

Pursuing a Doctoral Degree at the University of Bremen: Support Structures and Services for International Candidates

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Bremen Early Career Researcher Development

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UBremen
BYRD

Early Career Researcher
Development



Yerun

Young European Research Universities

Doctoral Education

Germany

- ca. 180.000 Doctoral Candidates
- 46 % female
- 23 % international
- ca. 28.000 doctoral degrees awarded each year

Uni Bremen

- ca. 1.800 Doctoral Candidates
- 47 % female
- 30 % international
- ca. 300 doctoral degrees each year, 2/3 in STEM
- Average age at doctoral graduation: 34 years



How to start the German Doctorate

- Admission requirement: usually (equivalent of) 2-year Master graduation
- No application system, but supervisors select candidates individually > individual supervision relationship
- Faculties are the governing bodies and give formal admission
- Typically no formal teaching for PhDs, no credit system, no tuition fees, but many further qualification offers
- Solely research-based, doctoral thesis must be published
- Different doctoral degrees depending on subject field and university: ing., rer. nat., rer. pol., iur., phil., PH, med., rer. hort., ...
- Last decade: many graduate schools and doctoral programmes have been established (with application system, thesis committees, course requirements, etc.)

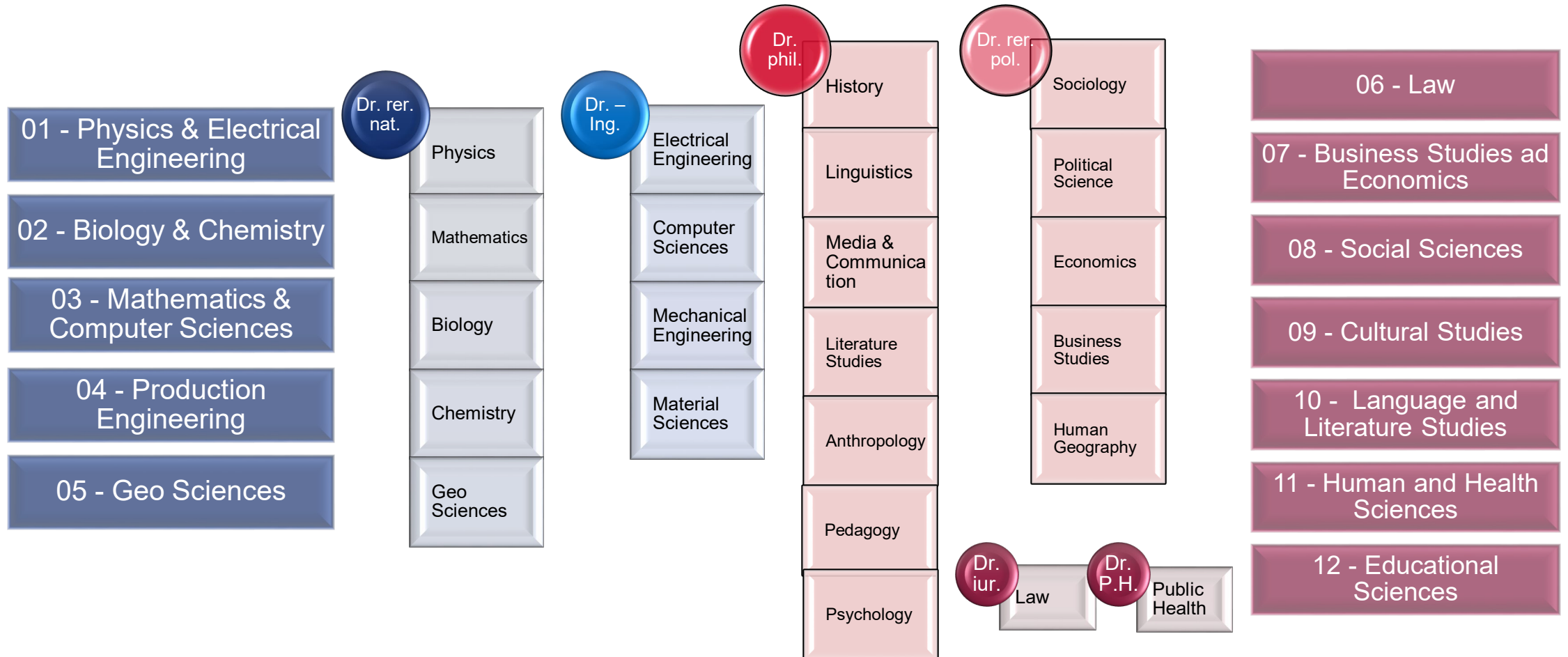


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Faculties at the University of Bremen and their doctoral degrees



