



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG



**DOCTORATES
IN LEIPZIG**

WHY LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY FOR YOUR DOCTORATE?

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

- **Research-oriented, internationally recognised doctoral 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** offering doctoral 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 boasts a vibrant cultural scene, affordable housing compared to other university cities in Germany, and trendy neighbourhoods. And located right in the centre is the new campus of Leipzig University.



APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

There are two ways to earn a doctorate at Leipzig University: 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 doctoral studies by working and interacting with fellow doctoral researchers and academic supervisors in group research projects,

then a structured doctoral programme is the right choice for you. You will earn a doctorate working within a Graduate Centre. You will have a set time frame to earn your doctorate, a fixed curriculum and individual support.

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 doctoral programme would be the better fit for you. You will write your dissertation under the supervision of a professor, often referred to as your *Doktormutter* or *Doktorvater* in German. You earn your doctorate individually at one of the University's faculties and your dissertation is usually on a topic chosen by you.

Under the cotutelle programme, you can also pursue a binational doctorate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.uni-leipzig.de/+binational-doctorates>

5 STEPS TO A DOCTORATE

Step 1: Prepare for your doctorate

First, you will need to decide whether your topic fits into Leipzig University's research profile.

You should also decide which path you want to take before you apply: are you more interested in working within a structured doctoral programme, or independently? If you decide on a structured doctoral programme, please visit the [Research Academy Leipzig website](#) – which presents the doctoral programmes – for information about the requirements and how to apply. Then proceed to step 2.

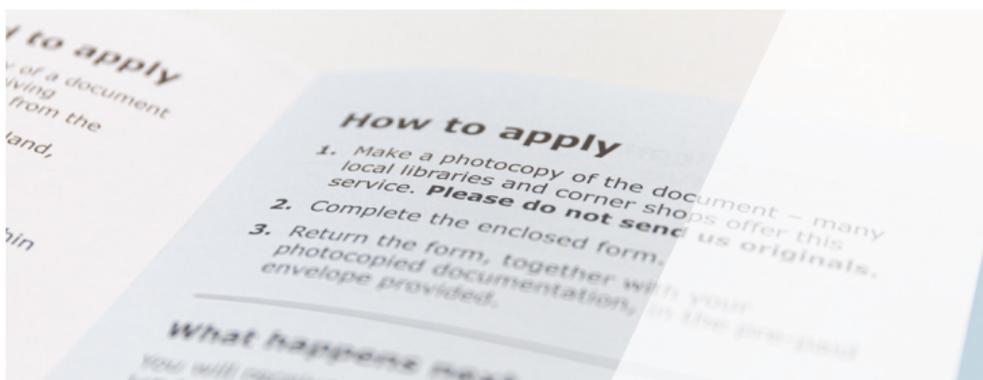
If you are interested in an individual doctorate, you will first need to find a professor willing to either accept your proposed topic or suggest one for you. Then continue with step 2.

In both cases, you cannot apply to the International Centre until you have received written confirmation from the supervising professor (supervision agreement).

Step 2: Apply for admission at the International Centre

Your application must include full proof of your prior secondary and university education.

Please note that you will be required to submit all certificates as certified copies in the original language and as certified translations in German or in English. Certificates in German or English do not need to be translated.



Applications must include the following documents:

- Application via AlmaWeb <https://almaweb.uni-leipzig.de> (printed after completing the online application, including date and signature)
- Written supervision agreement from your supervising professor
- CV
- Secondary school leaving certificate ([certified copy](#) including overview of grades)
- Proof of university entrance examination ([certified copy](#)), if applicable
- Proof of all completed university degrees ([certified copy](#)), e.g. bachelor's, master's, Diplom
- Academic transcripts from all completed university degrees ([certified copy](#))
- Proof of knowledge of German at C1 level (CEFR), if the doctorate will be in German ([certified copy](#))
- Proof of excellent knowledge of English, if the doctorate will be in English (e.g. written confirmation from the supervising professor)
- Confirmation of admission to the faculty's list of doctoral researchers (can be submitted later)
- If applicable, original certificate from the Akademische Prüfstelle (APS) (applicants from China and Vietnam only)

Step 3: The International Centre checks your application

The International Centre will check the formal requirements, such as whether your university degree is recognised in Germany.

The formal examination 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 authority in Germany for questions regarding the evaluation of educational qualifications earned abroad. If you fulfil the formal requirements in principle, you will receive a letter of admission via AlmaWeb. You will most likely need this for your visa application.

Step 4: Enrol at Leipzig University

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

In order to enrol at Leipzig University and begin registering with local authorities (e.g. Resident Services Office or Foreigners' Authority), you will need to have the following items with you:

- Printed letter of admission from Leipzig University
- Valid passport with a valid visa for study purposes (if applicable)
- Sufficient recent passport photos
- Recent proof of health insurance in Germany (travel insurance is not sufficient).

You will also need to have enough money available for important costs that have to be paid at the start (e.g. security deposit, registration fees).

