



How to apply to Grad School

in Social Science

A digital Autumn School for aspiring researchers

from non-academic families

For many, applying to graduate school is the start of an international career in academia. However, writing a convincing application is an art that must be learned. This is exactly what the SCRIPTS Digital Autumn School (DAS) aims to support you with. It will prepare you for any Social Sciences Grad School. You will have the opportunity to work on your own exposé and receive feedback from a coach. Additionally, you will get an introduction to the German Academic System. Check out the full program on the next page.

WHO CAN APPLY

- You finished or are about to finish your Master's degree
- You are the first in your family to do so
- Your academic background is either in Social Sciences, Humanities, Law, Area Studies, or Economics

HOW TO APPLY

- Cover letter indicating your motivation for pursuing a PhD and your current topic of interest [1 Page](#)
- Short academic CV [1 Page](#)
- Email your documents to BIRT@scripts-berlin.eu with *Application DAS* in the subject line
- Deadline for application: September 26, 2025 (2 p.m., Berlin time)



CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

Contestations of the Liberal Script

ABOUT US

The Cluster of Excellence “Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)” is a research consortium that analyses why the liberal model of order has fallen into crisis despite its political, economic, and social achievements. Funded by the German Research Foundation since 2019, SCRIPTS is based at the Freie Universität Berlin and unites eight Berlin-based research institutes.

The Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies (BGTS) is the unit within SCRIPTS providing junior researchers with an enriching environment to pursue their doctoral studies. To learn more about the BGTS, please visit our website: www.scripts-berlin.eu/birt/bgts/index.html

Digital Autumn School 2025 – Preliminary Programme

October 13 – Introduction & Application to a Grad School

- Welcome and Introduction
- Introduction of the BGTS
- How to apply to a Grad School of Social Sciences
- Application Documents
- Outlook for the coming days

October 14 – Exposé Writing

- Workshop “How to write an exposé” Part 1

October 15 – Exposé Writing

- Workshop “How to write an exposé” Part 2

October 16 – Exposé Writing and Introduction to the German Academic System

- Workshop “How to write an exposé” Part 3
- Introduction to the German Academic System (tbd)
 - Introduction to the German Academic System
 - Tips for an outstanding application

October 21 – Graduate School as a First-Generation Academic

- Graduate School as a First-Generation Academic
- Open Discussion
- End of the Day

November 18 – Review of the Exposés

- Workshop “How to write an exposé” Part 4
- Presentation of the Exposés

November 19 – Review of the Exposés

- Workshop “How to write an exposé” Part 5
- Presentation of the Exposés
- Opportunities at the BGTS + Q&A