



GERMAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE | Freie Universität Berlin · Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Pursuing Graduate Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and LMU Munich

Webinar, January 25, 2017

Katja Simons, Executive Director

German University Alliance, New York City



Tweet us @germanuniv



Like us on Facebook German University Alliance

www.germanuniversities.org

Why American Students Are Flocking to Germany — and Staying

by ANDY ECKARDT and CARLO ANGERER




WNYC RADIO

For Americans Seeking Affordable Degrees, German Schools Beckon

June 28, 2015 · 10:55 AM ET

Heard on [Weekend Edition Sunday](#)

Sections 

The Washington Post

Tuition to U.S. universities has surged 500 percent since 1985 and continues to rise. But German universities [offer](#) free education to everyone -- including Americans.


BBC

 Sign in

Menu 

Search

NEWS

[Home](#) | [Video](#) | [World](#) | [US & Canada](#) | [UK](#) | [Business](#) | [Tech](#) | [Science](#) | [Magazine](#) | [Entertainment & Arts](#) | [Health](#) | [More](#) 

[Magazine](#)

How US students get a university degree for free in Germany

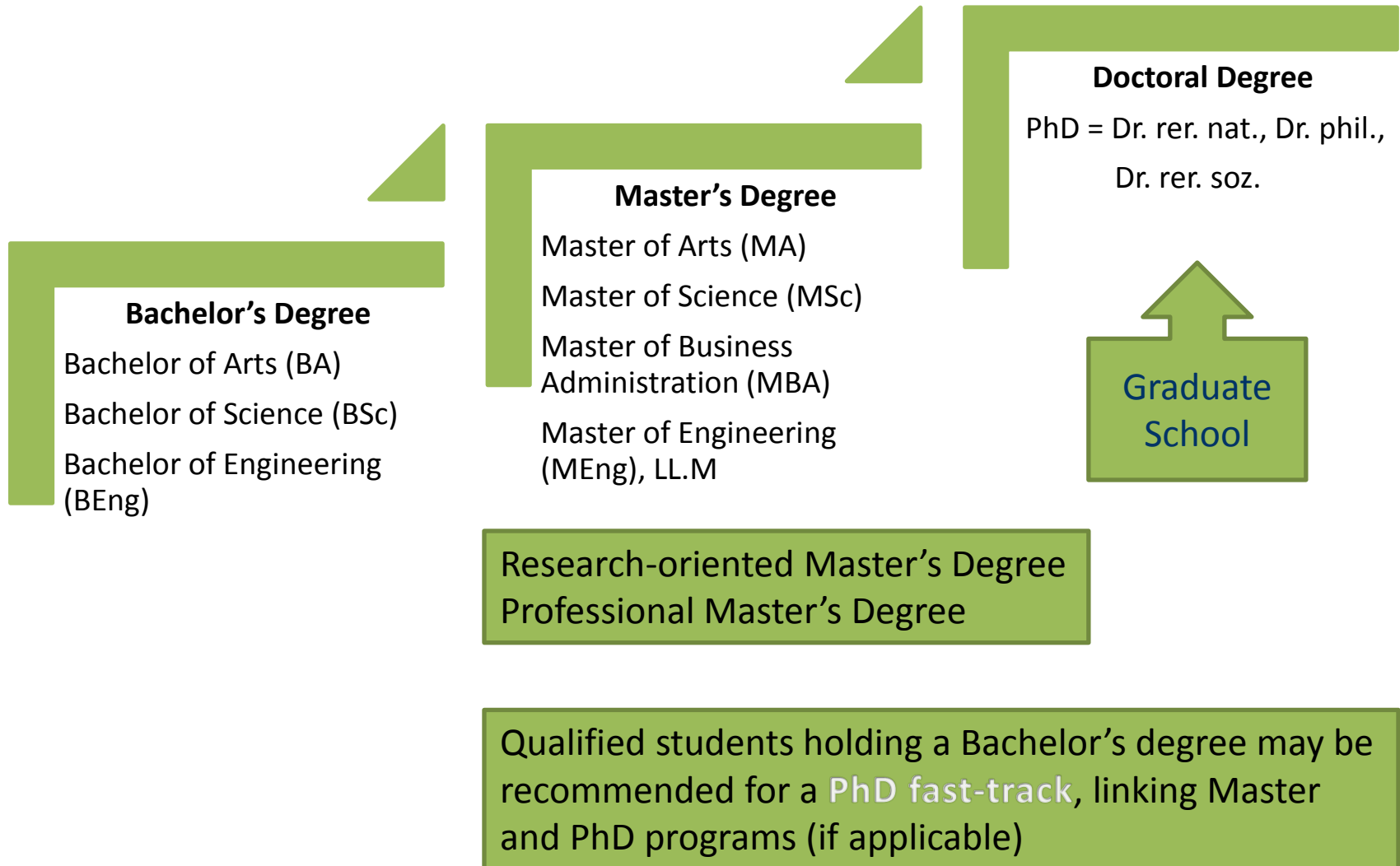
By Emma Strassman

Top Reasons for Pursuing Graduate Studies in Germany



1. Top degrees recognized around the world
2. Many programs offered in English
3. Studying internationally broadens the borders of any field
4. Low tuition fees, or none at all
5. Welcome & support structures in place

Three Cycles: Academic Degree Structure





Language Requirements

International Master Programs

- Growing number of programs taught in English
- No proof of German skills required
- Proficiency in English does not need to be certified if BA from institution with English as official language or if native speaker

German-taught Master Programs

- Submit proof of language proficiency
- German Language Certificates, e.g.:
 - “Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang” (DSH)
 - “TestDaF” (can be taken in the US, www.testdaf.de)

Other languages may be required for certain subject fields;
check which language certificates are accepted by university

Applying to a Master Program



Application procedures and requirements vary (check online)

=> submit application directly to university (LMU Munich)

=> apply via the online portal Uni Assist [uni-assist.de] (FU Berlin)

- Undergraduate degree in specific fields of study required
