DOCTORATES IN LEIPZIG
WHY CHOOSE LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY FOR YOUR PHD?

In Leipzig you will find the very best environment and conditions for your PhD studies. You will benefit from:

— **research-oriented, internationally recognised PhD programmes** that allow the creation of knowledge at the highest level thanks to interdisciplinary research focuses and state-of-the-art equipment.

— **a broad spectrum of research opportunities at a comprehensive university** which offers PhD programmes in every department.

— **an excellent research environment** featuring close to 20 research institutes located in Leipzig, including multiple Max Planck, Helmholtz, Fraunhofer and Leibniz Institutes.

— **an affordable city with a lively character.** Leipzig offers a vibrant cultural scene, affordable flats and trendy neighbourhoods. And located right in the middle of the city is the new campus of Leipzig University.
APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Leipzig University offers two different ways to earn a doctorate: either individually or within a structured programme.

Which PhD programme is right for you?

If you are looking for:

— the support of multiple university professors as well as
— teamwork and a practical focus to your PhD studies by working and interacting with other PhD candidates and academic advisors in group research projects.

Then a structured PhD programme is the right choice for you. In a structured programme you will earn a doctorate working within a Graduate Centre. You will have a set time frame to earn your doctorate, a clearly defined curriculum and individual support from academic advisors.

If you are looking for:

— more freedom to structure your time while working on your dissertation, and
— more flexibility in altering the focus and topic of your dissertation?

Then an individual PhD programme would be the better fit for you. Here you will work closely together with an advising professor (often referred to as your „Doktormutter“ or „Doktorvater“ in German) to write your dissertation. You earn your PhD individually at a faculty of the university and your dissertation is usually based on your own chosen topic.

Leipzig University also offers a binational doctorate using the co-tutelle programme.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
http://www.uni-leipzig.de/+binational-doctorates
Step 1: Prepare for your PhD

First, you will need to look at the research profile of Leipzig University (Forschungsprofil) and determine if your research topic falls under one of the research areas therein. Before applying to the university you will also need to decide how you want to do your PhD: Are you more interested in working within a structured PhD programme or independently on your own?

If you decide on a structured PhD programme, please look at the website of the Research Academy Leipzig to learn about the application requirements and the application process. Afterwards, move on to step 2.

If you are interested in an individual PhD programme, you will first need to find an advising professor who will provide you with a dissertation topic or accept your own suggested topic.

In both cases, however, you will first need a written confirmation from your future advising professor before you can apply for admission through the International Centre. If you decide on a structured PhD programme, please also note the entrance requirements and the deadlines at the Research Academy Leipzig.

Step 2: Apply for admission at the International Centre

Your application must include a comprehensive overview of all previous education from secondary school to the highest completed level. Please note, all school reports including transcripts of record must be submitted as certified copies in the original language and as certified translations in German or in English. Documents in German or English do not need to be translated.
The following documents are necessary to complete the application:

- Application form via AlmaWeb [https://almaweb.uni-leipzig.de](https://almaweb.uni-leipzig.de) (printed after completing the application process, including date and signature)

- The written advisor agreement from your advising professor (Betreuer:innenerklärung)

- Your curriculum vitae

- A certified copy of your leaving certificate from secondary school (including transcript of records)

- A certified copy of the results of your university entrance exam, if applicable

- Certified copies of any previously completed university degrees, e.g. Bachelor’s / Master’s Degree, Diplom

- A certified copy of your university transcripts

- A certified copy of proof of German language ability (level of C1 according to the CEFR) if your dissertation is written in German

- Proof of fluent English language ability if dissertation is written in English. This does not have to be a certified copy and can be, for example, an informal written verification from your advising professor

- Confirmation of acceptance onto the faculty’s doctoral candidate list (Doktorand:innenliste; may be submitted later)

- Certificate from the competent Academic Testing Center / APS (only applicants from China and Vietnam)
Step 3: The International Centre checks your application

The International Centre will check the formal qualifications of your application, i.e. how and if your previous university degrees are recognised in Germany.

If you completely fulfil the formal requirements, you will receive a letter of admission (Zulassungsbescheid) via AlmaWeb. You will most likely need this for your visa application.

The formal examination of all academic qualifications is based on the provisions of the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB). The ZAB is a part of the German Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs. It is the central office in Germany for questions regarding the evaluation of educational qualifications earned abroad.

Step 4: Enrol at Leipzig University

If you’ve received your letter of admission from the International Centre, you can enrol at any time at Leipzig University. For contact information check here: https://www.uni-leipzig.de/en/international/contact-and-advice.

