

Affiliated PhD Fellowships at BIGSSS

The **Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences** (BIGSSS) invites applications for its Affiliated PhD Program.

BIGSSS is an inter-university institution of the University of Bremen and Constructor University Bremen and is funded by the German Excellence Initiative. BIGSSS is part of an international network of highly regarded graduate programs. It supports its Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows in achieving early scientific independence and provides funding for the conduct, presentation, and publication of their research. The working and teaching language is English.

BIGSSS offers an Affiliated PhD Program for doctoral candidates working in externally funded or faculty-led research projects in the social sciences at the University of Bremen or Constructor University. Affiliated Fellows submit their final dissertation proposal, developed during the BIGSSS Proposal Workshop, and participate in a Progress Assessment Colloquium at the end of each academic year. They participate in the BIGSSS Curriculum with a reduced workload and complete several PhD Milestones.

Affiliated Fellows benefit from the supervisory structure at BIGSSS, which provides independent supervision by a three-member Dissertation Committee selected by the Fellow in consultation with their Academic Coordinator.

As an excellent graduate school in the Social Sciences, we have a vital interest in ensuring high-quality doctoral training for all our Fellows. Accordingly, the principles of close supervision, quality assurance, and progress monitoring that have been successfully developed at BIGSSS also apply to our Affiliated Fellow Program. To enable proficient discussions among all BIGSSS Fellows, Faculty, and Staff, English language proficiency at the C1 level is required. However, the dissertation may be written in English or German.

Application

We are looking for candidates with innovative, interdisciplinary research topics who are interested in the exchange with other PhD Fellows at BIGSSS. Further information and an overview of the required application documents can be found under [Application & Admission \(bigsss-bremen.de\)](https://bigsss-bremen.de/application-admission).

For further inquiries, please contact us at admissions-officer@bigsss-bremen.de.

The Affiliated Program will start on September 1st, 2026. Applications must be submitted in one single PDF file via email to admissions-officer@bigsss-bremen.de by May 13th, 2026.