- Submit online application form, proof of language proficiency, supporting documents (e.g. CV, transcripts of records incl. final grade, letter of motivation & reference)
- Application deadlines vary for summer semester (April-Sept) and for winter semester (Oct-Mar)

Doctorate in Germany – Different Options



Individual Doctoral Studies

Apprenticeship Model

The doctoral candidate



...has a supervisor

...is free to choose a subject

...has no timely limitations

...has no curriculum to follow

86 % of all doctoral candidates

Doctoral Programs

Structured Doctorate

The doctoral candidate



...has a team of supervisors

...is integrated into a network

...has a time frame (3 years)

...has a complementary curriculum

...has a supervision agreement

14% of all doctoral candidates

Applying for individual doctoral studies



Steps:

- Independent search for a supervisor
- Receipt of a confirmation of supervision from the supervisor or conclusion of a supervision agreement
- Request for acceptance as a doctoral candidate at the examination office
- Receipt of a notification of acceptance as a doctoral candidate
- Enrollment: Applicants with a foreign university degree: Submitting a request for university admission to the International Office

Funding: Discuss funding options with supervisor

Applying for a doctorate in a structured program



Steps:

- Selection of a suitable doctoral program
- Application by respective deadline
- Participation in the competitive selection process
- In the event of successful application, the program provides support in the further administrative steps (e.g. applying for the additionally required acceptance as a doctoral candidate at the faculty, and possibly in the enrollment process).

Funding: check what kind of financial support program can offer / position in a structured program, grant/scholarships



Cost of living and studying



Berlin

- Mostly tuition-free programs
- Semester fee €310 (includes public transportation ticket)
- Mandatory health Insurance for students (€80/month)
- Average costs of living about €700/month (rent, food, phone fees)

Munich

- Mostly tuition-free programs
- Semester fee €120 (includes basic public transportation, excludes IsarCard €189)
- Mandatory health insurance for students (€80/month)
- Average cost of living about €900/month (rent, food, phone fees)

Accommodation: Start your hunt early!

