategic Career Planning for Doctoral Students Online July 30 and 31, 2026 EN	

September/Oktober 2026	R	RM	BO
Funding Options for Your Doctorate: From Doctoral Scholarships and Positions to Doing a Doctorate while Working outside of Academia Online September 3, 2026 EN			
Good Laboratory Practice In-Person September 3 and 4, 2026 EN			
Gewaltfreie Kommunikation - Empathisch Konfliktsituationen vermeiden und meistern Präsenz 4. und 7. September 2026 DE	 		
Job Application and Interview Strategies for Natural Science Careers Online September 4 - 25, 2026 EN			
Networking at Conferences and Beyond: Present Yourself and Your Science Online September 8, 10 and 11, 2026 EN			
Slide Writing: Create Clear Slides of Your Own Research Quickly Online September 8, 2026 EN			
Diverse and International Scientific Teams: How to Work Together Successfully Online September 9, 2026 EN	 		
Publishing Research Articles: Strategies and Steps Online September 10, 2026 EN			
Voice and Body Language - Communicating with Confidence and Accuracy In-Person September 10 and 11, 2026 EN	 		
Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Online September 14 and 15, 2026 EN			
Die schriftliche Bewerbung auf dem außerakademischen Arbeitsmarkt Online 15. und 16. September 2026 DE			

Deal with It - A Practical Introduction to Research Ethics In-Person September 16, 2026 EN	 
Proposal Writing: How to Create Promising Grant Applications Online September 17 and 18, 2026 EN	 
Qualitätsmanagement an Hochschulen Präsenz 17. September 2026 DE	
Schreibretreat für Doktorandinnen Präsenz 17. und 18. September 2026 DE	
Research Data Management - A Crash Course Online September 22, 2026 EN	 
Thesis Defence Training In-Person September 22 and 23, 2026 EN	
Leadership Skills für den außerakademischen Arbeitsmarkt Online 24. und 25. September 2026 DE	
Business Small Talk In-Person September 24, 2026 EN	
A Guided Tour through the German Science System Online September 25, 2026 EN	 
A Beginner's Guide to Python and AI-enhanced Programming In-Person September 28-30, 2026 EN	 
Karrierewege für Promovierte außerhalb der Wissenschaft Online 28. und 29. September 2026 DE	 
Grundlagen Betriebswirtschaft in Finanzen und Controlling für Promovierende Online 30. September und 1. Oktober 2026 DE	 
Design Thinking for Researchers In-Person October 7, 2026 EN	

Let's celebrate!

In the last months, quite a few of our early-career researchers have been awarded prizes or awards. We want to highlight their accomplishments!

University of Bonn Celebrates Three ERC Starting Grants



© From left: Prof. Dr. Lucie Flek, Jun.-Prof. Dr. Amelie Schiprowski, Dr. Moritz Lürig. Photos: from left: Max Waidhas/University of Bonn; Marc Thürach/ECONtribute; Kristen Grace/Florida Museum of Natural History

The University of Bonn has yet another good reason to celebrate as three of its researchers have been awarded an ERC Starting Grant worth €1.5 million each. This European Research Council (ERC) grant program is designed to support early-career researchers. The economist Assistant Professor **Amelie Schiprowski**, the computer scientist Professor **Lucie Flek** and the evolutionary biologist Dr. **Moritz Lürig** will use the funding to progress their own research projects over the next five years.

Tucano: Bonn Researchers Create Open-Source Language Model for Portuguese



© Barbara Frommann / Uni Bonn

Large language models are usually strongest in English - but what about Portuguese? That's where the Tucano project comes in. Four young researchers, **Dr. Nicolas Kluge Correa**, **Aniket Sen**, **Shiza Fatimah** and **Sophia Falk**, with the support of the supercomputer Marvin, have developed an open-source model that understands and communicates in Portuguese. Their work won first place in the university's HPC competition. Under the name *Polyglot*, they now aim to expand on what they achieved with Tucano and make it available for many more languages. Their goal: artificial intelligence should be open, ethical, and accessible for all languages.

DAAD Prize 2025 for Doctoral Student Yohanes Ginting



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This year's prize from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) goes to **Yohanes Ginting** (third from the left), a doctoral student at the Institute of Geosciences. The prize recognizes his outstanding academic achievements and exceptional social commitment. As part of his doctoral research in meteorology, Ginting is investigating the carbon dynamics of tropical peatlands in Borneo. He combines field measurements, remote sensing, and modeling to understand the effects of land use changes and climatic extremes on these sensitive ecosystems. In addition to his research, Ginting is involved in the "Children in the Climate Crisis" project, which promotes environmental education in

schools and daycare centers, and has founded the NEXUS platform, an exchange and networking initiative for young researchers.

Universitätsgesellschaft Bonn (UGB) honors three outstanding dissertations in the fields of psychology, medicine, and chemistry



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In addition to the new transfer prize, the University Society of Bonn (UGB) presented its awards for outstanding dissertations and student engagement at its winter soirée. The certificates were presented by Prof. Dr. Ute C. Vothknecht. The UGB prize, worth €10,000, honors outstanding dissertations of particular scientific relevance. This year, **Dr. Kristof Keidel** was honored for his work in the field of psychology entitled “Impulsive decision-making: Psychometric, experimental and neuroimaging approaches.” The dissertation was supervised by Prof. Dr. Ulrich Ettinger, head of the Department of General Psychology and Experimental Clinical Psychology.

