

# Facts and Figures

2022 and 2023



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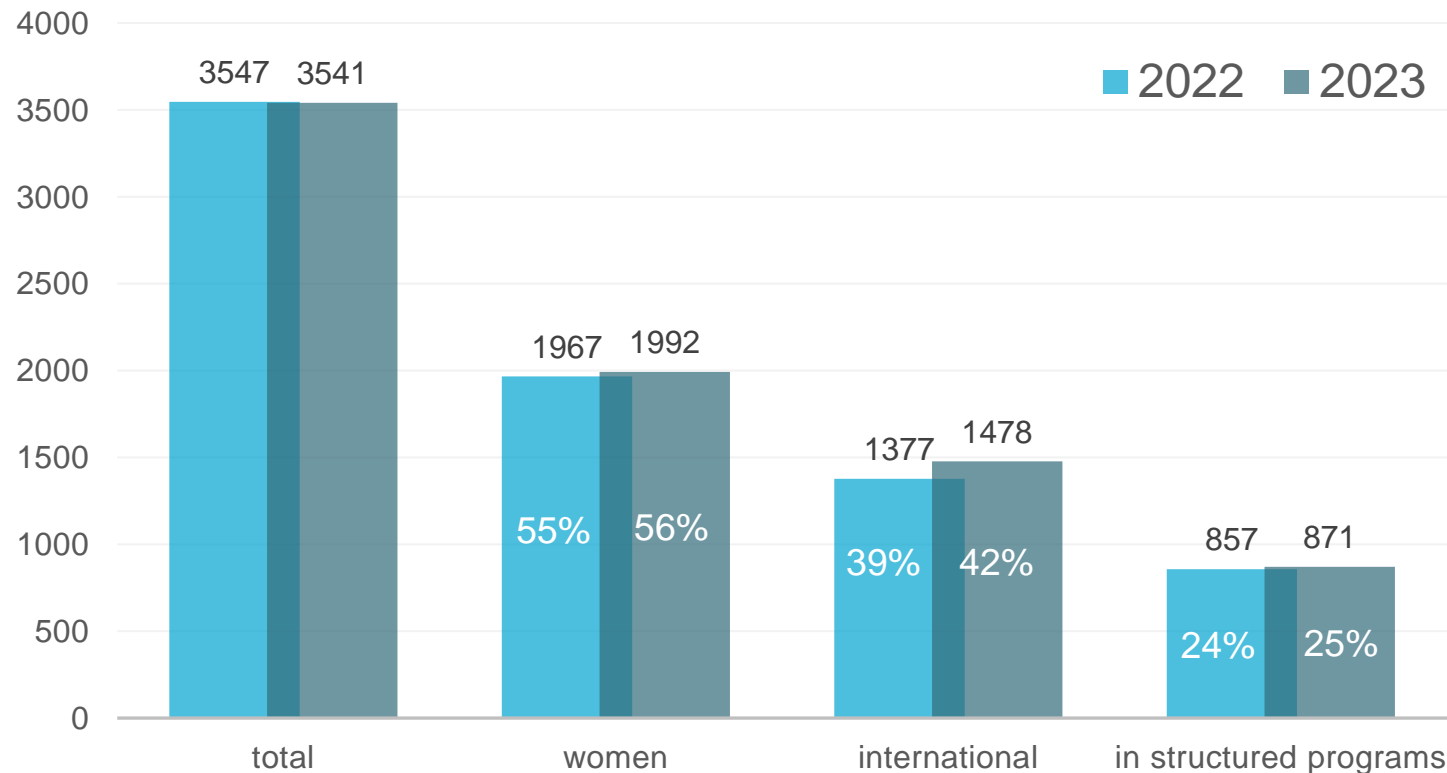


# DOCTORAL RESEARCH AT FREIE UNIVERSITÄT



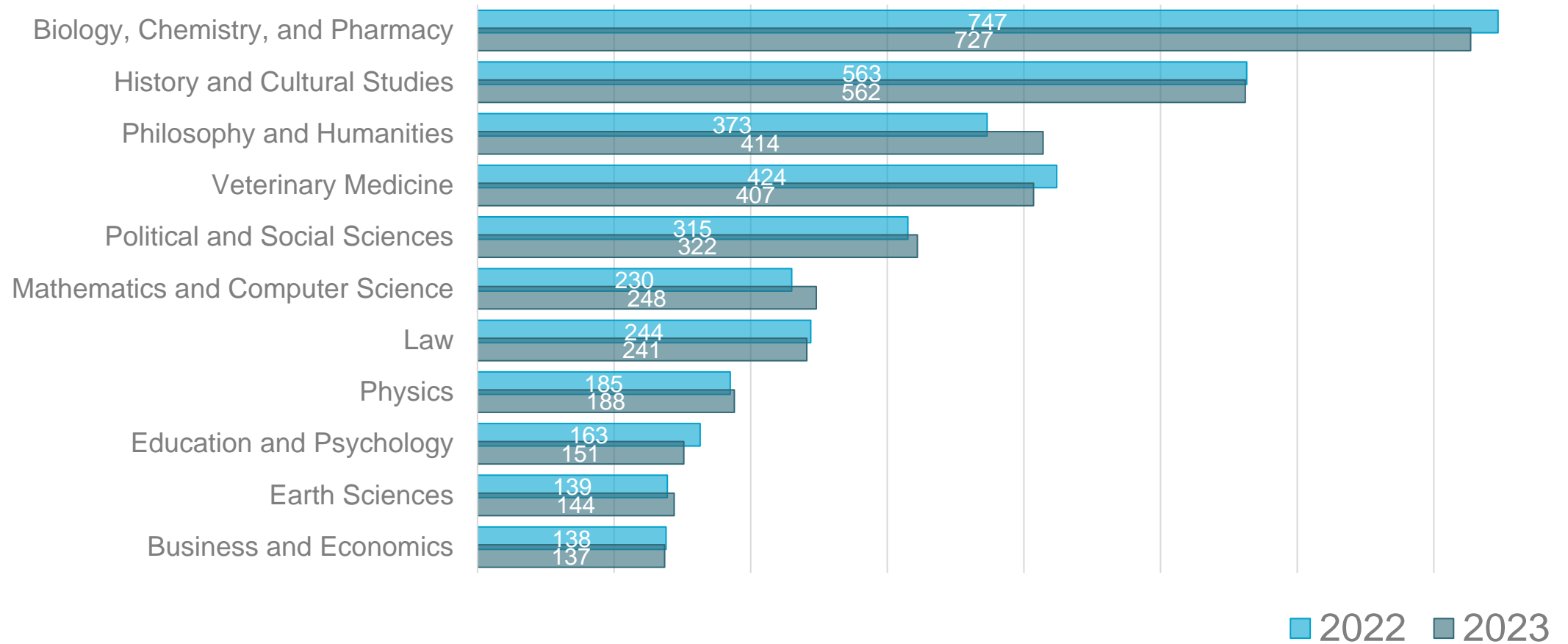
Image: Michael Fahrig

# Enrolled doctoral researchers



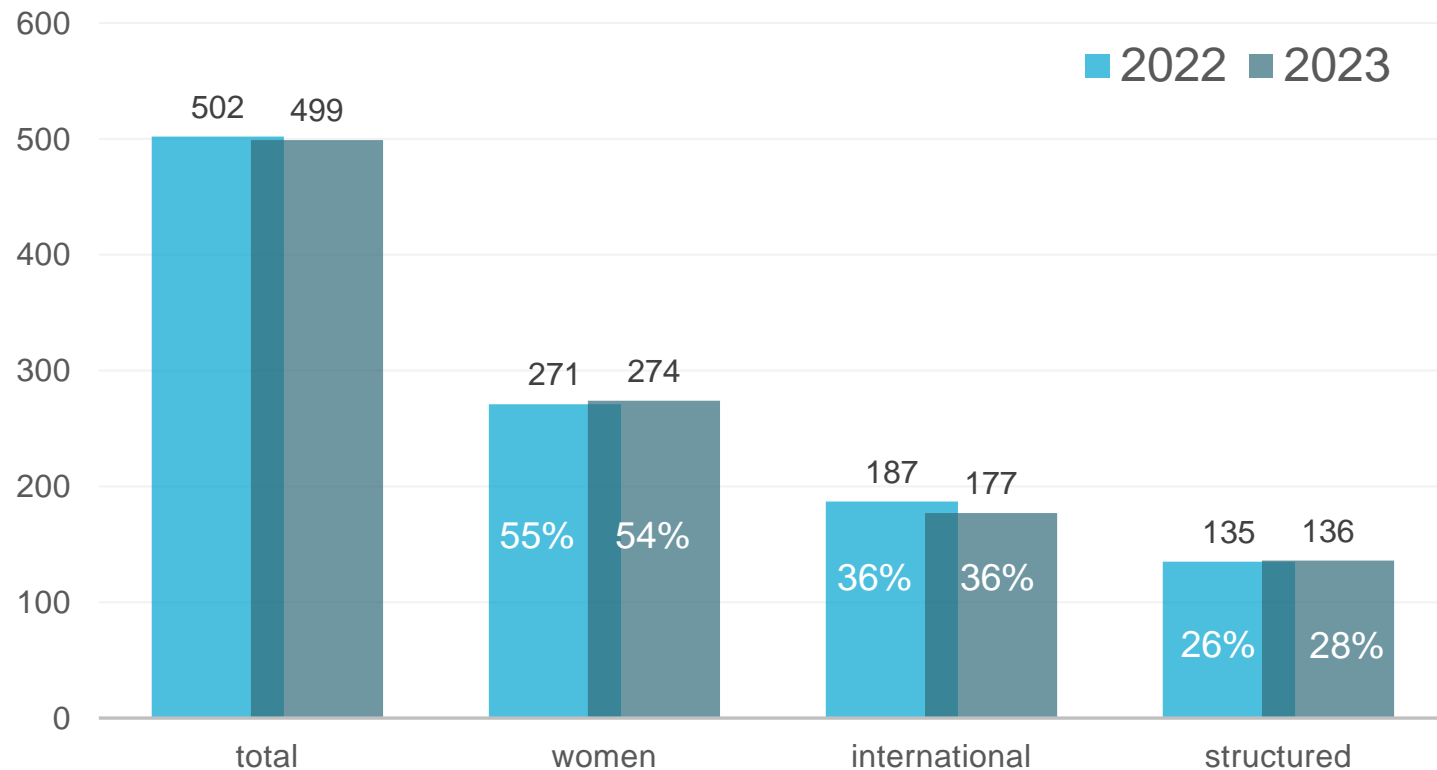
University enrollment statistics as of December 1, 2022 and 2023. Under the Berlin Higher Education Act, doctoral researchers not employed by the university must enroll as doctoral students to gain access to necessary resources and recognition. Employed researchers are exempt. As a result, not all employed doctoral researchers are included in the university statistics.