Look for information on “housing” on the university’s website

Short-term or Research Opportunities



Summer /Winter University

- FUBiS (International Summer and Winter University, www.fubis.org)
- MISU (Munich International Summer University and Winter, www.lmu.de/international/misu)

Research Grants

- DAAD: Study Scholarship or Research Grants (www.daad.org)
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program: Study/Research Awards (us.fulbrightonline.org)

Freie Universität Berlin

International Network University

www.fu-berlin.de/en



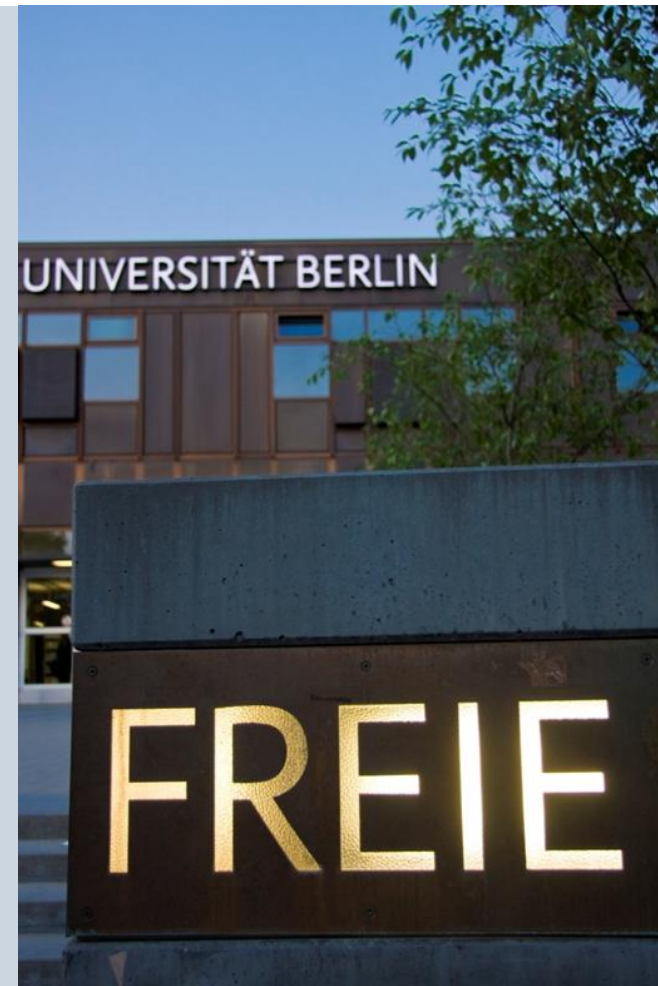


- German capital at the heart of Europe
- One of the world's top 10 best cities for students
- Booming economy and exciting startup scene



Freie Universität - Profile

- Selected twice as a German University of Excellence
- THE Ranking: from rank 151 in 2011 to 72 in 2016
- Unique: „Area Studies“ on North America, Latin America, Eastern Europe, East Asia, Muslim Cultures & Societies
- Further foci within the Excellence Initiative: Ancient Civilizations, Literary Studies, Mathematics, Nanoscale Materials, Neuroscience, Oncology, Regenerative Therapies
- Over 30,500 students and 4300 doctoral candidates
- About 105 master's degree programs (including 24 taught in English); 50 doctoral degree programs
- 20 % of int'l students in master's programs (17 % of the students overall), 32 % int'l doctoral candidates



Master and Doctoral Programs

- Master Programs & Doctoral Degree:
www.fu-berlin.de => Education => Study Programs
- Online Assistant for choosing field of study
www.osa.fu-berlin.de
(program description, examples of modules and tasks, interviews with current students, self-assessment test)

OSA M.Sc. Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience

START	PROGRAM	MODULES	EXEMPLARY TASKS	UNIVERSITY LIFE	APPLY?
-------	---------	---------	-----------------	-----------------	--------