The Bonn Prize for Medicine, donated by the Prof. Dr. Rolf and Dr. Gisela Dederich Foundation and endowed with €5,000, was awarded to **Dr. Jil D. Stegmann**. She was honored for her doctoral thesis on “Identification of disease variants in Celsr3 and characterization of the embryonic function of Celsr3 in zebrafish.” The work was supervised by Prof. Dr. Heiko Reutter, head of the Department of Neonatology and Pediatric Intensive Care Medicine in Erlangen.

The Geheimrat Dr. Edmund ter Meer Prize, worth €2,000, recognizes outstanding dissertations in the field of chemistry. **Dr. Sebastian Höthker** was awarded the prize for his dissertation entitled “Stereoconvergent intramolecular transfer reactions at β -titanium oxy radicals.” The thesis was supervised by Prof. Dr. Andreas Gansäuer from the Kekulé Institute for Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Jeanette Klink-Lehmann receives the Christian Patermann Prize for outstanding supervision of doctoral students in the field of bioeconomy



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The award is endowed with €25,000 and is presented by the NRW strategy project BioSC, in which RWTH Aachen University, the University of Düsseldorf, the University of Bonn, and Forschungszentrum Jülich collaborate on research questions relating to bioeconomy with the support of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. **Dr. Jeanette Klink-Lehmann** studied ecotrophology at the University of Bonn and wrote her doctoral thesis in the field of consumer science in the Agricultural and Food Industry Market Research Group led by Prof. Dr. Monika Hartmann.

Hausdorff Memorial Prize awarded to Elena Demattè and Lars Becker



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The Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Bonn has awarded the Hausdorff Memorial Prize 2026 twice this year: The outstanding dissertations by **Dr. Elena Demattè** and **Dr. Lars Becker** for the academic year 2024/2025 were honored. The prizes were presented on January 14 by Prof. Joscha Gedicke and recognize outstanding achievements in the fields of radiation theory and harmonic analysis. Both works are characterized by profound mathematical results and innovative approaches. The prize is awarded annually in honor of Felix Hausdorff as part of the Hausdorff Colloquium.

Tasneem Osman wins Prize for Best Flash Talk at Women and Girls in Science Conference



© University of Namur

Tasneem Osman, junior researcher at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), won the Prize for Best Flash Talk at the Conference Women and Girls in Science at the University of Namur in Belgium. She received the highest

ranking for her talk "From invasive plants to disease risk: an overlooked one health perspective", in which she managed to tell her story in four slides.

Jahfar Shareef Pokkanali honored with UC Berkeley South Asia Art & Architecture Dissertation Prize



© Ruya Maryam

The South Asia Art & Architecture Dissertation Prize for 2026 has been awarded to Dr. Jahfar Shareef Pokkanali, PhD graduate from the Department of Asian and Islamic Art History at the University of Bonn, for his dissertation titled "Entangled Interdependencies and Littoral Singularities: Mosque Architecture in Malabar and the Lakshadweep Islands in the Age of Colonial Globalisms in the Indian Ocean."

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Spotlight on...

**... Leah Petersen,
doctoral student in
Geography.**

Could you describe your research topic to someone from another discipline?

In my dissertation, I examine how the social living environment in the parental home influences the gender of trans* individuals and, conversely, how the gender of trans* individuals affects the living environment.

Additionally, I explore how experiences of discrimination are inscribed in the bodies of trans* individuals.

Why did you decide to do your doctorate in Bonn?

I ended up at the University of Bonn for my master's degree in geography relatively by chance and quickly felt at home in the city. To be honest, I never planned to do a doctorate, and the topic for my dissertation only developed in the course of my master's thesis. Fortunately, I found a great working group and a dedicated supervisor at the Institute of Geography who support me and my project.

What do you especially like about the University of Bonn?

I am happy to see that the University of Bonn is taking more and more measures in the area of gender equality that also include queer realities. Especially in light of current political developments and increasing hostility toward queer and trans* people, it is essential to protect the rights of queer and trans* individuals and to firmly establish such structures.



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Do you have a tip on how to overcome the lack of motivation during difficult phases of the dissertation?

Lack of motivation is normal, and I think it can be very helpful for your work to take a short break to come up with new ideas and also ask yourself where this low is coming from. Of course, this is not possible for everyone. Otherwise, it

always helps me to work with other people in shared spaces, for example, as part of a joint writing group.

Which training opportunity at the University Bonn has been most beneficial to you?

For me, writing groups have been the most effective so far, both the self-organized writing group at the Geography Department and institutionalized offerings such as the Doctorate plus program's writing workshop.

Maja E Keller, the doctoral student introduced in our September 2025 issue, wanted to know: *What helps you most to stay motivated?*

I am most motivated by the trans* people who share their experiences with

me. These people confide in me about very intimate, personal, and sometimes painful experiences so that their experiences can help other trans* people. I am very grateful that these people talk to me and consider myself lucky to be able to tell their stories. This way, I hope to increase awareness about the realities of life for trans* people in our society.

Impressum

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