# Enrolled doctoral researchers by department



Data source: Freie Universität's enrollment statistics

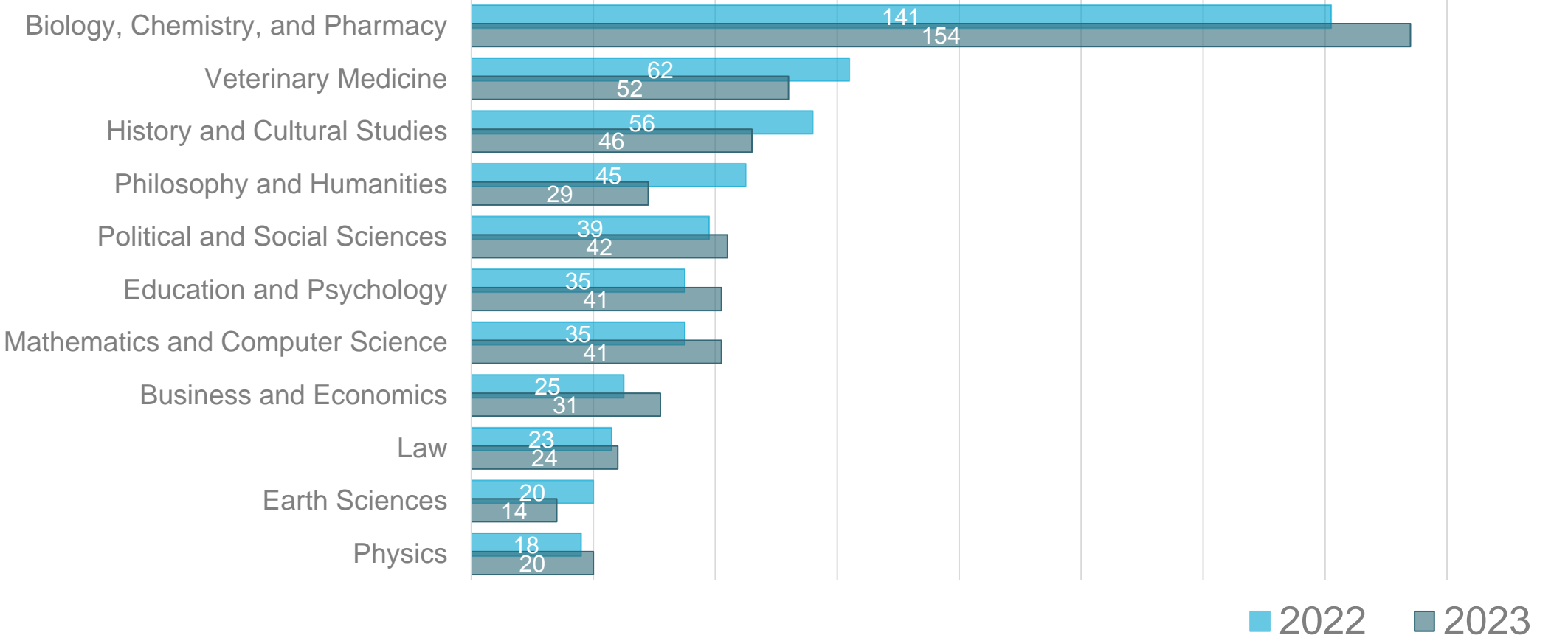
# Graduations



University exam statistics by academic year:

The academic year 2022 comprises winter semester 2021/22 and summer semester 2022, the academic year 2023 winter semester 2022/23 and summer semester 2023.

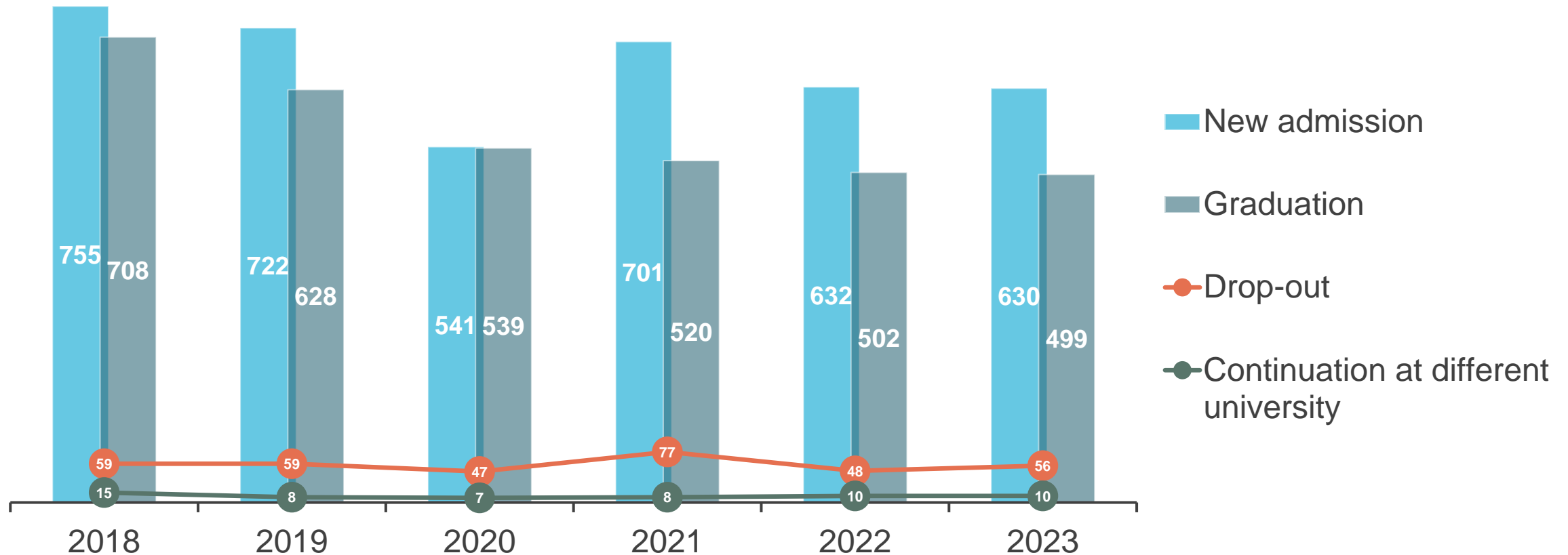
# Graduations by department



Data source: Freie Universität's exam statistics



# Trend: New admissions/graduations/drop-outs (drop-out ratio 9/100)



Data source: Freie Universität's enrollment and exam statistics



# DAHLEM RESEARCH SCHOOL (DRS)

On January 27, 2022, Dahlem Research School (DRS) was established as a central institution of the university.\*

The new DRS is the result of extensive discussions with various university stakeholders and will serve all doctoral researchers at the university.

Dahlem Research School

- links doctoral committees, offices, programs, and graduate centers with the university executive board.

- supports departments in the monitoring of cooperative doctorates.
- provides a secure scientific environment for all doctoral researchers at Freie Universität Berlin.
- promotes good doctoral supervision, structured programs, and supports all doctoral researchers with interdisciplinary qualifications and advice in non-academic matters.

Members of DRS are:

- all departments and central research institutes of Freie Universität Berlin,
- all DRS-accredited doctoral programs,
- the Doctoral Council (still to be established).

Academic Director:

Prof. Dr. Beate Paulus

Deputy Academic Director:

Prof. Dr. Stefan Rinke

\*Regulations for the Dahlem Research School (DRS):  
<https://www.fu-berlin.de/service/zuvdocs/amtsblatt/2022/ab032022.pdf>

# DAHLEM RESEARCH SCHOOL's new look

Dahlem Research School is the Center for Early Career Researchers, developing strategies and measures to ensure quality doctoral education and a supportive environment. We cater for both individual and structured doctorates, providing tailored advice and information and offering a wide-ranging qualification program.



Image: Pudeis Kern

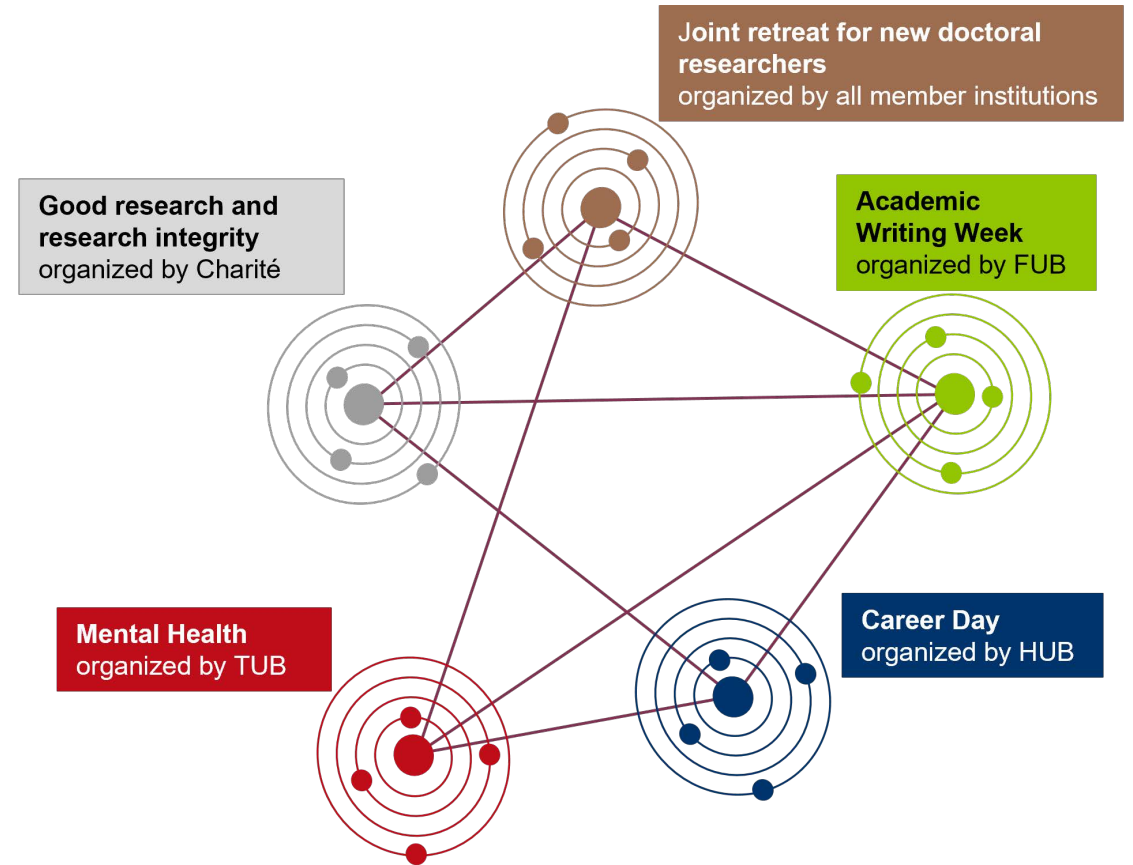
# QUALIFICATION

The Berlin University Alliance (BUA) Graduate Studies Support Program offers a comprehensive qualification program for doctoral researchers.

The program consists of two main elements: Core Events and Satellite Events. Core Events are conducted jointly by all partner institutions, while Satellite Events are organized separately by each partner.

Additionally, Dahlem Research School's exclusive events are open to all doctoral researchers from BUA partner institutions.

