Doing a Doctorate at Fulda University of Applied Sciences.
What do I have to do ???

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Katja Richter, Doctoral Sponsorship

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Today's agenda:

• Why do a doctoral degree? Who is qualified? Who is eligible?
• Doctoral degrees based on Fulda University's independent right to confer a doctorate. Who is this suitable for? How does it work?
• Cooperative PhD programmes with universities
• Doctoral degrees based on Fulda University's independent right to confer a doctorate. Who is this suitable for? How does it work?
• Phases of doctoral degree
• The first steps to taking a doctoral degree
• Doctoral support at Fulda University
• Funding options
• Networking opportunities
Why do a doctoral degree? Who is eligible? Who is qualified?

- Why do a doctoral degree? Who is eligible? Who is qualified?
- If you are planning an academic career,
- want to pursue a scientific path,
- need a doctoral degree for your professional plans (e.g. self-employment)
- and
- you are fascinated by a scientific question that you want to explore and find an answer to, and
- you have **perseverance**,  
- then you should consider taking a doctoral degree.
- **A Master's degree qualifies you to take a doctoral degree** irrespective of whether you earned your Master's at a university or a university of applied sciences (UAS).
  - There is general legal entitlement to take a doctoral degree!
  - Bachelor degrees do not qualify for doctoral programmes!
Independent right of confer doctoral degrees

- With the amendment of the Hesse Higher Education Act (HHG) in 2016, UAS are now entitled to apply for the right to confer doctoral degrees.
- Prerequisite is proof of "sufficient research performance" (external funds and publications)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Technical subjects</th>
<th>Non-technical-subjects</th>
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<td>(e.g. life and natural sciences and engineering)</td>
<td>(e.g. business and social sciences)</td>
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<td>External funds</td>
<td>Sum of external funds received over three years ≥ € 300,000 or over up to six years an average of ≥ € 100,000/year</td>
<td>Sum of external funds received over three years ≥ € 150,000 or over up to six years an average of ≥ € 50,000/year</td>
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<td>publications</td>
<td>≥ 2 publication points a year, sum for over 3 years ≥ 6 points or over up to 6 years an average of ≥ 2 points/year</td>
<td>publication with Peer Review a year, sum for over 3 years ≥ 15 points or over up to 6 years an average of ≥ 5 points/year</td>
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Independent right of confer doctoral degrees by Hochschule Fulda

- Minimum number of research-oriented professors for one subject area must be reached (12 persons)
- Involvement of university in the procedure must be guaranteed
- Quality assurance by supervision and review process
- Application occurs for subject-related "doctoral research centre"
- Fulda University of Applied Sciences was the first UAS in Germany to be awarded the right to confer doctoral degrees (October 2016)
Independent right of confer doctoral degrees by Hochschule Fulda

Four doctoral research centres approved:

• Two of the university’s own centres:
  – Social Science with a focus on Globalization, European Integration and Interculturality.
  – Public Health

• two inter-university centres:
  – Social Work in association with RheinMain University and the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences
  – Applied Computer Science with RheinMain University, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and the Darmstadt University.

• Inter-university doctoral research centre "Logistics and Mobility" is being planned
Procedure for obtaining a doctoral degree based on University's independent right to confer a doctorate

- Admission as a doctoral candidate
- Supervision agreement
- Doctoral application
- Evaluation
- Examination
- Thesis approval certificate
- Publication
- Award of certificate
Web presentation

https://www.hs-fulda.de/forschen/promovieren/
COOPERATIVE DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES WITH UNIVERSITIES

- University's doctoral degree regulations regulate conditions
- Conditions can vary significantly depending on doctoral degree regulations
- Master's degree at UAS qualifies for doctoral degree at a university

www.hs-fulda.de/promotion
Phases of Doctoral degree

1st Phase: Orientation  3 - 18 Months (1)
- Exposé, structure, reference list, schedule and work plan | supervision | funding options
- Application for admission as a doctoral candidate at a university of applied sciences with independent right to confer doctoral degrees or a university