In order to enrol at Leipzig University and begin registration in local government offices (e.g. Resident Services Office or Foreigners’ Authority) you will need to have the following items available and on hand:

— a copy of the letter of admission to Leipzig University (Zulassungsbescheid),
— a valid passport with a valid visa for study purposes, if necessary,
— current passport photos,
— a recent proof of a health insurance recognized in Germany (travel health insurance is not sufficient)

Additionally, you’ll need to have enough money available for important initial costs that usually require a payment, e.g. registration costs, a security deposit.
Step 5: Register as a PhD candidate in your faculty

Together with your advising professor you’ll need to submit an application for admission to your faculty’s doctoral candidate list (Antrag auf Aufnahme in die Doktorand:innenliste).

The application should be submitted as soon as possible after enrolment at the University. Ideally you will already have written confirmation of acceptance to the doctoral candidate list when you first apply to the University or enrol.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
www.uni-leipzig.de/+phd
The Research Academy Leipzig is the central institution at Leipzig University that is dedicated to the promotion and advancement of early career researchers. The support provided for doctoral researchers and postdocs is intended to complement the offerings available in the faculties.

The Research Academy Leipzig is committed to promoting uniform standards and quality in doctoral education and supervision.

The Research Academy Leipzig is structured into three Graduate Centres that bundle graduate programmes, among others graduate schools, national and international research training groups (Graduiertenkollegs) and the International Max Planck Research Schools.

Doctoral researchers within the graduate centers have access to grants (e.g. travel), PhD representations and awards (e.g. Katharina-Windscheid Award), individual career counseling and child care support.

The Graduate Centers are supplemented with the qualification programme and the Leibniz Programme. The Leibniz-Programme supports international mobility on all graduate career stages and aims to create a learning community of internationally renowned senior researchers and qualified early career researchers to increase interdisciplinary research.

The Leibniz Programme includes the Leibniz Professorship and the exchange programme Leibniz MOBILITY. The latter giving postdocs the possibility to apply for funding for short-term international research stays.

The qualification programme offers a wide range of workshops, addressing transferable skills and competencies necessary for careers inside and outside academia (e.g. good scientific practice, competitive proposal writing, data management, leadership, preparing for job interviews). Workshops are partially given in German, partially in English. Presence and online courses are offered. International doctoral researchers and postdocs can take German courses at different competence levels.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
https://www.ral.uni-leipzig.de/en/
In 2005, the International PhD Candidate Initiative, or “Internationale Doktorand:inneninitiative” as it is called in German, was created at Leipzig University as a way to bring together all international PhD candidates.

It is a programme specially tailored to suit your needs. Its goals include promoting an exchange of experience and insight among international PhD candidates, strengthening your social support networks and supporting your academic development.

The initiative frequently organises cultural, social and academic events for international PhD candidates of Leipzig University and is a dependable source of help and advice throughout your PhD studies.

**Academic and social exchanges are encouraged through:**

— Open discussions unrestrained by national or academic barriers
— An emphasis on intercultural learning
— Building contact networks
— Communication
— The deconstruction of language barriers
— Individual help and support

**Common activities organised by the initiative:**

— Tours of Leipzig
— Excursions
— Workshops
— Evening events featuring specific cultures, bicycle tours around the city, and more.

**Contact**
Internationale DOKTORAND:INNENinitiative
Email: dokinfo@rz.uni-leipzig.de

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/phdinitiative
The Council of PhD candidates or “PromovierendenRat” (ProRat) as it is called in German, represents PhD students at Leipzig University and facilitates information exchanges and networking to help make a candidate’s doctoral work easier from start to finish.

**Representing Students:** In its role as an advisory committee of the University, the ProRat represents all PhD candidates and gives their needs and issues a voice.

**Networking:** The ProRat is a platform for the exchange of individual experiences and interdisciplinary knowledge. Through regularly organised meetings, PhD candidates have the chance to make new contacts with colleagues. Work groups are responsible for implementing ProRat projects, and anyone who wants to help can join.

**Opportunities for further Education:** In addition to workshops, the ProRat also organises PhD candidate lectures based on their own ongoing research. The topics are interdisciplinary in nature and are geared towards all PhD candidates at Leipzig University. Once held, lectures are then published in the scientific journal “arbeitstitel. forum für leipziger promovierende”.

**Advising Students:** The Handbook for PhD Candidates, published by the ProRat, includes important information and tips for successful doctoral studies from start to finish.

**DOWNLOAD THE HANDBOOK (IN GERMAN):**
www.prorat.uni-leipzig.de