Contact:

International Centre

Betina Sedlaczek

Goethestraße 3–5, 04109 Leipzig

Phone: +49 341 97 32079

+49 341 97 32080

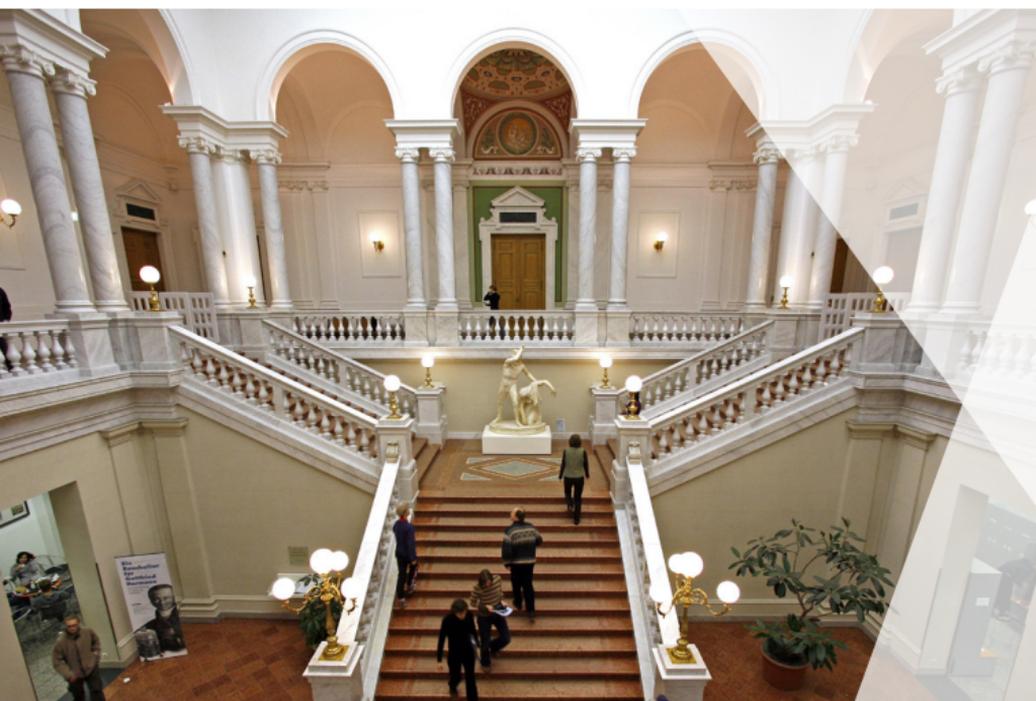
Email: international.student@uni-leipzig.de

Step 5: Register your doctorate at your faculty

Within the first semester, together with your supervising professor you will have to submit an application to be added to your faculty's doctoral researcher list. Try to do this as soon as possible after enrolling. Ideally, you will already have written confirmation of your admission to the doctoral researcher list when you first apply or enrol.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

www.uni-leipzig.de/+phd



RESEARCH ACADEMY LEIPZIG

Services for supporting early career researchers

The [Research Academy Leipzig](#) (RALeipzig) is the central institution at Leipzig University that is dedicated to the needs of early career researchers. Its strategic goal is to qualify and support outstanding junior researchers in structured and interdisciplinary programmes from Germany and abroad. RALeipzig informs, qualifies, promotes and connects doctoral researchers and postdocs at Leipzig University and helps the University's faculties and professors to promote early career researchers. It offers doctoral researchers and postdocs comprehensive support in addition to the services offered by the faculties, and is committed to uniform standards and quality assurance in doctoral supervision. The advancement of interdisciplinarity, equal opportunities and internationalisation are important overarching goals.

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.

RALeipzig is divided into three Graduate Centres that bundle graduate programmes, such as Graduate Schools, International Max Planck Research Schools and international Research Training Groups. Doctoral researchers in the Graduate Centres can apply for travel grants, be given preference when registering for Competence School events, be nominated for its doctoral thesis prizes and join the network of RALeipzig doctoral researchers. The Graduate Centres are complemented by the Competence School and the Leibniz Programme, consisting of the Leibniz Professorship and the Leibniz Visiting Scholar programme. The Leibniz Programme aims to bring together internationally renowned researchers with the best-qualified early career researchers in a temporary, interdisciplinary learning community.

The Competence School offers an interdisciplinary programme of events and workshops for the acquisition of key qualifications. It aims to prepare students for careers both within and outside academia.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<https://www.ral.uni-leipzig.de/en/>

INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL INITIATIVE

The International Doctoral Initiative at Leipzig University was founded in 2005 as an association of international doctoral researchers and is specifically tailored to their needs. The aim is to promote exchange between international doctoral researchers, strengthen their social networks and support their academic development.

The Initiative regularly organises cultural, social and academic events for international doctoral researchers at Leipzig University and is there to help out in any way it can.

Exchange and social exchange through:

- Open discussions unrestrained by national or academic barriers
- Emphasis on intercultural learning
- Networking
- Communication
- Tearing down language barriers
- Individual help and support

Activities:

- Guided tours through Leipzig
- Excursions
- Workshops
- Events such as country-themed evenings, bike rides, etc.

Contact

International Doctoral Initiative

Email: dokinfo@rz.uni-leipzig.de

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/phdinitiative

DOCTORAL COUNCIL (PRORAT)

The Doctoral Council (ProRat) – representing doctoral researchers at Leipzig University – facilitates information exchange and networking to help make earning a doctorate easier from start to finish.

Representation

As an advisory committee of the University, the ProRat represents all doctoral researchers and advocates for their interests.

Networking

The ProRat is a platform for exchanging individual experience and interdisciplinary knowledge. Regular meetings are an opportunity to meet other doctoral researchers. The ProRat implements its projects through working groups, which are open to all.

Continuing education

Every semester, the ProRat organises workshops as well as lectures by doctoral researchers. Interdisciplinary in nature, the topics are geared towards all doctoral researchers at Leipzig. The lectures are then published in the journal *arbeitstitel. forum für leipziger promovierende*.

Advising researchers

In its guide for doctoral researchers, the ProRat provides detailed information on starting, conducting and completing a dissertation:

DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE (IN GERMAN):

www.prorat.uni-leipzig.de

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www.uni-leipzig.de/international

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