OSA M.A. Sociology – European Societies

START	PROGRAM	MODULES	EXEMPLARY TASKS	UNIVERSITY LIFE	PROSPECTS	APPLY?
-------	---------	---------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------	--------



International Master's Programs (examples)

MSc Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neurosciences

COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES

Department of History and Cultural Studies /

MA INTELLECTUAL ENCOUNTERS OF THE ISLAMICATE WORLD

M.Sc. Environmental Earth Sciences

Chemistry (Master)

GLOBAL
HISTORY
MA

MASTER OF ARTS "SOCIOLOGY – EUROPEAN SOCIETIES"

EAST EUROPEAN
STUDIES ONLINE

INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS
ONLINE



Graduate Schools at Freie Universität Berlin

Berlin School of Integrative Oncology



 **GRADUATE SCHOOL**
OF NORTH AMERICAN STUDIES



 **BERLINER**
ANTIKE-
KOLLEG



 **Berlin**
Mathematical
School
Join the BMS family

Graduate School of
East Asian Studies



FRIEDRICH SCHLEGEL
GRADUATE SCHOOL
of Literary Studies

Dahlem Research School (DRS)

Freie Universität's Center for Early Career Researchers
Structured doctoral programs under one overarching framework

Services for doctoral candidates:

- Welcome services for (international) fellows
- Information & advice
- Mentoring for female candidates
- Develop research related skills and management competencies
- Career development support for careers inside and outside academia




DRS Support for international candidates



The logo of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU), featuring the letters 'LMU' in white on a green background.

LMU

LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

A wide-angle photograph of the interior of a grand theater, likely the Theater an der Oper in Munich. The stage is at the far end, featuring a large, ornate mural. The audience seating is filled with rows of wooden chairs. The architecture is classical, with high ceilings and large windows.

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
www.en.uni-muenchen.de





Munich



Munich is

...Bavaria's capital

...Germany's primary hub for higher education, research, technology and media

...located within easy reach of the Bavarian Alps



LMU Munich – one of Europe's leading research universities with over 500 years of tradition:

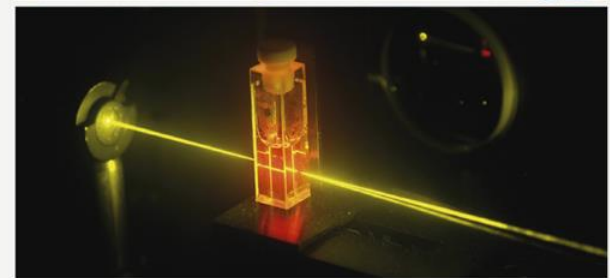
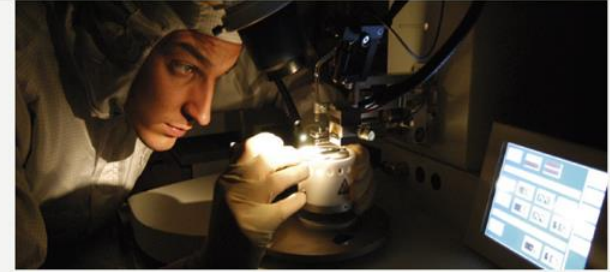
- Selected twice as German University of Excellence
- THE Ranking: 30th place, best German university
- Research focus areas: Ancient Studies, Area Studies with an emphasis on Eastern Europe, Nano Sciences, Origin of the Universe, Photonics and Quantum Optics, Molecular Biosystems, Neurosciences, Protein Sciences, Translational Health Science
- 51,025 students (15% international students), 1,270 doctoral degrees awarded each year
- More than 130 Master Programs (incl. 24 taught entirely in English-taught)
- More than 35 Doctoral Programs