2nd Phase: Preliminary study  12 - 24 Months (1)
- Define thesis topic
- Illustrate possible practical and scientific relevance
- Select and write down research methodology
- Collect and document research results

3rd Phase: Thesis development  6 - 24 Months (1)
- Write up research outcome and relate this to research question
- Consider and document research processes (if necessary, revise method chapter)
- Draw and write up conclusions
- Identify unanswered questions (research gaps)
- Introduction and conclusion / outline prospects
- Revise reference list

4th Phase: Completion of doctoral degree  6 - 18 Months (1)
- Hand in thesis
- Defend thesis / oral examination  Include preparation time
- Publish thesis
- PhD party!!!

(1) Practical experience, reality can differ greatly
The first steps to taking a doctoral degree (1)

- Contact a professor at Fulda University of Applied Sciences
- Find a subject and narrow down field of study
- Clarity: Take a Phd based on the Fulda University’s independent right to confer a doctoral degree or take a cooperative doctoral degree with a University?
- Write an exposé including structure, reference list, schedule and work plan
- Clarify funding options
- Network with other doctoral candidates, e.g. Young Academics Network Fulda YAN
The first steps to taking a doctoral degree (2)

- Cooperative procedure: Identify professor who may be a potential supervisor at a university
- Check entry requirements at Fulda University of Applied Sciences or university (doctoral degree regulations)
- Sign doctoral supervision agreement
- Submit request to take a doctoral degree to doctoral committee
- If acceptance is subject to conditions, decide whether efforts are worthwhile
Services for doctoral candidates offered by Fulda University of Applied Sciences (1)

• Information and advice on:
  – Doctoral procedure
  – Supervision at Fulda University and the University
  – Individual doctoral degree management
  – Funding options
  – Networking opportunities

Katja Richter, Dipl.-Ing., Promotionsbeauftragte
www.hs-fulda.de/promotion
Services for doctoral candidates offered by Fulda University of Applied Sciences (2)

• Supervision
• Continuing university education for doctoral candidates
• Doctoral scholarships
• Allowances for congress participation, further education and publications
Finances

• Position as research assistant
• Scholarship
• Job outside university
• Parents, partner
• Combination
Networking

• **YAN**: Young Academics Network Fulda
  Network of Doctoral candidates and research associates at Fulda University. Meetings during the semester once a month-
  www.yan-fulda.de

• **GEW**: German Trade Union for Education and Science.
  https://www.gew.de/ausschuesse-arbeitsgruppen/weitere-gruppen/projektgruppe-dokorandinnen/

• **THESIS**: Interdisciplinary Network for Doctoral Candidates and Academics.
  www.thesis.de

• Arbeiterkind.de
  https://netzwerk.arbeiterkind.de/toro/resource/html#!entity.27542
Links:

- YAN: www.yan-fulda.de
- GEW: http://www.gew.de/wissenschaft/promotion
- Informationen der Uni Kassel für Promovierende: http://www.uni-kassel.de/themen/wissenschaftlicher-nachwuchs/promotion.html
- Doktorandenforum: http://doktorandenforum.de/
- Stipendien: http://www.stipendienlotse.de/
- Begabtenförderwerke: http://www.stipendiumplus.de/startseite.html
- Netzwerk „Arbeiterkind“: http://www.arbeiterkind.de/
- Ortsgruppe Fulda: http://netzwerk.arbeiterkind.de/toro/resource/html#!entity.27542
Literatur:

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- Knigge-Illner, Helga 2009: „Der Weg zum Doktorstitel: Strategien für die erfolgreiche Promotion“
- Günauer, Krüger, Moes et al. (Hrsg.) 2012: „GEW Handbuch Promovieren mit Perspektive – Ein Ratgeber von und für DoktorandInnen“
- Keller, Ansgar 2010: „Promotionsführer für Fachhochschulabsolventen“
We would be happy to advise you personally! Please make an appointment

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