### The BGSS

The mission of the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS) is to train and promote doctoral researchers from Germany and abroad for both scientific and professional careers.







### Research Areas

Research at the BGSS is based on the interdisciplinary collaboration of sociology and political science, focusing on the vulnerabilities of modern democratic societies. It concentrates on the comparative analysis of problems of social inclusion and democratic performance, as well as the role of knowledge in democratic societies by addressing the following themes:

#### Varieties of Inclusion

- Social inequality and well-being
- Inequality and justice
- Social protest and social conflict
- Migration and cultural diversity

### Varieties of Democracy

- Performance of mature and young democracies
- Processes of democratization, and the resilience of autocracy
- Multilevel and multinational policy
- Political institutions, political conflict, and the welfare state

### Varieties of Knowledge

- Scientific knowledge in policy-making processes
- The impact of science and religion on inclusion and democratization
- Communicating knowledge in public spheres
- The democratic governance of science

### Research Context

BGSS doctoral researchers are closely involved in social science research activities at Humboldt and non-university partner institutions.

- Regional networks of non-university research institutions in social sciences (WZB, DIW, iFQ, CMB, HSoG) with strong bilateral partnerships (including the option of research internships and joint junior research groups, post-docs etc.)
- Participation in research projects and junior research groups at the Humboldt Center for Social and Political Research (HCSP)
- Postdoc start-up funding at HCSP and partner institutions

### International Network

BGSS exchanges doctoral researchers and professors with international universities on a regular basis.



- Host university of European PhD in Socio-Economic and Statistical Studies (SESS.EuroPhD)
- Member of the European Doctoral Programme in the Human and Social Sciences
- Member of the European Graduate Network
- Bilateral cooperation and exchange with leading universities and research institutions abroad (e.g., EUI Florence, SUM, Duke, NYU, METU Ankara, HSE Moscow, NCCR University of Zurich)

## Academic Supervision and Faculty

The BGSS provides support and intensive supervision for writing an excellent dissertation within three to four years, thus preparing doctoral researchers for a career within and outside the academic sphere. To do so, the BGSS relies on:

- Faculty consisting of 28 professors and senior lecturers of the Department of Social Sciences (ISW) and partner institutions
- Supervision committee with internal and international advisors
- Supervision agreement guaranteeing binding supervision standards



### Curriculum

The doctoral curriculum of the BGSS comprises:

- High-level courses on theory and methods (courses taught in English)
- Broad choice of electives on topics relevant to the doctoral dissertation
- Supporting courses (such as research design and doctoral workshops)
- Milestones assuring continuous progress and feedback
- Practical training in social science teaching and research
- Soft-skill training at Humboldt Graduate School (HGS)
- Mentoring program at HGS to assist the transition process to a post-doctoral and professional career.

### Admission

The BGSS seeks highly motivated graduates from all over the world to work on the three research areas of the BGSS profile. Projects linking themes of these research areas are especially welcome.

- Application period: January-February for the following winter semester
- Detailed information on and access to the online application system is available on the BGSS webpage
- Knowledge of German is not required
- Applications for associated and guest memberships are accepted throughout the year

### Scholarships and Funding

### Contact

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# International Doctoral Program

