

Academic Program

BIGSSS — Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences

BIGSSS is an inter-university graduate school in the social sciences, located at the University of Bremen and Jacobs University Bremen, Germany. The graduate school currently hosts 90 international PhD fellows and 70 faculty members. Its growing alumni network consists of more than 170 graduates.

Educational Concept

BIGSSS is founded upon the core disciplines of political science, sociology and psychology. A key asset of BIGSSS' academic program is its interdisciplinarity, also integrating bordering social science disciplines and a broad spectrum from quantitative to qualitative research methods. Doctoral programs at BIGSSS combine a demand-tailored curriculum with early scientific independence and prepare PhD fellows for leading professional positions inside and outside of academia.

Research & Training Network

Research at BIGSSS is embedded in Bremen's social science research institutes, including

the Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy (SOCIUM), the Research Centre for International Relations, European Politics and Political Theory (InIIS) and the Collaborative Research Centre 1342 on Global Dynamics of Social Policy at the University of Bremen and Focus Area Diversity at Jacobs University.

Furthermore, BIGSSS promotes mobility and inter-/national cooperation in the training of its PhD fellows who profit from the school's strong ties to a growing number of outstanding social science departments, graduate schools, research institutes and inter-sectoral partners. BIGSSS' network includes the University of Edinburgh, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, the University of Southern Denmark, Moscow Higher School of Economics, the Central European University, Università degli Studi di Milano, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Stifterverband and Edna Pasher Ph.D & Associates.



Academic Program



The language of instruction in all our programs is English. The doctoral training follows the principles of demand-tailored education, close supervision, progress monitoring and effective funding.

Regular PhD | PhD

The Regular PhD Program is BIGSSS' long-standing PhD program in which doctoral fellows commit themselves to their dissertation projects and to the full academic program of the BIGSSS curriculum. Admitted fellows of the program receive stipends or work contracts plus funds for research expenses.

Application:
Announced
online
Program Start:
Sept 1

BIGSSS-departs PhD | PhD

BIGSSS-departs (doctoral education in partnerships) is a full-time PhD program co-funded by the European Union. BIGSSS-departs PhD fellows receive work contracts plus funds for research expenses. The program includes a three-to-six-month stay abroad at one of our international partner institutes.

Application:
N/A
Program Start:
Feb 1 & Sept 1,
2017

Affiliated PhD | PhD

BIGSSS offers an Affiliated PhD Program to doctoral candidates who work in third-party funded or professorial research projects in the social sciences at the University of Bremen or Jacobs University. Affiliated fellows take part in BIGSSS' doctoral curriculum with a reduced work load.

Application:
Jun 30
Program Start:
Sept 1

Adjunct PhD | PhD

BIGSSS offers an Adjunct PhD Program to doctoral candidates who are supervised by BIGSSS Faculty members and work in the Bremen Social Sciences. The Adjunct Fellowship is a low-threshold affiliation which admits fellows to participate in BIGSSS' demand tailored courses and transferable skills workshops.

Application:
Dec 31 & Jun 30
Program Start:
Feb 1 & Sept 1

Visiting PhD | PhD

BIGSSS offers PhD students from other institutions the opportunity to conduct a research stay at our graduate school for up to six months. Visiting fellows participate in courses and research activities at BIGSSS. The stay is unfunded, but office space and access to the universities' libraries are provided.

Application:
Rolling
Admissions
Program Start:
Flexible

Summer School | MA & PhD

BIGSSS organizes international summer schools with varying research foci for advanced MA and early PhD students. The aim of the summer school program is to open a cross-border dialogue on theoretical questions and methodological approaches to current matters of social science research.

Application:
Winter
Program Start:
Spring or
Summer

Affiliated Postdoc | Postdoc

BIGSSS offers affiliations to postdoctoral researchers who work in the social sciences at the University of Bremen or Jacobs University. Affiliated postdoctoral fellows participate in the doctoral colloquia at BIGSSS and are invited to offer courses themselves.

Application:
Rolling
Admissions
Program Start:
Flexible

Visiting Scholar | Prof & Postdoc

BIGSSS invites international scholars to conduct a research stay at our graduate school. Visiting scholars profit from BIGSSS' excellent working conditions at the University of Bremen and Jacobs University and its ties to a number of outstanding social science research institutes.

Application:
Rolling
Admissions
Program Start:
Flexible