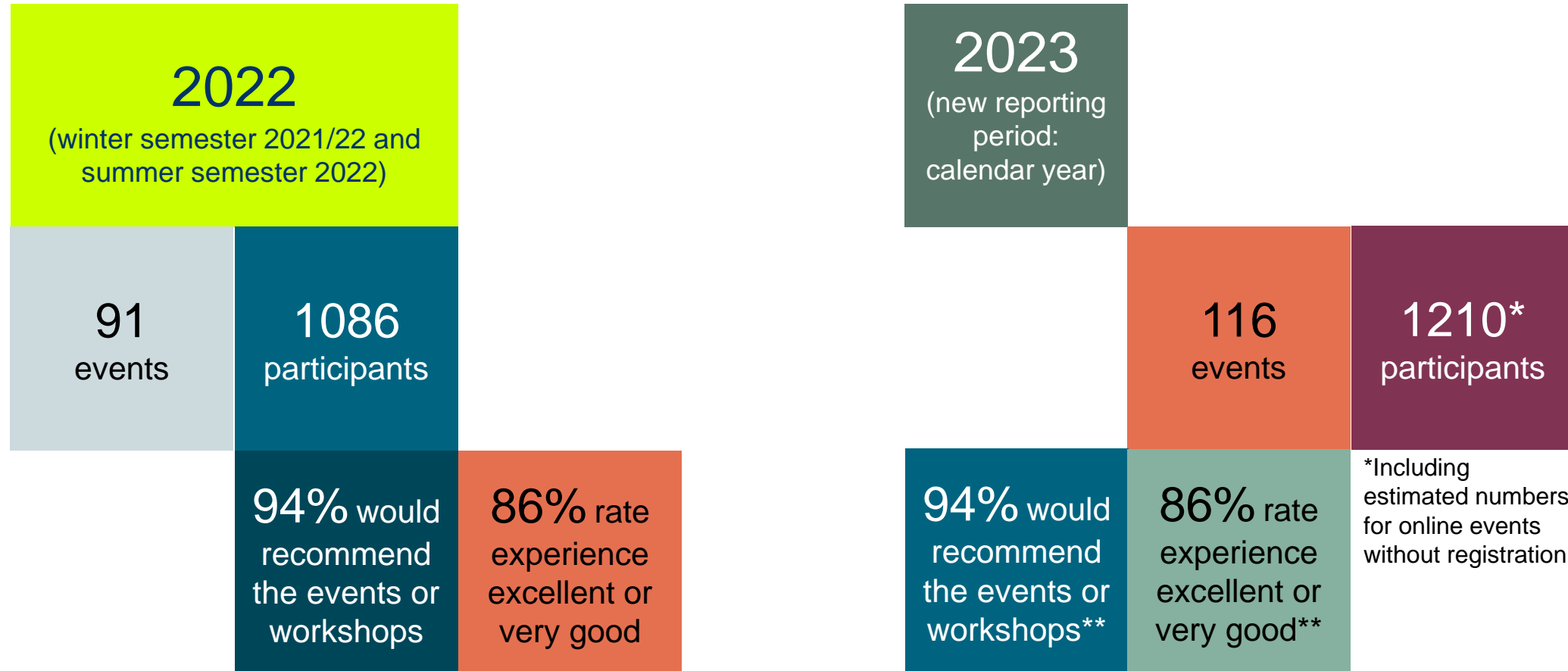
This structure aims to provide a well-rounded and collaborative academic experience for participants.



# Events and Workshops by DRS (sample)

Managing Research	Speaking & Presenting	Writing & Publishing	Career Orientation	Mental Health	Research Integrity
<p>Get Organized: Self management for Doctoral Researchers</p> <p>Grant Proposal Writing</p> <p>KICK-OFF YOUR DOCTORATE: Retreat</p> <p>Disputationstraining</p> <p>Project &amp; Time Management</p>	<p>Engaging the Listener in your Talk</p> <p>Secrets of Impactful Poster Design and Presentation</p> <p>Presenting with confidence: Work on Body, Voice and Charisma</p> <p>Quick on Your Feet - Spontaneous Speaking Practice</p>	<p>WRITING WEEK</p> <p>Scientific Argumentation: Critical Reasoning and Logic</p> <p>Mastering Peer Review: Strategies for Success</p> <p>Writing Consultations / Schreib-sprechstunde</p> <p>Schreibcafé</p>	<p>Academia or Industry? Where am I going?</p> <p>Writing a great Cover letter</p> <p>The Job Search: What's out there?</p> <p>Creating a Career Profile</p> <p>Selbstmarketing</p> <p>Just Do It - First steps toward a job outside academia</p>	<p>Time &amp; Activity Management, Priorization and Mindfulness</p> <p>Resilience in International Transitions for Academics Abroad</p> <p>Managing A Crisis</p> <p>Difficult Talks: Managing Problems</p>	<p>Meet Your Ombudsperson</p> <p>Research Integrity: Basic Workshop</p> <p>Research Ethics: But I just want to do my research</p> <p>Introduction to Research Data Management</p> <p>Good Scientific Practice – Ethical Challenges and Strategies</p>

# Events and Workshops by DRS (2022 and 2023)



\*\* winter semester 2022/23 only, due to technical reasons



# more DRS offers and events

Individual doctorate or structured support in a program?

Dahlem Research School offers **individual consultation hours** to help in making the decision.

[advice@drs.fu-berlin.de](mailto:advice@drs.fu-berlin.de).



The Welcome Service and Dahlem Research School inform new doctoral researchers about the German university system, the doctoral process at Freie Universität Berlin, and the services available.



Challenges during the doctorate?

The DRS team is here to help with **confidential advice and support**. Your privacy is our priority.

[advice@drs.fu-berlin.de](mailto:advice@drs.fu-berlin.de).

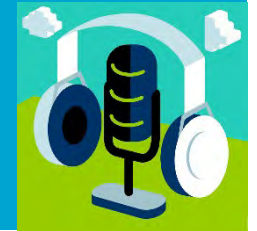
## Summer party

Once a year, the DRS team invites all doctoral researchers to celebrate doctoral research at Freie Universität.

## DRS Podcast

Support from current and former doctoral researchers and other experts on

Navigating your doctorate



# Doctoral Programs of Dahlem Research School

According to data surveys carried out by Dahlem Research School, in December 2022, 924 and in December 2023, 950 doctoral researchers at Freie Universität Berlin are part of Dahlem Research School's 27 doctoral degree programs (excluding those registered at partner universities).

The total number of programs, including 21 sub-programs, is 48.

Data comparison with the enrollment statistics (see slide 4: 857 and 871 doctoral researchers) shows that 7% to 8% of DRS doctoral researchers are not enrolled.

We estimate that approximately 4,000 researchers are pursuing their doctorate at Freie Universität Berlin, including those not enrolled. However, we have to rely on the university's enrollment statistics as the only standardized source of information.

According to these, 3,547 and 3,541 researchers were pursuing their doctorate on December 1, 2022 and 2023, respectively (see slide 4: Employed researchers are exempt from the requirement to enroll as doctoral students).

# Doctoral Programs of Dahlem Research School

## Humanities & Social Sciences

Berlin School of Economics PhD Program

Berlin Graduate School of Global and Transregional Studies

Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies\*

- Ancient Languages and Texts
- Ancient Objects and Visual Studies
- Ancient Philosophy and History of Ancient Sciences
- Landscape Archeology and Architecture
- Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road

Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies

Berlin School of Mind and Brain\*

DFG GRK 2248 Global Intellectual History

DFG GRK 2638 Normativity, Critique, Change

DFG FOR 2229 Cinepoetics - Center for Advances Film Studies

Doctoral Program in Business Research

Doctoral Studies Program History and Cultural Studies

Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies

Graduate School of East Asian Studies

Graduate School of North American Studies

International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course\*

Latin American Studies from a Comparative and Transregional Perspective

- DFG iGRK 2445 Temporalities of Future in Latin America

\*Program with cross-cutting focus

## Natural & Life Sciences

Berlin School of Regenerative Therapies

- FG SFB 1444 Directed Cellular Self-Organisation to Advance Bone Regeneration

Berlin Mathematical School

- DFG SFB 1114 ITRG Scaling Cascades in Complex Systems
- Graduate Research Training Program PharMetRX

Berlin School of Integrative Oncology

Biomedical Sciences

- BB3R Graduate Program Innovations in 3R Research
- ZIBI Graduate School - Center of Infection Biology and Immunity

Dahlem Research School Molecular Science (to be discontinued)

- Helmholtz Graduate School Macromolecular Bioscience
- International Max Planck Research School Multiscale Biosystems

Graduate Program Biodiversity, Evolution and Ecology

Graduate School of Plant Sciences

International Graduate Program Medical Neurosciences

International Max Planck Research School for Biology AND Computation

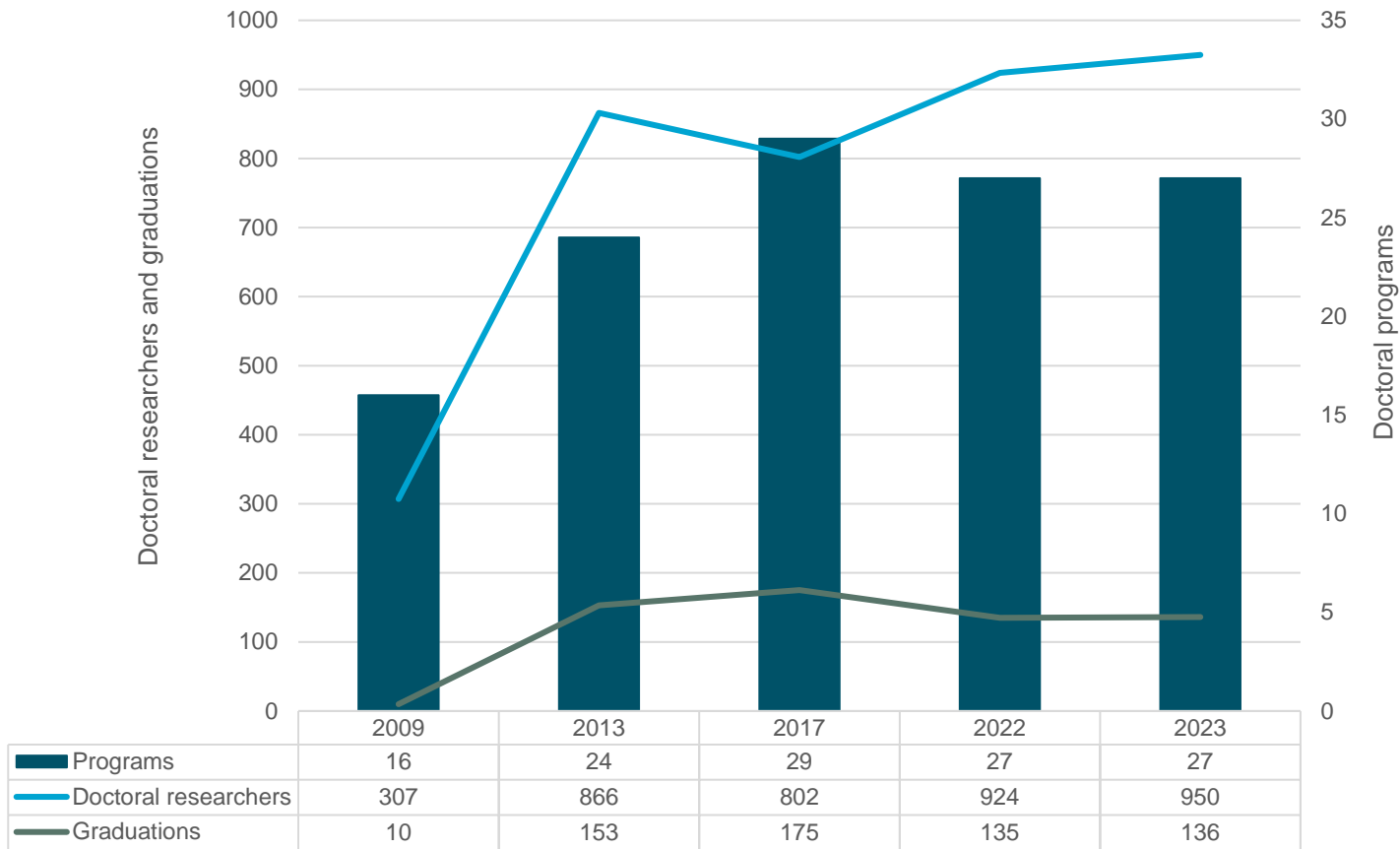
Natural Sciences

- DFG GRK 2662 Charging into the Future: Interaction of polyelectrolytes with biosystems
- DFG SFB 1078 IRTG Protonation Dynamics in Protein Function
- DFG SFB 1349 IRTG Fluorine-Specific Interactions
- DFG SFB 1449 IRT Dynamic Hydrogels at Biointerfaces
- DFG TRR/SFB 227 IRTG Ultrafast Spin Dynamics

Research School Future Information Technologies (to be discontinued)