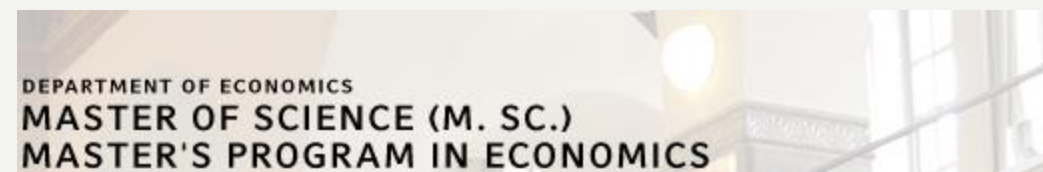
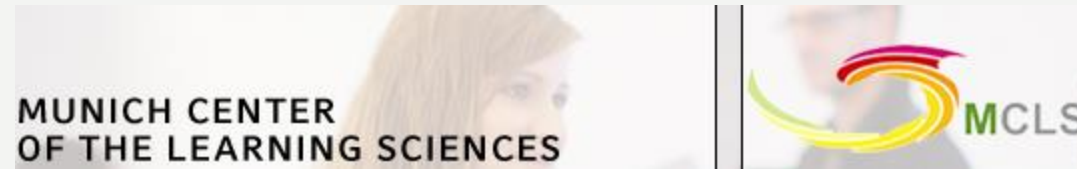
Master Programs: www.lmu.de => Students =>
Degree Students => Master Programs

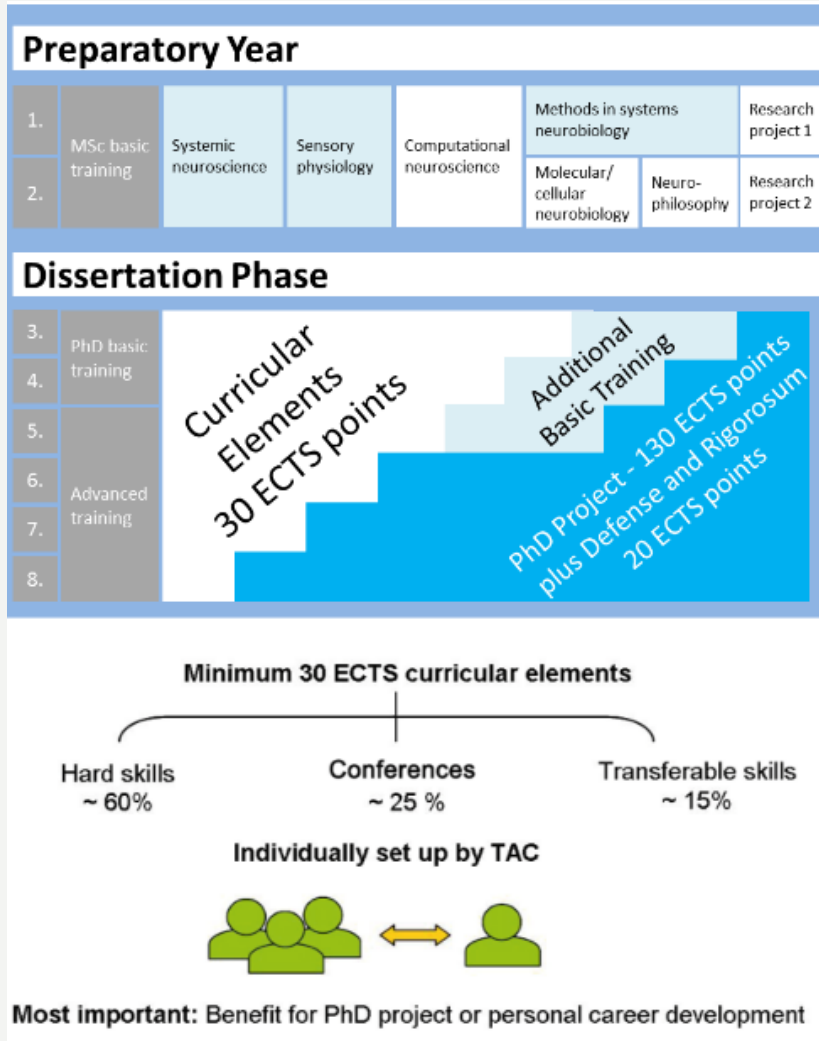
Doctoral Programs: www.graduatecenter.uni-muenchen.de

For further information on the academic focus of a program as well as the application procedures and closing dates, please refer to the website of the specific program.



