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GÖTTINGEN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Doctoral Training at Göttingen University

A short overview

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen



- Founded in 1734 and opened in 1737 by King George II of Great Britain, Elector of Hanover
- A university of enlightenment (i.e. Theology was no longer the leading faculty, no religious censorship in research)



Statistics



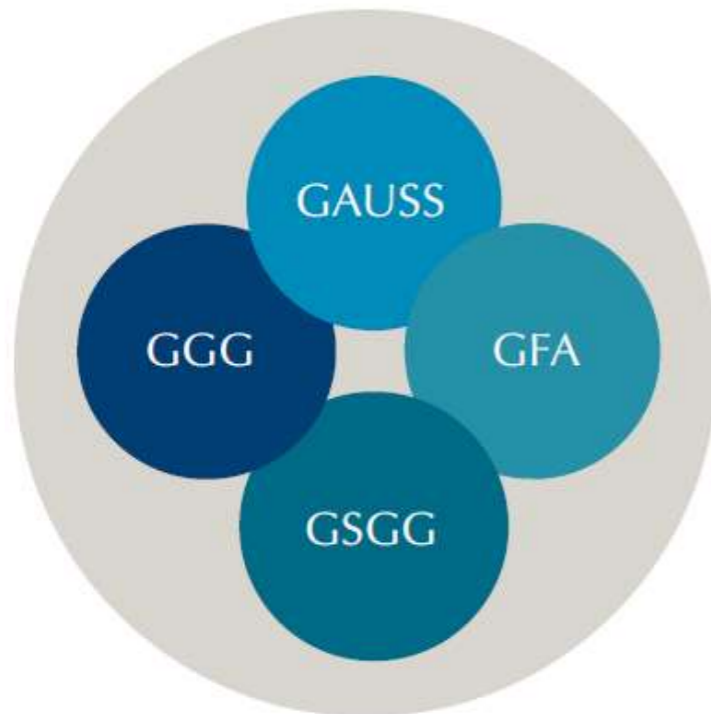
- faculties: 13
- students (altogether): 31.619
- doctoral candidates 3.517

- employees (without University Medical Center): 5.481

(data 2017)

The Göttingen Model of Graduate Schools

Four Graduate Schools



- All PhD students are member of a graduate school.
- Graduate schools offer qualification, funding, counseling.
- Every graduate school is shaped towards the specific needs of the faculties they belong to.
- The four graduate schools are closely cooperating.

Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)

Faculties:

- Faculty of Mathematics/Computer Sciences
- Faculty of Biology/Psychology
- Faculty of Geosciences/Geography
- Faculty of Physics/Chemistry
- Faculty of Medicine
- GGNB (former excellence grad school)

Non-university research institutes

- MPI for Biophysical Chemistry
- MPI for Dynamics and Self-Organization
- MPI for Experimental Medicine
- MPI for Solar System Research
- German Primate Center
- German Aerospace Center

ca. 1500 PhD students



Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences (GFA)



Faculties:

Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

ca. 400 PhD students

Graduate School of Humanities Göttingen (GSGG)



Faculties:

- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Theology

ca. 500 PhD students

Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences (GGG)



Faculties:

- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Economic Sciences
- Faculty of Social Sciences

ca. 1000 PhD students

Division of tasks between faculties and grad schools

GAUSS:

- same doctoral regulations for all natural sciences (Dr. rer. nat. / PhD)
- admission to doctoral studies via doctoral programs

GFA:

- same doctoral regulations for all GFA-members (Dr. rer. agr.; Dr. rer. forest.; Dr. rer. oec.; Dr. rer. nat. / PhD)
- admission to doctoral studies via grad school (forest) and faculty (agriculture)

GSGG:

- different doctoral regulations, one per faculty (Dr. phil.; Dr. theol. / PhD)
- admission to doctoral studies via faculty

GGG:

- different doctoral regulations, one per faculty (Dr. rer. pol.; Dr. rer. oec.; Dr. jur. / PhD)
- admission to doctoral studies via faculty

Qualification: course program

Research related qualification:

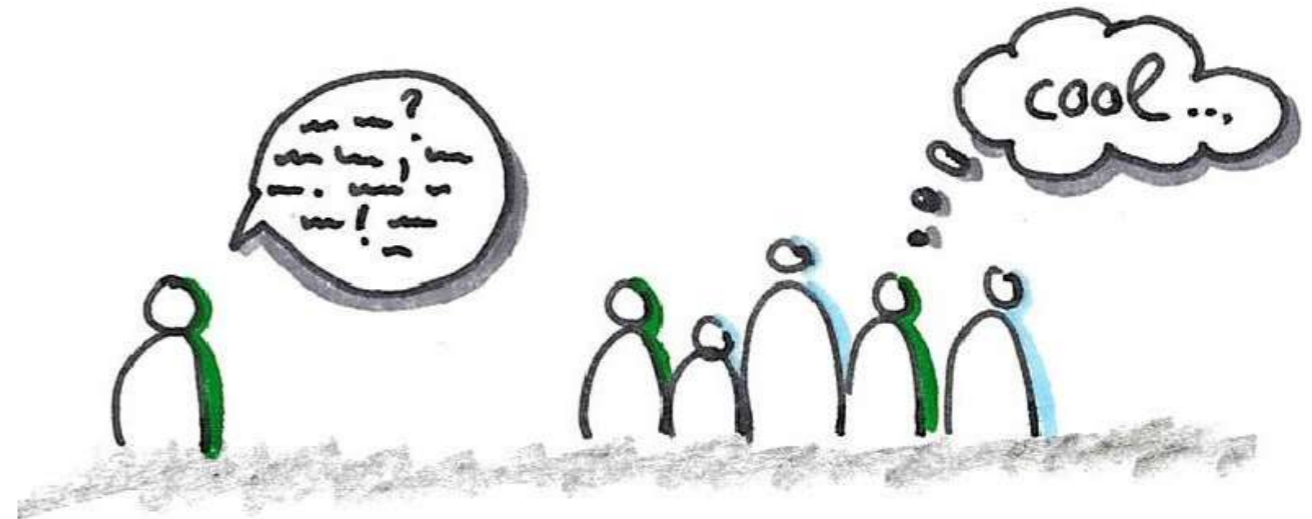
e.g. academic writing, presentation skills, research integrity, preparation for defense of doctoral thesis, ...