Research School Materials for Solar Energy Conversion

# DRS programs/doctoral researchers/graduations

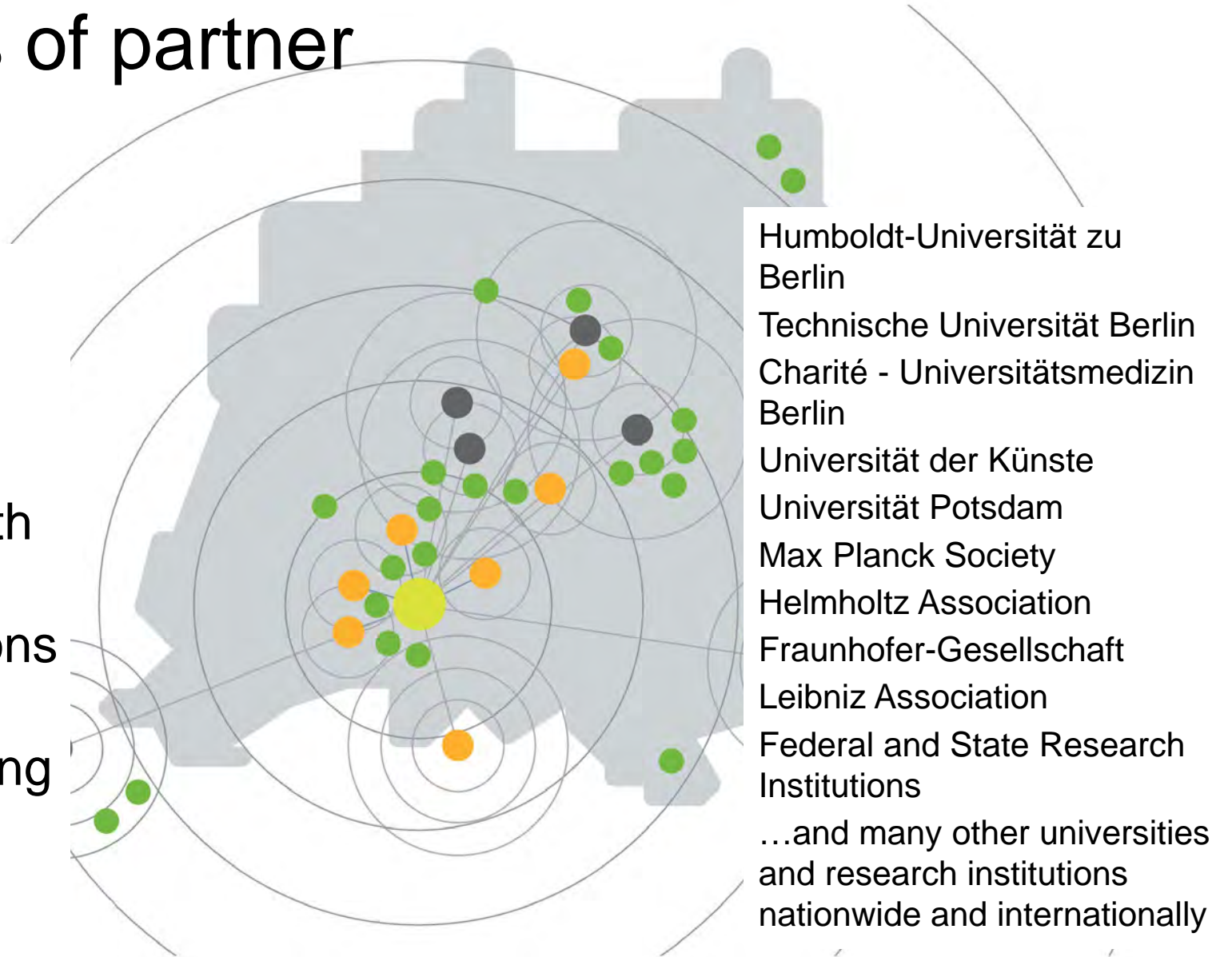


	DRS Doctoral researchers	
	female	international
2023	54%	51%
2022	52%	52%

	DRS Graduations	
	female	international
2023	54%	46%
2022	50%	45%

# Regional networks of partner institutions

Berlin's universities and the University of Potsdam host over 100 graduate schools and doctoral programs. Researchers collaborate with other universities and non-university research institutions in Berlin and Brandenburg, creating a rich and stimulating research environment.





# Recruitment and Admission

Calls for member program applications are globally promoted via online academic platforms, research career fairs, and Freie Universität's liaison offices.

These offices advertise regionally, provide higher education information and advice, and screen potential applicants.

In **2022**, 118 new doctoral researchers were admitted to DRS programs.

50% of these are female.

59% are international.

In **2023**, 127 new doctoral researchers were admitted to DRS programs.

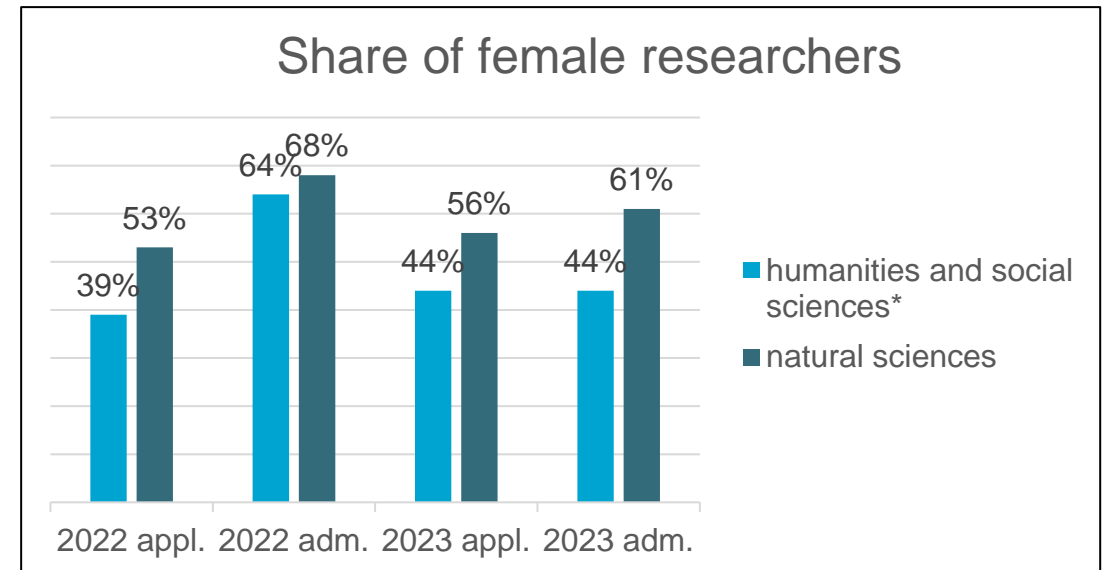
57% of these are female

51% are international.

Data source: Freie Universität's enrollment database

12 DRS Programs use the **DRS application platform** to recruit doctoral researchers.

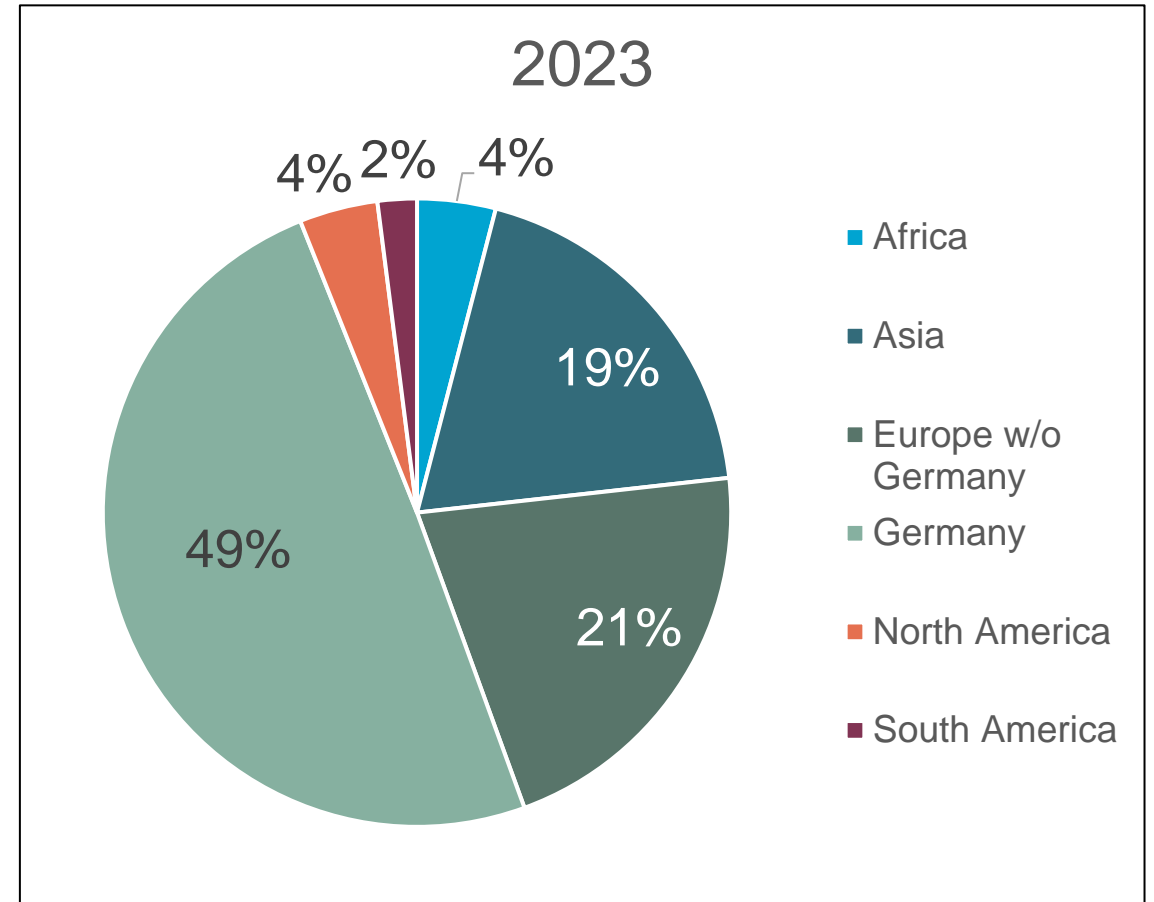
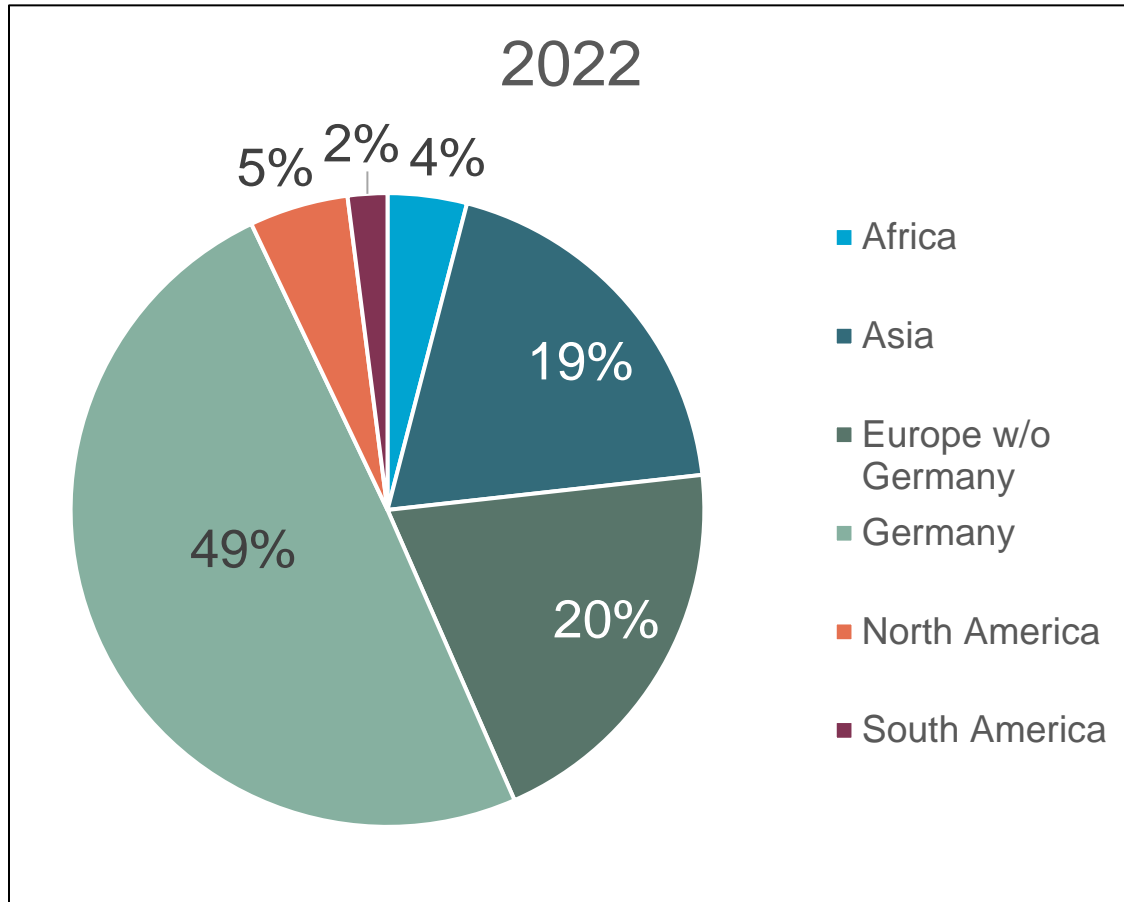
In 2022, 82% of applicants and 56% of admissions were international. In 2023, these figures rose to 85% of applicants and remained at 56% of admissions.