Examples of Master Programs





The Graduate School of Neurosciences (GSN) offers the opportunity for especially qualified applicants holding a neuroscience related bachelor's degree to directly enter the PhD program. Students requiring preparatory training may be admitted to the fast-track PhD program. During the first two semesters of the fast-track program (preparatory year), students receive basic training in neuroscience, which is in close collaboration with the GSN master's programs (Neurosciences and Neurocognitive Psychology).

Examples of Structured Doctoral Programs



Graduate School
for East and Southeast
European Studies

GS DW



Graduate School
Distant Worlds

FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
GRADUATE SCHOOL
LANGUAGE & LITERATURE MUNICH



Graduate School of
Quantitative Biosciences Munich



mgse*

FACULTY OF BIOLOGY

GRADUATE SCHOOL
LIFE SCIENCE MUNICH



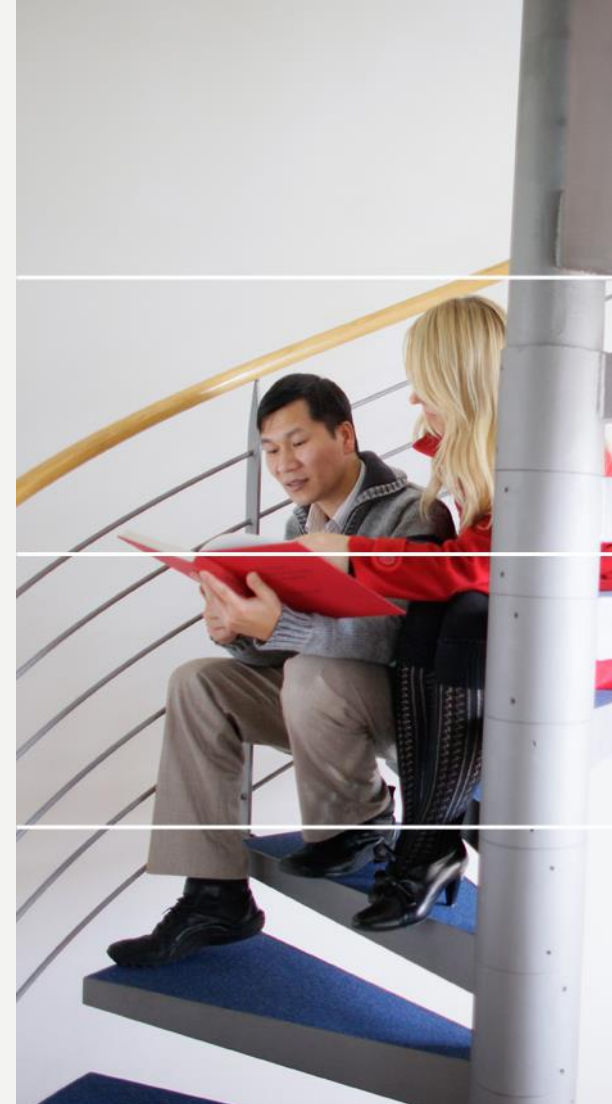
LMU Graduate Center – Doctoral Studies

The Graduate Center is the central coordination and service unit for doctoral studies at LMU Munich. It offers advice and support for doctoral students as well as for professors and coordinators of doctoral programs. LMU Munich currently offers more than 35 doctoral programs in a broad range of disciplines. In addition, the university cooperates with other institutions on a doctoral level.

Services for doctoral students:

- general information on doctorates at LMU Munich
- wide range of courses in transferable skills
- LMU Completion Grant
- Travel Grant

www.en.graduatecenter.lmu.de





GERMAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE | Freie Universität Berlin · Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

For more information:

Katja Simons

German University Alliance

871 United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

Tel.: 212.758.3392

Email: Simons@GermanUniversities.org



Tweet us @germanuniv



Like us on Facebook: German University Alliance