



Dahlem Research School – Concept and Strategies

THE DOCTORATE IN GERMANY

- Percentage of citizens with doctoral degrees (1.8 %) is almost the double of the OECD average (1%)
- Degree opens access to a broad variety of higher positions in the academic, public and private sector
- Number of doctoral candidates has doubled to tripled during the last 40 years
- Classical apprenticeship model - growing demand for highly skilled academics requires improvement

POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Structure and transparency, e.g. regarding selection and admission procedures duration and programmability
- Supervision, e.g. regarding dependency on supervisor commitment on rights and obligations progress assessments
- Contribution to research strength, e.g. regarding integration into scientific community publication and presentation of results
- Preparation for the labor market, e.g. regarding qualification in relevant skills preparation for non-academic careers

REFORM OF DOCTORAL EDUCATION

Germany (since 1990s)

- Research Training Groups funded by DFG
- Recommendations of HRK/WR, 2002:
Doctorate = research oriented qualification period

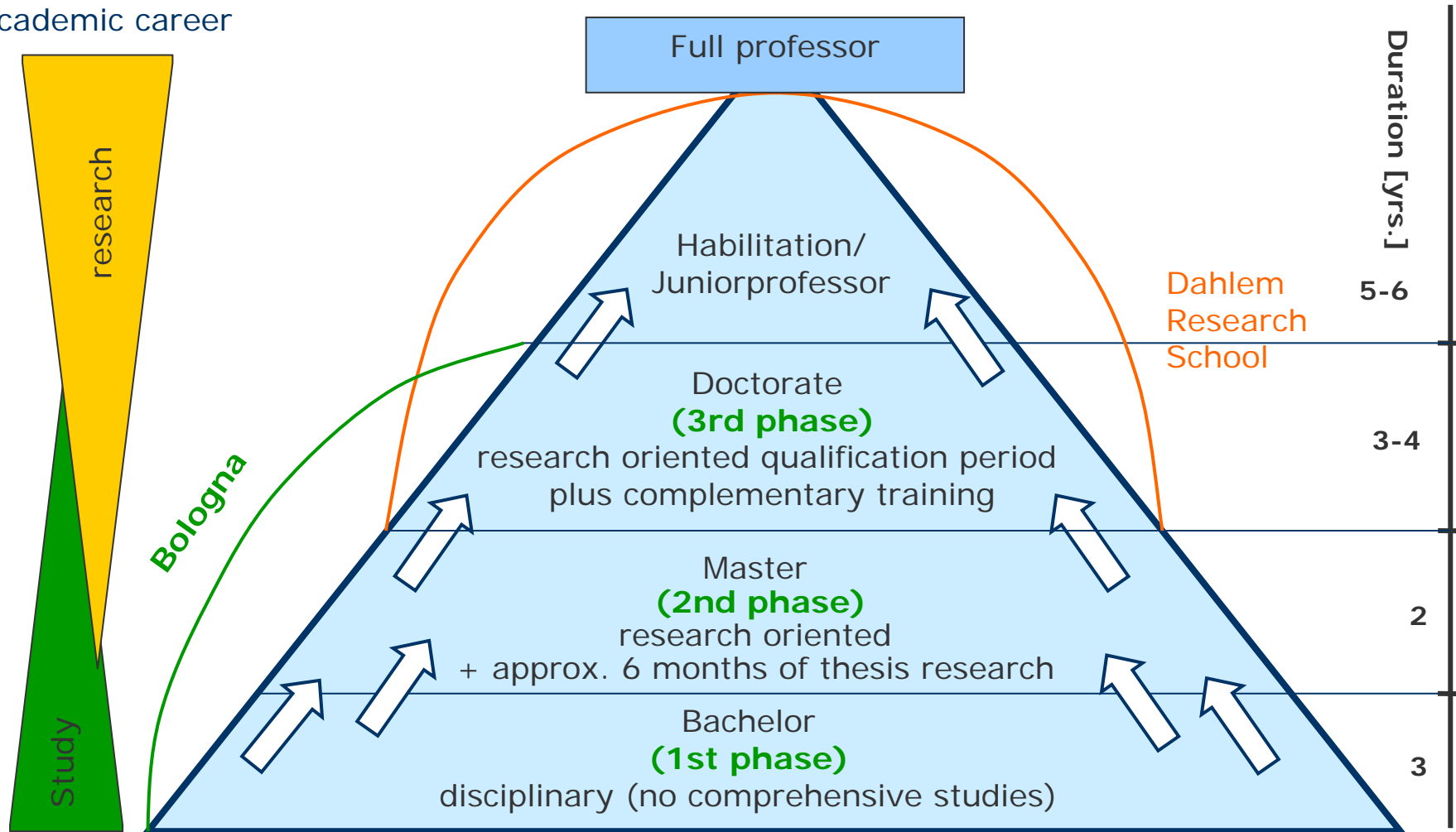
Transparent structures with defined responsibilities
Common standards regarding selection and admission
Shorter qualification period
Cooperation
Training and qualification