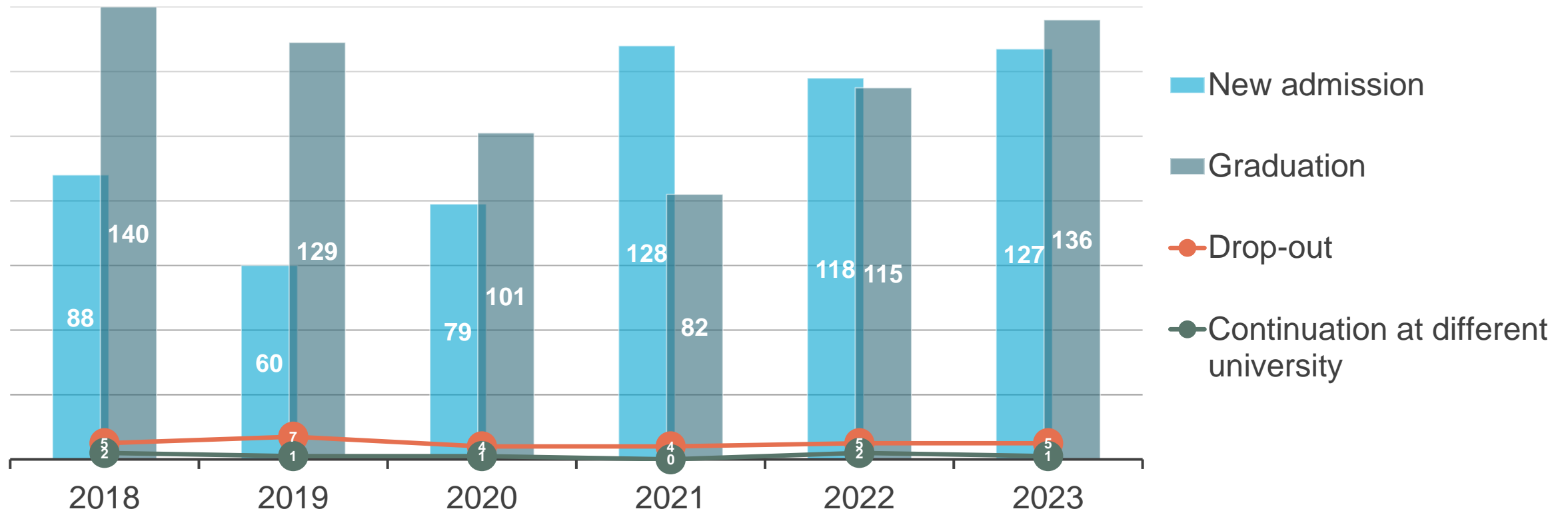
\*two programs did not record gender information during recruitment

Data source: Freie Universität's enrollment database and DRS application platform

# Regions of origin of DRS researchers

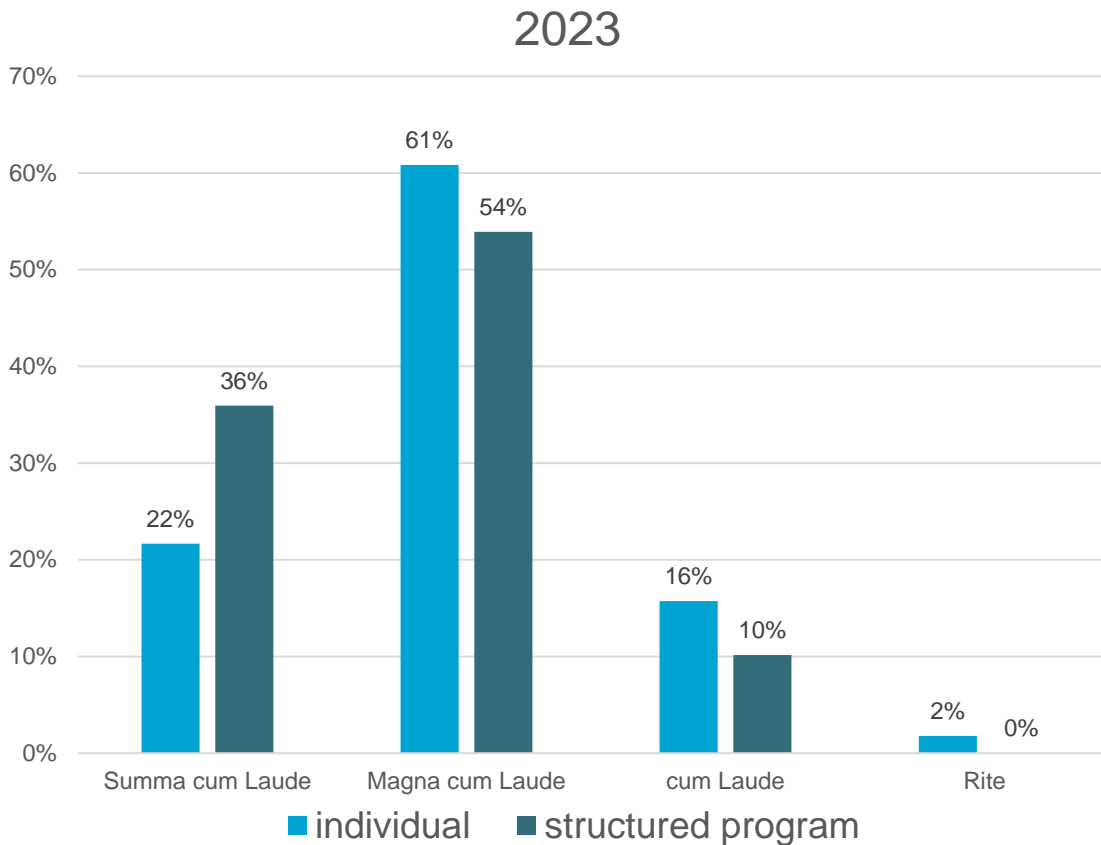
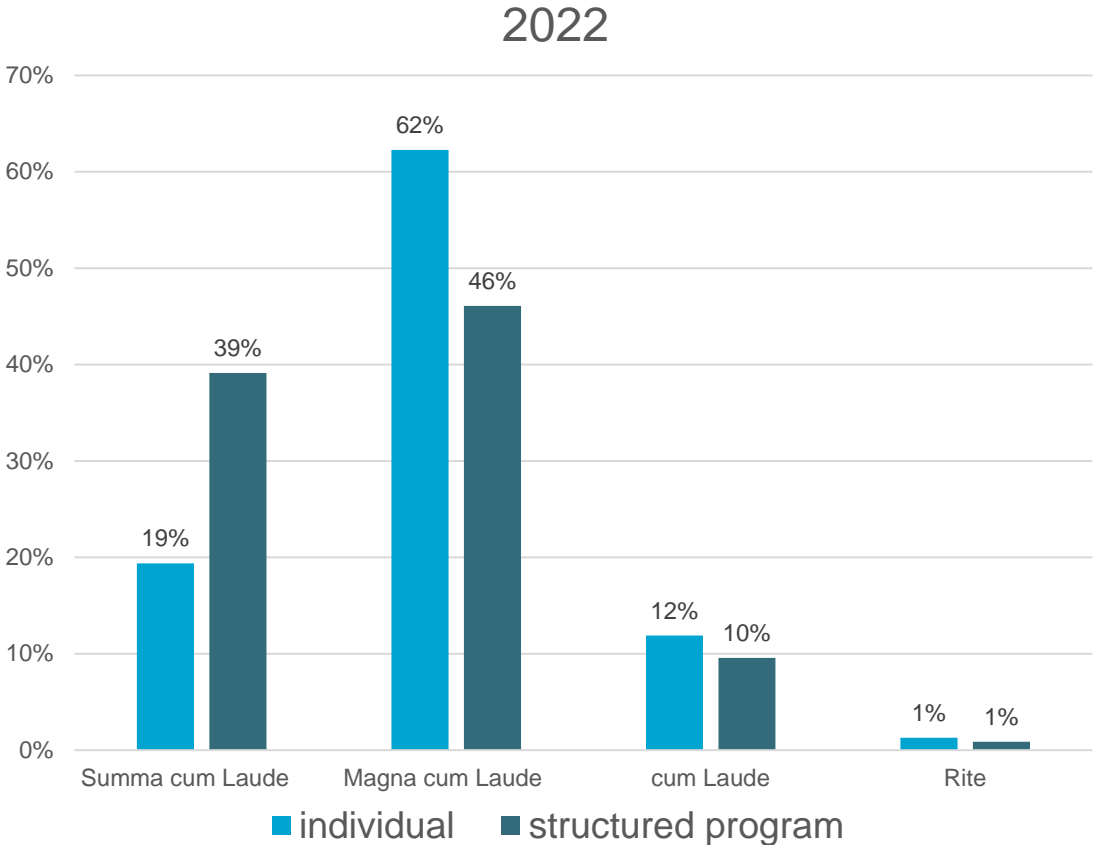


