

Call for Applications 2017 PhD Programme in Transnational Studies

Starting date of programme: 3 year full-time PhD programme starting September 2017

Starting date for applications: 1 December 2016

Deadline for submitting applications: 31 January 2017 (4 January 2017 for Chinese applicants)

Who we are

The Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies (BTS) is a full-time PhD programme of the Freie Universität Berlin, the Hertie School of Governance, and the WZB Berlin Social Science Center. All three institutions are leaders in the fields of international relations and EU studies. The programme draws upon their faculty, research projects, facilities, and services.

The programme

The three-year English language doctoral programme at the BTS is designed for exceptionally talented and motivated graduate students. It offers state-of-the-art survey classes, solid training in research methods and research design, soft skills courses, and individualised supervision. The programme focusses on transnational processes analysed by social science methods. Research at the BTS focuses on the structures, risks, and chances of cross-border interaction at various levels, assuming that, as a result of the globalisation process, the relevance of national societies and actors is declining in favour of transnational ones. Scholars at the BTS mainly conduct research in the following four areas, which are not mutually exclusive but overlapping:

- Causes and consequences of globalisation
- Governance challenges
- Comparative analysis of regional structures
- The EU as a transnational polity

Applicants should familiarise themselves with the research interests of BTS faculty members and indicate one or several potential supervisors in their application.

Required documents

- Master's degree with distinction, qualifying for PhD studies in political science, international relations, sociology, economics, law, or related disciplines;
- proof of C1-level English language skills or the equivalent;
- most recent CV;
- letter of motivation (600 words maximum);
- research proposal (5,000 words maximum) with a timeline for your project;
- two letters of reference from professors at universities or research institutions.

Scholarships

Two PhD positions for international (non-German) students are funded by the Graduate School Scholarship Programme (GSSP) of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for a period of three years. Two further PhD positions for students with Chinese citizenship are funded by the Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC).

As there is only a limited number of institutional scholarships available, in certain cases, candidates who are not offered a scholarship can be admitted to the programme provided that they secure their own external funding. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to apply to other sponsors/foundations at the same time of your BTS application. To support that process, we are happy to provide documentation if need be.

Application procedure

All applicants, except those from China, are required to apply [online](#). The application platform opens on 1 December 2016.

Please note that candidates selected for a nomination for a DAAD or a CSC scholarship have to submit yet another application to the respective funding organisation, who make the final decision.

Applicants from China must submit their application via the Beijing Office of the Freie Universität Berlin until 4 January 2017 (<http://www.fu-berlin.de/china>).

For more information about the BTS and the application procedure, please visit www.transnationalstudies.eu.