

Academic Programs

BIGSSS — Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences

BIGSSS is an inter-university graduate school in the social sciences, located at the University of Bremen and Jacobs University Bremen, Germany. The graduate school hosts more than 110 international PhD fellows and more than 60 faculty members.

BIGSSS' doctoral programs prepare PhD students for leading professional positions inside and outside of academia. Visiting scholars profit from BIGSSS' excellent working conditions and the school's ties to a number of outstanding social science research institutes at the public University of Bremen and the private Jacobs University.

Scientific Expertise

BIGSSS is founded upon the core disciplines of political science, sociology and psychology. A key asset of BIGSSS' academic program is its interdisciplinarity, also integrating bordering social science disciplines and a broad spectrum from quantitative to qualitative methods.

Research at BIGSSS focuses on changing patterns of social and political inte-

gration in contemporary societies. The academic program is structured along the three thematic fields of (A) Global Governance and Regional Integration, (B) Welfare State, Inequality and Quality of Life, and (C) Changing Lives in Changing Socio-Cultural Contexts.

Network

In our work we draw on strong ties to partner institutions established through the exchange of doctoral fellows, collaborative initiatives, and personal visits of BIGSSS faculty. As part of the EU COFUND initiative, BIGSSS has intensified its international collaboration in teaching and research even further.

Our international partner institutions include Duke University, University of Edinburgh, Manipal University, Moscow Higher School of Economics, Sciences Po / Paris, Università degli studi di Milano, IIR Kiev, Harvard University, UNC at Chapel Hill, Cornell University, IRiSS Stanford, LSE, Bertelsmann Foundation, Edna Pasher PhD & Associates.

BIGSSS is always interested in extending its network.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



The language of instruction in all our programs is English. The doctoral training follows the principles of demand-tailored education, close supervision, progress monitoring, and effective funding.

▶ Regular PhD | PhD

The Regular PhD Program is BIGSSS' classic PhD program in which doctoral fellows commit themselves to their dissertation projects and to the full academic program of the BIGSSS curriculum. Admitted fellows of the program receive stipends for 36 months plus funds for research expenses.

Application:
Jan 31 (annually)
Program Start:
Sept 1 (annually)

▶ BIGSSS-departs PhD | PhD

BIGSSS-departs (doctoral education in partnerships) is a full-time PhD program co-funded by the European Union. BIGSSS-departs PhD fellows receive work contracts for 42 months plus funds for research expenses. The program includes a six-month stay abroad at one of our partner institutions.

Application:
Jan 31, 2017
Program Start:
Sept 1, 2017

▶ Affiliated PhD | PhD

BIGSSS offers an Affiliated PhD Program to doctoral candidates who work in third-party funded or professorial research projects in the social sciences at the University of Bremen or Jacobs University. Affiliated fellows take part in BIGSSS' doctoral curriculum with a reduced work load.

Application:
Jun 30 (annually)
Program Start:
Sept 1 (annually)

▶ Visiting PhD | PhD

BIGSSS offers PhD students from other institutions the opportunity to conduct a research stay at our graduate school for up to six months. Visiting fellows participate in courses and research activities at BIGSSS. The stay is unfunded, but office space and access to the universities' libraries are provided.

Application:
Rolling
Admissions
Program Start:
Flexible

▶ Summer School | MA & PhD

BIGSSS organizes international summer schools with varying research foci for advanced MA and early PhD students. The aim of the summer school program is to open a cross-border dialogue on theoretical questions and methodological approaches to current matters of social science research.

Application:
Winter
Program Start:
Spring or
Summer

▶ Affiliated Postdoc | Postdoc

BIGSSS offers affiliations to postdoctoral researchers who work in the social sciences at the University of Bremen or Jacobs University. Affiliated postdoctoral fellows participate in the doctoral colloquia at BIGSSS and are invited to offer courses themselves.

Application:
Rolling
Admissions
Program Start:
Flexible

▶ Visiting Scholar | Prof & Postdoc

BIGSSS invites international scholars to conduct a research stay at our graduate school. Visiting scholars profit from BIGSSS' excellent working conditions at the University of Bremen and Jacobs University and its ties to a number of outstanding social science research institutes.

Application:
Rolling
Admissions
Program Start:
Flexible

▶ BIGSSS-HWK Fellowship | Prof & Postdoc

The BIGSSS-HWK Visiting Fellowship is an international researcher mobility program offering a six-month research stay at BIGSSS and the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg. BIGSSS-HWK scholars benefit from the exceptional research conditions at a graduate school with a multi-disciplinary and international community of bright PhDs, postdocs and faculty members.

Application:
Oct / Nov
(annually)
Program Start:
Sept (annually)