# Trend: New admissions/graduations/drop-outs in DRS programs (drop-out ratio 5/100)



Data source: Freie Universität's enrollment database

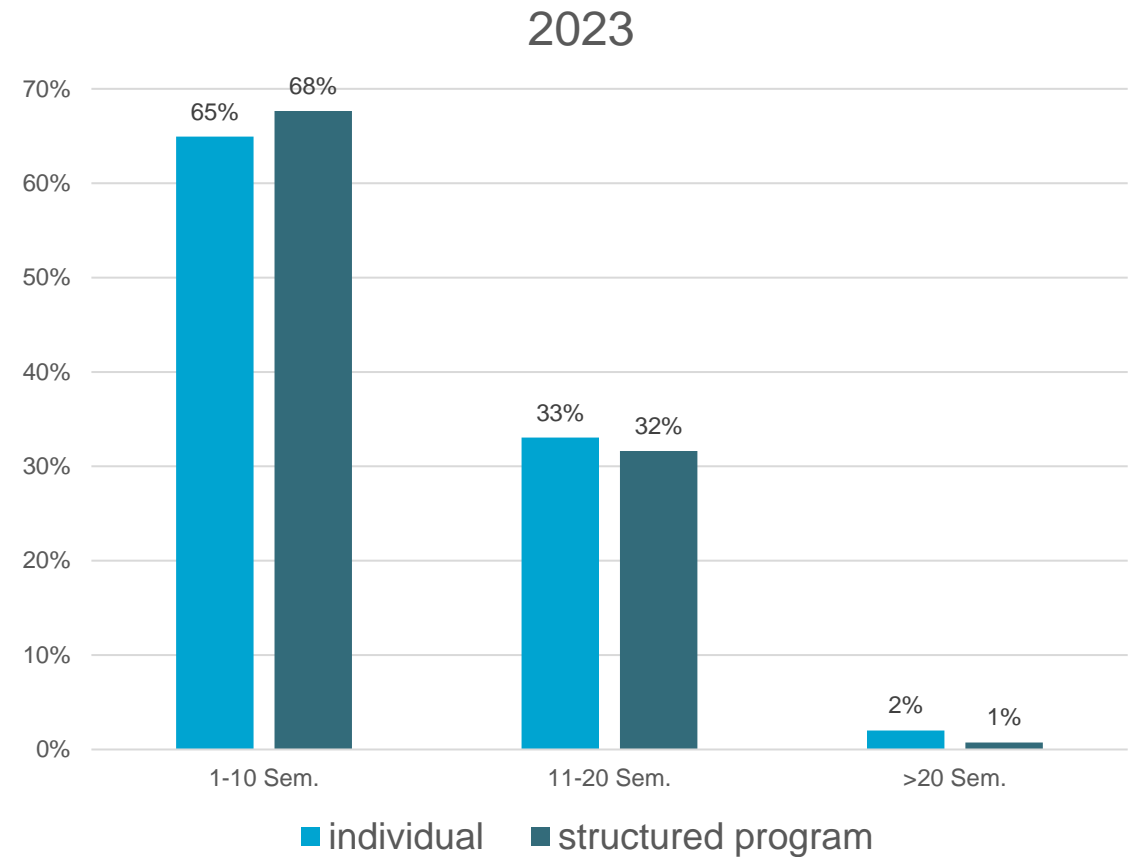
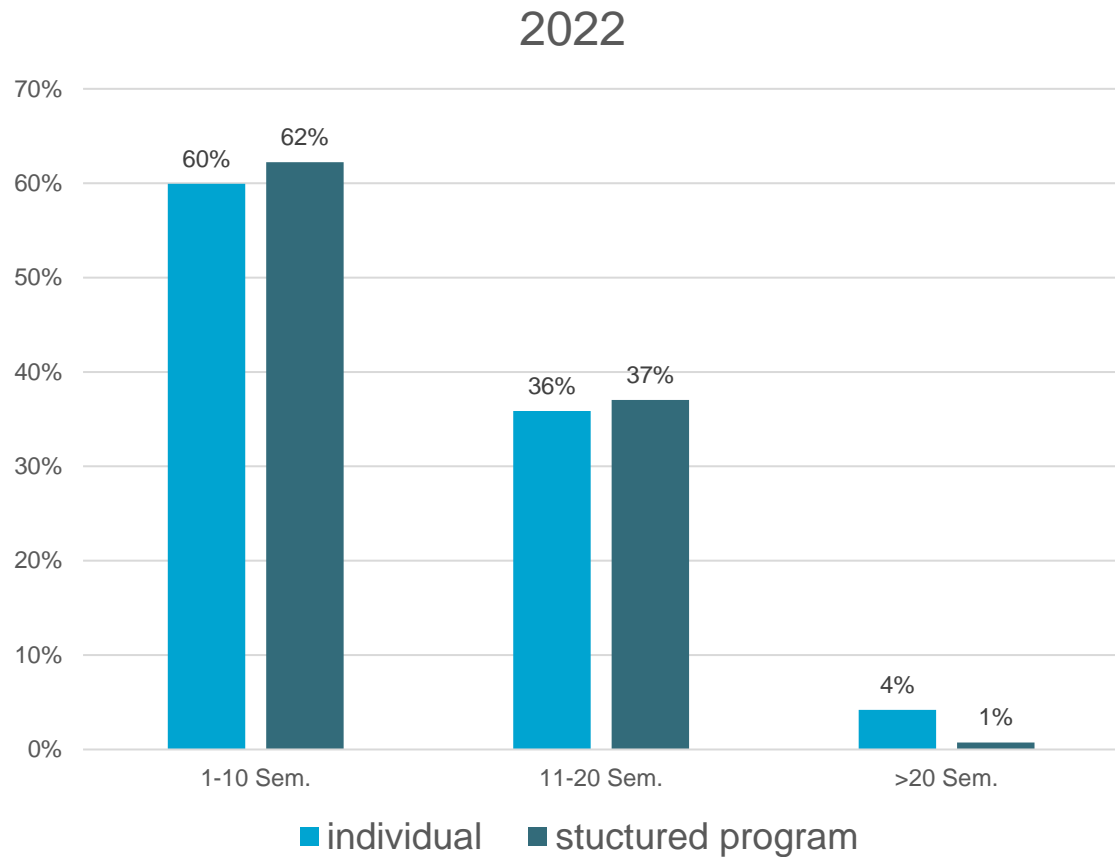
# Grades: individual/structured doctorates



Data source: Freie Universität's exam database



# Duration: individual/structured doctorates





# DRS Award for Excellent Supervision

Each year, Dahlem Research School awards two professors from Freie Universität Berlin for outstanding supervision. Doctoral researchers from DRS member programs can nominate their supervisors for the DRS Award for Excellent Supervision.

Nominations are evaluated based on four criteria: supervision of the doctoral thesis, provision of research infrastructure, integration into the scientific community, and career guidance. A selection panel of doctoral researchers and DRS staff reviews the anonymized proposals and selects the awardees. Each award includes a grant of 2,000 Euros to support junior researchers.

## Winners of 2022

Prof. Dr. Birgit Krawietz  
Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies

Prof. Dr. Kevin Pagel  
Molecular Science

## Winners of 2023

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Reiher  
Graduate School of East Asian Studies

Prof. Dr. Christian Lammert  
Graduate School of North American Studies

# Excellence Graduate Schools: Evaluation

In January 2022, the Executive Board appointed a commission of internal and external experts, chaired by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Jochen Schiewer, to assess the value of the former Excellence Graduate Schools for Freie Universität and provide funding recommendations.

DRS coordinated the work of the commission, the final report of which was presented in May 2022.

The report showed that the Graduate Schools are outstanding institutions that make the university internationally visible and fulfill the expectation of qualifying exceptional doctoral researchers within an excellent research environment. It recommended that:

- the core funding should be continued with the understanding that the Graduate Schools should

increasingly support themselves by applying for external funding formats.

- the link between Graduate Schools and Clusters of Excellence should be strengthened where possible and appropriate.

The Executive Board decided on this basis to continue funding the Graduate Schools for up to seven years and to re-evaluate after that time.

# DISSERTATION PRIZES

## ERNST-REUTER-PRIZES FOR OUTSTANDING DISSERTATIONS

The Ernst-Reuter-Prizes, named after the former mayor of Berlin, Ernst Reuter, one of the founders of Freie Universität. The awards, each worth 5,000 euros, are sponsored by the Ernst Reuter Society of Friends, Sponsors, and Alumni of Freie Universität Berlin. The selection process is coordinated by Dahlem Research School.

### 2023

Dr. Lisa Ehlers, Charité University Medicine Berlin  
Dr. Timon Foster, PhD, Political and Social Sciences  
Hanna Zoe Trauer, History and Cultural Studies  
Dr. Chiara Pasquini, Physics



### 2022

Dr. Christof Albert Bertram, PhD, Veterinary Medicine  
Dr. Ryanne Flock, History and Cultural Studies  
Dr. Michael Giesen, Political and Social Sciences  
Dr. Merlin Kleoff, Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy  
Dr. Sophie Metz, Education and Psychology

## TIBURTIUS-PRIZES FOR OUTSTANDING FINAL THESES AND DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

The Tiburtius-Prize, named after Professor Joachim Tiburtius, the Senator for National Education in Berlin 1951-1963, is awarded annually by the State Conference of Rectors and Presidents of Berlin Universities for outstanding final theses and doctoral dissertations. Three master's theses and six doctoral dissertations are honored. The selection process is coordinated by Dahlem Research School.

### 2023

Dr. Kurt Hoffmann, Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy, FUB: second prize  
Dr. Yi Zhu, Political and Social Sciences, FUB: third prize  
Dr. Daniela Stoltenberg, Political and Social Sciences, FUB: recognition award.

### 2022

Dr. Marion Acker, Philosophy and Humanities, FUB: recognition award.

Landeskonzferenz  
der Rektoren und Präsidenten  
der Berliner Hochschulen

# ELSA NEUMANN SCHOLARSHIP



The Elsa-Neumann-Scholarship provides funding for doctoral researchers at the four Berlin universities. Elsa Neumann was the first woman to receive a doctoral degree from a Berlin University.

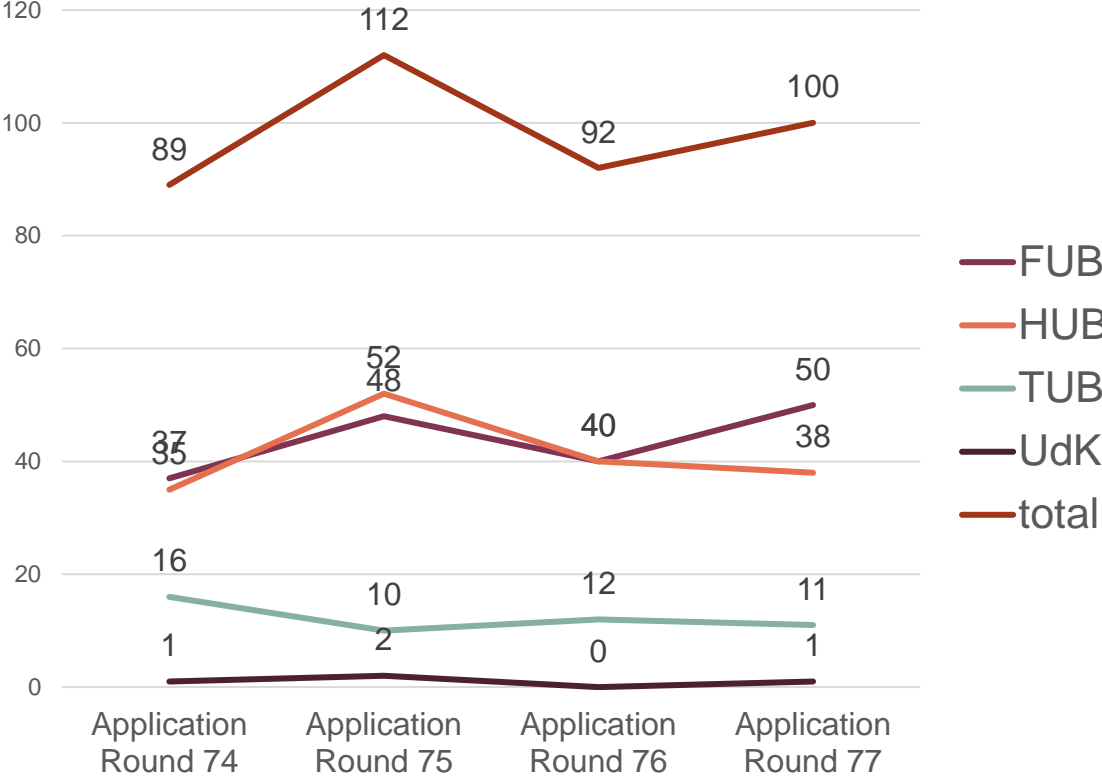
To have a chance of success, an applicant's academic performance must be far above average. The doctoral project must make an important contribution to the candidate's field of research.

Scholarship decisions are made by an inter-university Committee for the Allocation of Doctoral Grants whose members are appointed by the Senator responsible for Higher Education in Berlin.