BYRD - Support Services for Docs and Postdocs



- BYRD = Bremen Early Career Researcher Development
- Central contact point for doctoral candidates, postdocs and advanced researchers
- Gives a complete overview of services on Campus
- Information, advice and individual consultations
- Workshops on professional development, career orientation and networking or inter-disciplinary exchange
- Promotes and fosters good supervision practices, ie. supervision workshops, *Award for Outstanding Doctoral Supervision*

Bremen Early Career Researcher Development

Doctoral Researchers

Postdocs

Events

Team

Services on Campus



University of Bremen > Bremen Early Career Researcher Development > Doctoral Researchers > Pursuing a doctorate at Bremen University

Pursuing a doctorate at Bremen University



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Supervision

The most common form of doing a PhD at the University of Bremen is an individual doctorate. There is no university-wide



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Funding

The funding of your PhD project over the course of the doctoral project should be clear from the beginning. We encourage you



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Administrative Matters

The formal start of your doctorate is the acceptance by the **doctoral commission of the faculty**. All documents required are



www.facebook.com/byrd.ub/

BYRD: Advisory Services for (International) Doctoral Researchers

Website in English

- Information about doctoral education, acceptance at the faculty, matriculation, grants, positions at the university, healthy working habits and more

BYRD Office / Advisory service

- General consultations via email
- One-on-one advisory sessions, often to be scheduled with our experts the same week

Collaborating with other Support Centers

- Welcome Center
- Administrative Offices at the various faculties
- Language Center, Psychological Counselling and many others



BYRD: Qualification and Networking Offers for (International) Doctoral Researchers

■ Course programme

- Workshops offered in English and German for all disciplines and different phases of the PhD process
- Current programme available at <https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/byrd/events/>
- Courses offered specifically to international doctoral candidates:
PhD Navigator – A course through the German Academic System
- Talk on funding programmes that are available for international researchers at Bremen University (DFG, EU, Bremen-specific)

■ Writing support

- Thesis Bootcamp
- “Shut Up and Write!”

■ Networking Offers:

- “International PhD Students’ Meeting”, every six weeks at bars/cafés
- Doc-Networks (majority of these work in German)

Support to Start a Binational Doctorate (cotutelle de thèse)

The process is supported by the **faculties / researchers, BYRD** and the **Legal office**:

- Discuss your plans with your supervisors at your home institution and the institution abroad and put them in touch. Find a suitable advisor!
- Contact BYRD for a consultation to learn more about pursuing a PhD in Bremen.
- Seek admission to doctoral studies – at the University of Bremen via the appropriate doctoral commission. If the academic degree was obtained abroad, the foreign educational certificates must be recognized for admission to doctoral studies.
- Prepare the cotutelle agreement. Parts of the agreement are to be worked out by the doctoral candidate together with each of their supervisors. The legal offices provides a model agreement and support. The agreement is to be signed by the two supervisors, the executive board of the two universities, the doctoral candidate, and the chairperson of the doctoral committee in Bremen.

Welcome Center for International Researchers



- Founded in 2012 and is part of the International Office
- Fosters a welcome culture and gives support
- Supports around 400 international researchers (particularly before arrival and during their stay)
- Topics:
 - Re-Location-Services (e.g. school or kindergarten search)
 - Onboarding (e.g. finding a health insurance)
 - Networking opportunities (for international researchers and their families)
- In 2017: U Bremen Research Alliance Welcome Center was established
- Consultation of the faculties and institutes

Do you have any questions? Thank you for your attention!

