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WALTER BENJAMIN KOLLEG



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**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

GLOBAL STUDIES | GS
DOCTORAL PROGRAM



Graduate School of the Humanities

Doctoral programs must ask how they can encourage risk taking and intellectual adventurousness while fostering the importance of precision and rigor. For rigor must not be permitted to dominate the personality of a future investigator so that the speculative and conjectural courage needed to do good science is destroyed. Programs must model, practice, and reward risk taking.

– Yehuda Elkana

The Faculty of Humanities of the University of Bern established the interdisciplinary Graduate School of the Humanities (GSH) at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg in spring 2015. The GSH brings together three doctoral programs which had already previously existed, with an over-all total of 85 doctoral students from all disciplines of the Faculty. Twice a year, the GSH admits graduate students from any field in the humanities, cultural studies, and social sciences to one of its three inter- and trans-disciplinary doctoral programs (Global Studies, Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies, Studies in Language and Society). Once part of one of the programs, a member can get his/her desired degree in six to eight terms (20 ECTS).

Promotion and Networking

The GSH promotes the exchange and networking with other peers both from inside and outside the University as well as within the international scientific community. It offers educational modules of outstanding quality, a wide range of counseling, administrative and financial support for the organization of or the participation in conferences, practical additional qualifications (soft skill classes) and professional workspaces at Unitobler.

Doctoral Programs

All three of the doctoral programs at the GSH encourage a critical examination of issues, themes, concepts, theories and methods which transcend individual disciplines and as such serve to fully integrate the process of writing a doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Humanities into a highly innovative academic context. The aim is to provide an outstanding inter- and transdisciplinary education centering on the writing of a qualitatively excellent doctoral thesis which qualifies graduates to conduct research-related work both in academic and non-academic environments.

For further details about the GSH and the three doctoral programs, visit www.gsh.unibe.ch



Global Studies

Globalization has shrunk the distance between elites, shifted key relations between producers and consumers, broken many links between labor and family life, obscured the lines between temporary locales and imaginary national attachments [...]. Globalization does not necessarily or even frequently imply homogenization [...] there is still ample room for the deep study of specific geographies, histories, and languages.

– Arjun Appadurai

The Graduate School of the Humanities' Global Studies Doctoral Program represents a unique opportunity in Switzerland and in Europe for obtaining a doctoral degree in a well-structured academic context that promotes a common discussion about global phenomena from a humanities perspective. Global Studies, a relatively new interdisciplinary field of study with rapidly increasing visibility, is concerned with processes and structures exemplifying both global and local complexities which it tries to address by, for example, studying the exchange and interdependencies between different cultural, political, linguistic, ethnic, and religious groups, communities, governmental and non-governmental institutions, media as well as real or imaginary spaces.

The Global Studies Doctoral Program is for you if you...

- ...write your doctoral thesis on a topic relating to questions about social, cultural or political global processes from a humanities perspective
- ...are looking for an interdisciplinary environment to share and discuss your doctoral research project
- ...want to further develop and strengthen your skills in networking, research organization, and presentation with regards to your doctoral research project
- ...would like to profit from (limited) financial support for your research activities (e.g. by applying for a doctoral fellowship which allows you to write applications for more extensive grants; reimbursement of costs related to conference participation, contributions to conferences you organize yourself).



How to Apply and Study Global Studies

Application Requirements

Application to the Graduate School of the Humanities (GSH) to which the Global Studies Program appertains is possible every term. Before applying, please ensure that you meet all requirements listed on the Graduate School's website. In particular, take into account that at the University of Bern all doctoral theses are written within the framework of an established discipline. This is why you need to obtain written confirmation from a professor at an institute associated with the GSH that he or she will act as your primary thesis advisor prior to applying. Furthermore, please note that though we do anything in our power to support you, we do not have the means to cover your costs of living during the time you write your doctoral thesis, so we strongly advise you to settle financial questions beforehand.

Study Requirements

Credits and skills acquired in the framework of the interdisciplinary Global Studies Doctoral Program are listed in a Diploma Supplement, which will be handed out along with the doctoral degree certificate. For earning this supplement, you will have to acquire a total of 20 ECTS that you can, as a rule, collect over the course of 6 terms. We believe that you are the expert when it comes to your doctoral research project, so you can acquire ECTS by attending from a wide variety of courses and events that are either compulsory (12 ECTS), compulsory-elective (8 ECTS), or elective (not credited).

For more information on the study program please go to:

www.gsh.unibe.ch/application_and_regulations/study_program/index_eng.html

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