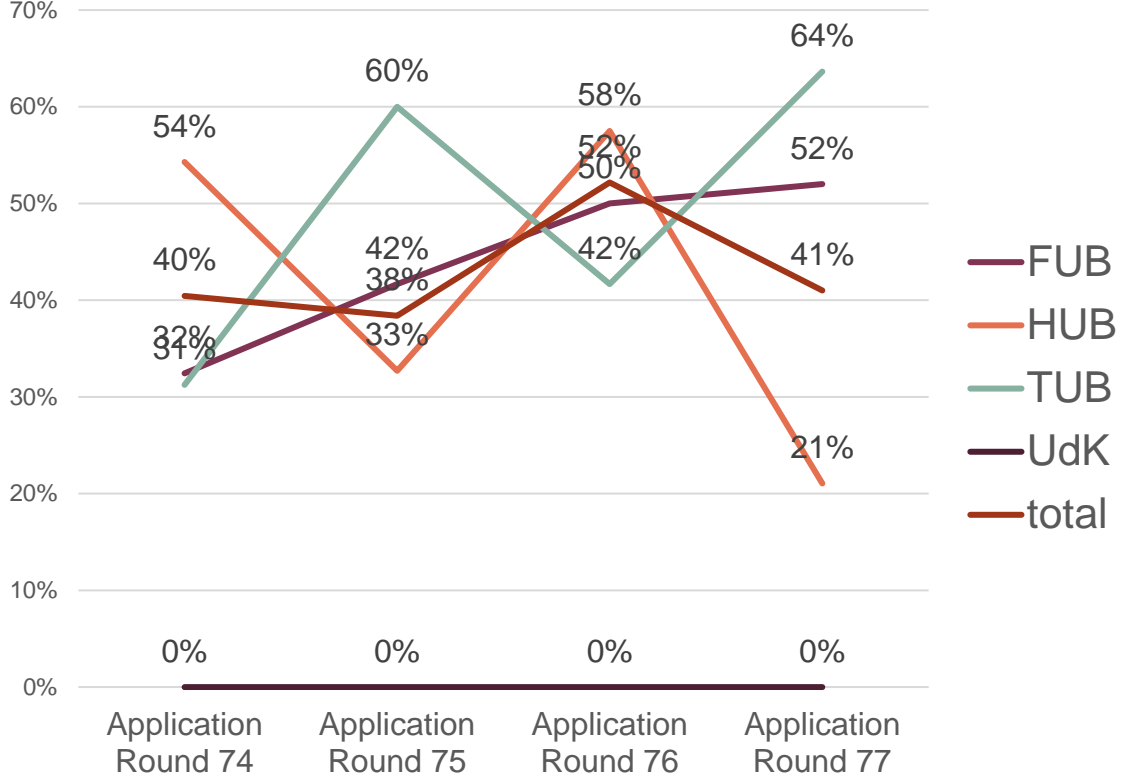


# Elsa Neumann Scholarship 2022-2023 (four application rounds)

Applications by university



Admission rates by university

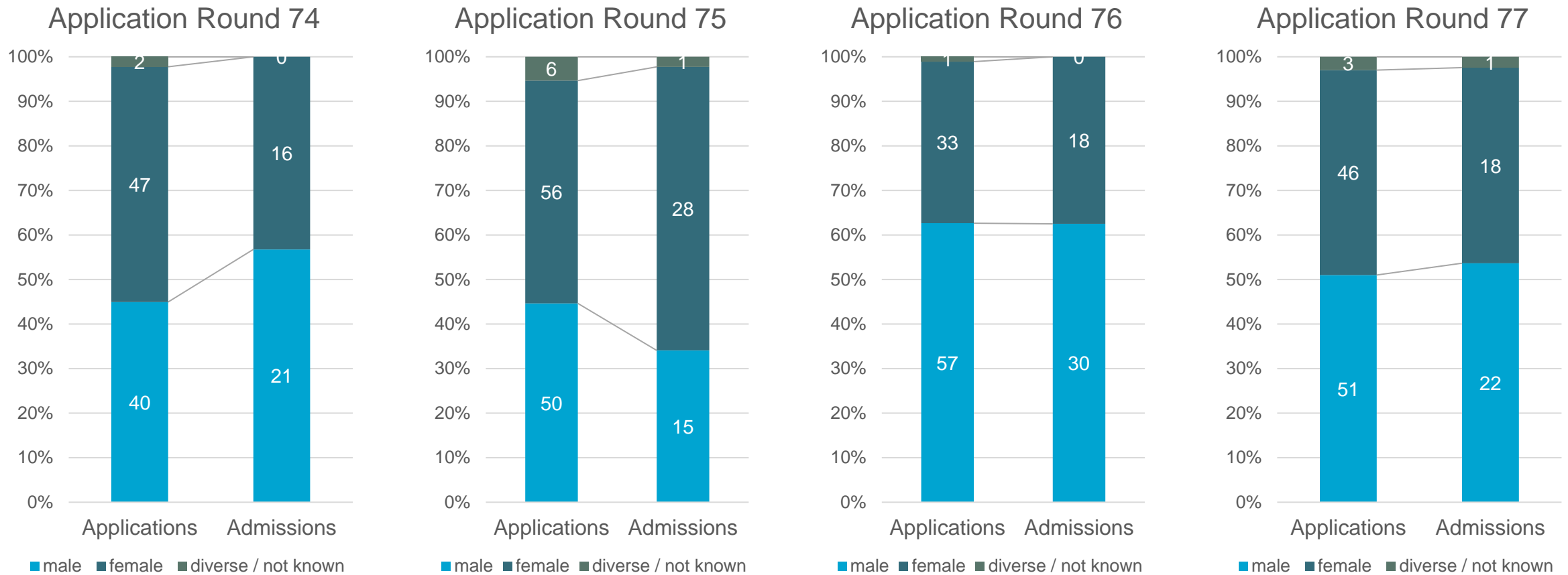


Data source: Elsa Neumann Scholarship Office



# Elsa Neumann Scholarship 2022-2023

## (by gender)

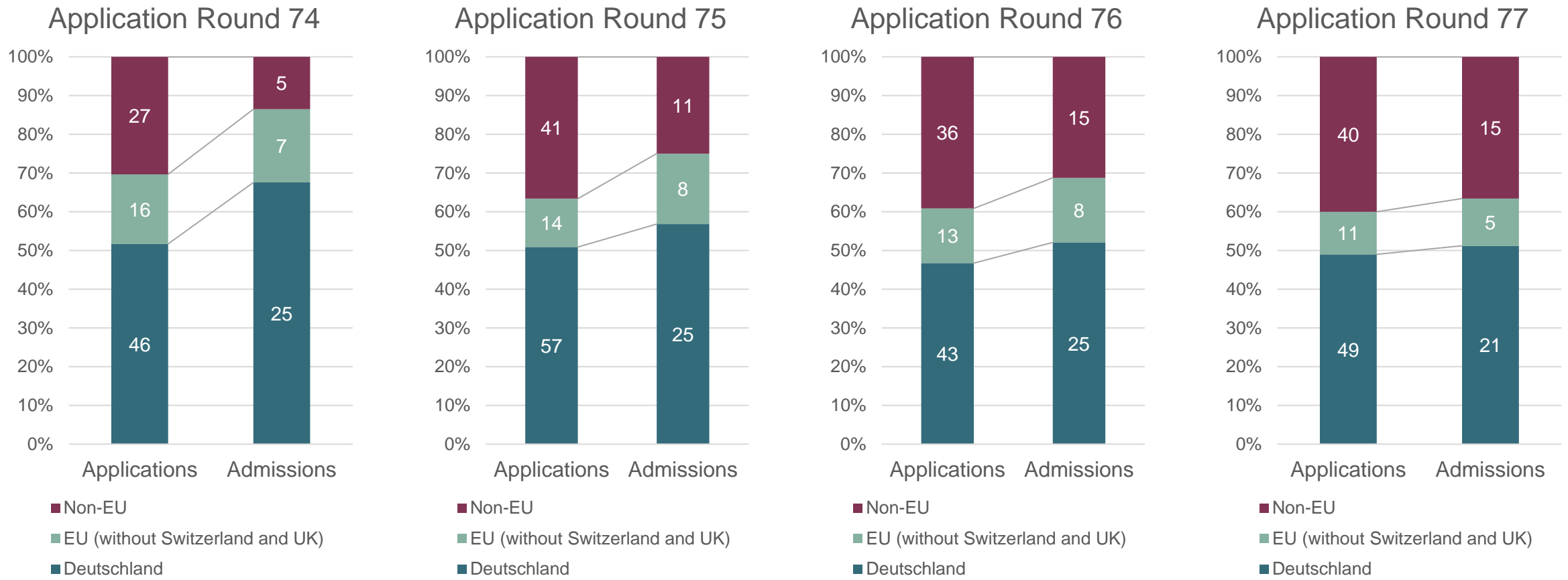


Data source: Elsa Neumann Scholarship Office



# Elsa Neumann Scholarship 2022-2023

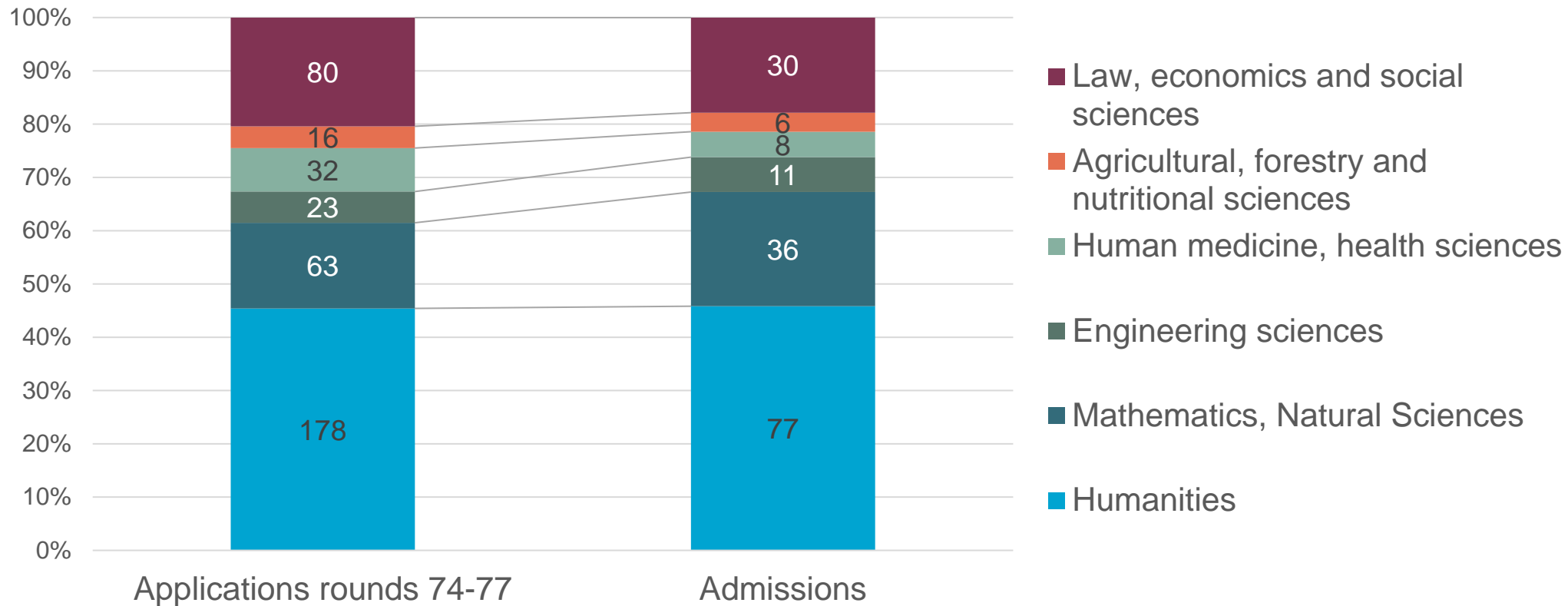
## (by nationality)



Data source: Elsa Neumann Scholarship Office

# Elsa Neumann Scholarship 2022-2023 (by subject group)

Applications and admissions by subject group



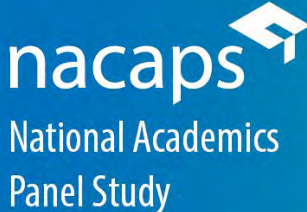
# NATIONAL ACADEMICS PANEL STUDY

Freie Universität has been part of the National Academic Panel Study (Nacaps) by the German Center for Research on Higher Education and Science (DZHW) since 2018.