Europe (Bologna Process)

European Ministers' Conference (Berlin, 2003):
Doctoral education as 3rd phase of Bologna Process

THE THREE PHASES OF BOLOGNA AT FREIE UNIVERSITÄT

Academic career



DAHLEM RESEARCH SCHOOL – MISSION

Objectives:

1. Assuring consistent curricular structure of programs according to Bologna
2. Organizing complementary training in key qualifications targeted towards research as well as career
3. Contributing to internationalization in terms of candidates, mobility and joint activities
4. Fostering research strength through organization of doctoral education in thematic programs
5. Providing additional funding opportunities supporting outstanding performance and activities
6. Improving support and services facilitating integration, exchange and networking

PARAMETERS FOR SUCCESS

- Dissertation times
- Completion rates
- Scientific output and reputation
- Gender and family
- International candidates
- International mobility
- Career entry and development

Our Programs

- **Humanities**

- Graduate School for Literary Studies
- History and Cultural Studies
- Languages of Emotion

- **Area Studies**

- North American Studies
- Latin American Studies
- Muslim Cultures and Societies
- Caspian Region Environmental and Energy Studies

Our Programs

- **Economics and Social Sciences**
- Berlin School for Transnational Studies
- Paths of organizational processes
- Global Politics
- **Natural and Life Sciences**
- Berlin Mathematical School
- Molecular Science
- Molecular Plant Science
- Biomedical Sciences
- International Max Planck Research School (IMPreS)
Computational Biology and Scientific Computing

Funding and Cooperation

- 13 of 15 Programs are third party funded
- Most Grants by DFG (German Research Foundation)
- Graduate Schools, Graduate Centers, Graduate Programs within Collaborative Research Groups and Research Training Groups
- Cooperation with other Universities in Berlin
- Cooperation with Max Planck Research Institutes

Curriculum Standards

- Three Years - Six Semesters
- 1. Methodology und Theory
- 2. Transferable Skills
- 3. Research Colloquia

- Courses within the first three semesters

- Teaching Experience

- Balance between self determination and flexibility

- Co-Teaching

- Study days

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR?

Structure

- Standard Regulation for Doctoral Studies
basis for all doctoral programs
- Standard Supervision Agreement
between doctoral candidate and supervising team (2-3)
- 15 doctoral programs
 - 6 in humanities
 - 5 in natural sciences
 - 4 in economics/social sciences
- 274 doctoral candidates

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR?

Complementary Training

- Concept for Transferable Skills aiming at
 - a. Professionalization (in the academic field)
 - b. Preparation for non-academic labor market
- 3 Components
 1. Academic skills
 2. Managerial skills
 3. Professional development
- Start of Program: Summer semester 2009

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR?

Internationalization

- Information booklet for international candidates (Mar. 2009)
- Welcome Center / Social help desk (Apr. 2009)
- Orientation weeks for international candidates (early Oct. 2009, before courses will start)

Intensive German classes
Housing support
Buddy program
Administrative procedures
Excursions and leisure activities

SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVES (BY SUMMER 2009)

Quality

- Development of a spanning quality assurance system
- Guidelines for annual assessments

Training

- Increased number of workshops
- Training offers for researchers on post-doctoral level

Internationalization

- Active recruitment
- Exchange of doctoral candidates (inbound/outbound)
- Internationalization of programs

SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVES (BY SUMMER 2009)

Research

- Initiating new doctoral programs

Funding

- Incentives for exceptional quality and performance

Service, support, networking

- Electronic registration system
- Welcome Center
- Organization of an EUA/CDE workshop

MID-TERM PERSPECTIVES (BY END OF 2009)

Quality

- Regular evaluation of doctoral programs
- Best practice examples

Training

- Interdisciplinary perspectives
- Lifelong learning
- Training offers for supervisors and mentors

Internationalization

- Joint doctoral programs
- International marketing

MID-TERM PERSPECTIVES (BY END OF 2009)

Research

- Identification of suitable research fields for new programs
- Integration of researchers on post-doctoral level into DRS

Funding

- Base funds on solid resources

Service, support, networking

- Cooperation with research institutions in Berlin-Brandenburg and abroad
- Career talks and alumni support



More information on the Internet at
www.fu-berlin.de/en/drs

Thank you very much!