Nacaps collects data on the career paths of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in Germany.

So far, around 40,000 doctoral researchers from 60 universities have participated. Over 40 indicators were collected across seven topics, including employment conditions, doctorate structure, motivation, and career strategies.

In 2023, of 1244 invited doctoral researchers (those enrolled and admitted at Freie Universität between December 2, 2020 and December 1, 2022) 536 participated, a response rate of about 43%.



**Doing your doctorate?**  
**Why you should participate in the Nacaps survey:**



**You'll help to underpin arguments with facts**

[www.nacaps.de](http://www.nacaps.de) **DZHW.**

# Nacaps Survey 2023 @ Freie Universität Berlin

## Sociodemographics and conditions (n=458\*)

Sociodemographics	
Female	57%
International	44%
One or more children	10%
At least one parent holds a doctorate	14%
At least one parent holds a university degree	47%
Neither parent holds a doctorate or university degree	38%

Conditions	
Employment at Freie Universität Berlin	32%
Employment at other university or external research institution	24%
Scholarship	29%
Other funding	15%
Structured Program	46%
One supervisor	42%
Two or more supervisors	58%

\*Participants who still actively pursue their doctorate and who completed the whole survey

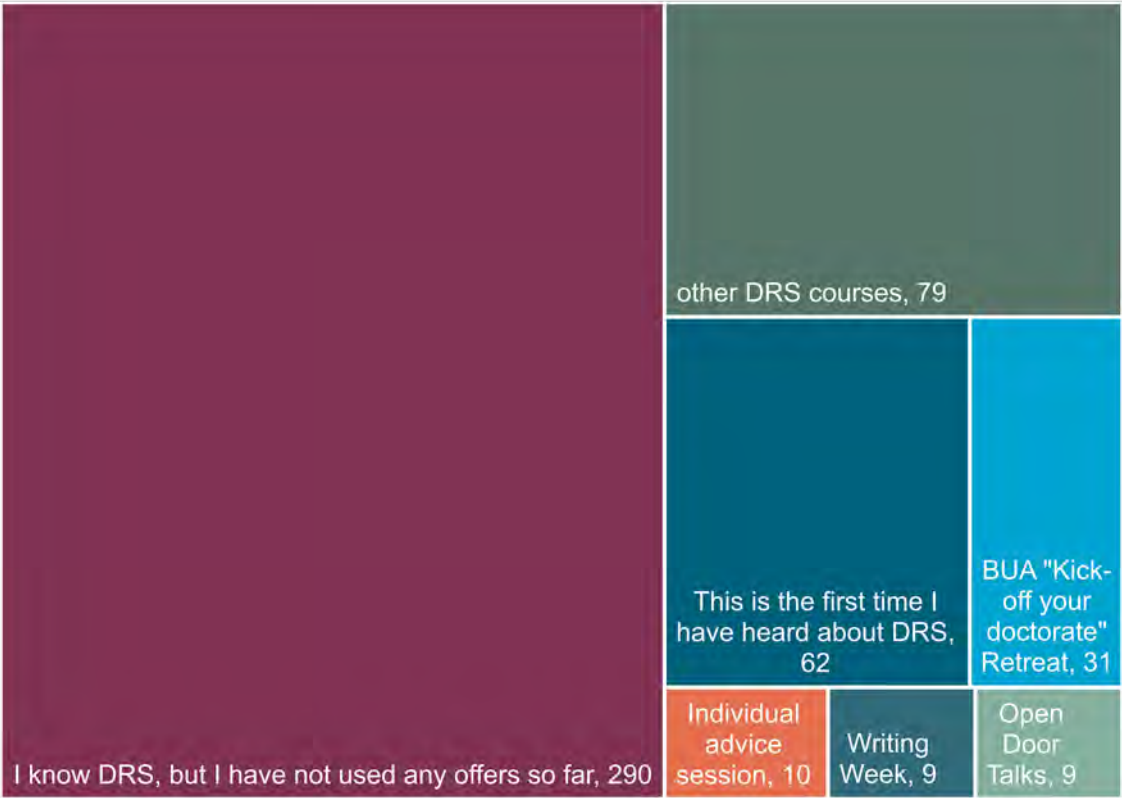
# Nacaps Survey 2023 @ Freie Universität Berlin: courses and lectures for doctoral researchers at own university (n=458)



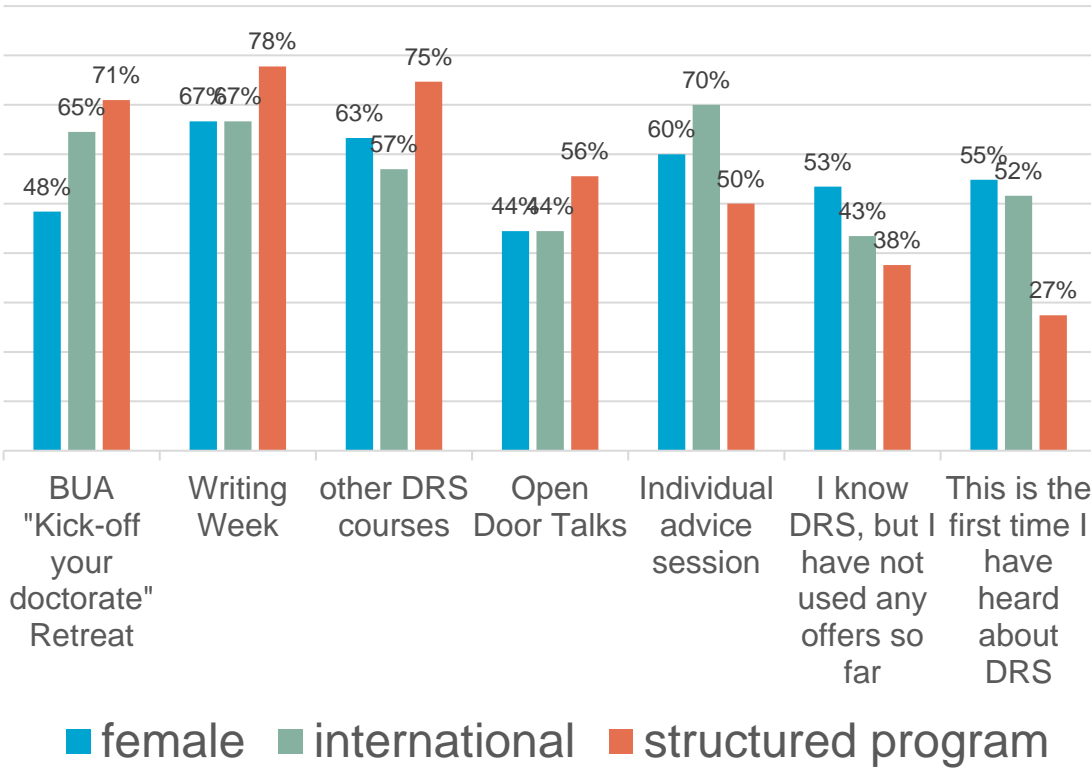
Data source: DZHW, National Academics Panel Study 2023

# Nacaps Survey 2023 @ Freie Universität Berlin (n=536, unfiltered)

Use of DRS offers



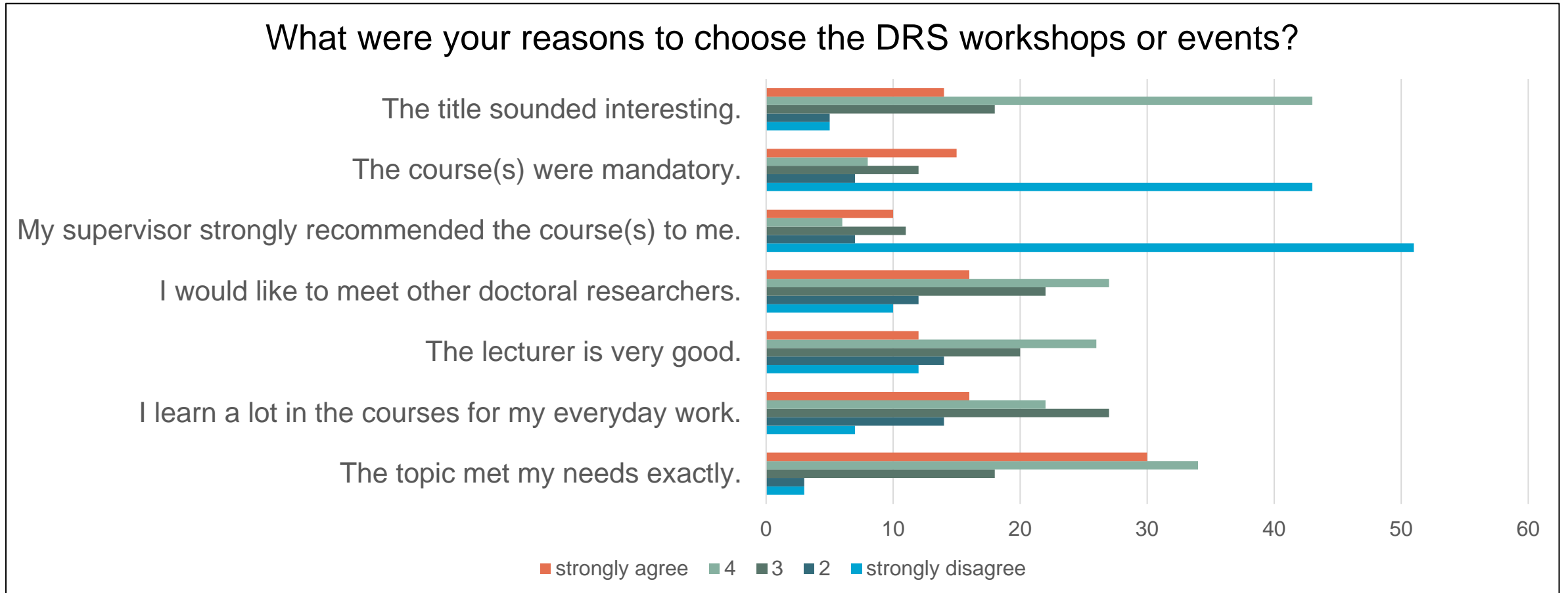
Use of DRS offers, share of total in %



Data source: DZHW, National Academics Panel Study 2023 – University specific questions



# Nacaps Survey 2023 @ Freie Universität Berlin (n=536, unfiltered)



# Future Developments

Looking ahead to 2024, we expect the creation of a **Doctoral Council** as stipulated in the amendment of the Berlin Higher Education Act of 2021. After a comprehensive and participatory development process, the Academic Senate of Freie Universität will approve the new Doctoral Council Statutes in early 2024 and the first elections should take place shortly afterwards. DRS will support the preparations for the elections as well as the establishment of and subsequently

the actions of the Doctoral Council. Also coming up in 2024, is the appointment of a **Scientific Advisory Board** for the Dahlem Research School. The Board will consist of three international and three national experts from other research institutions. It will advise on quality standards, the support of researchers in their early qualification and career phase, and make recommendations for the further development of DRS.

## Published by

Freie Universität Berlin  
Dahlem Research School  
Hittorfstr. 16  
14195 Berlin  
[www.fu-berlin.de/drs](http://www.fu-berlin.de/drs)

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