Soft skills:

e.g. time management, intercultural training, diversity and equal opportunities, ...

Professional skills (university and non-university careers):

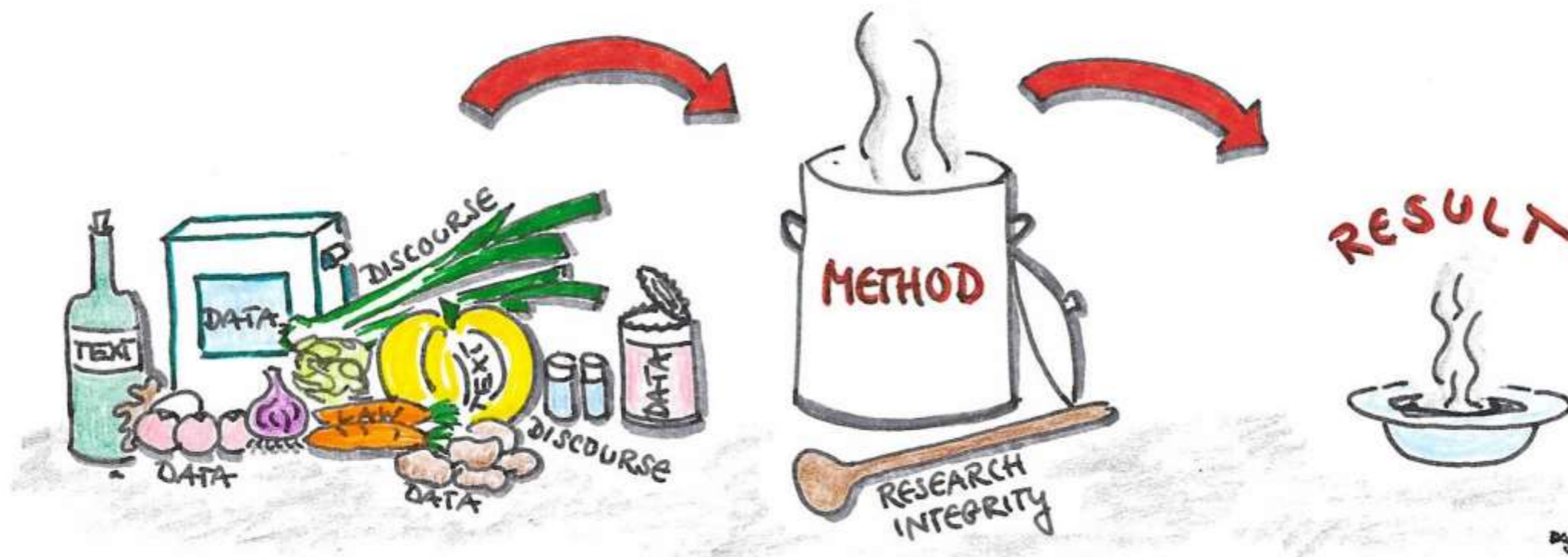
e.g. leadership competencies, creative career management, project management, ...



www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de

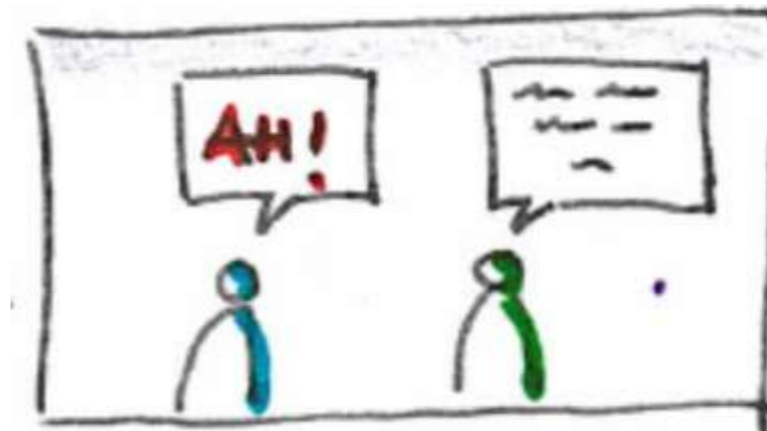
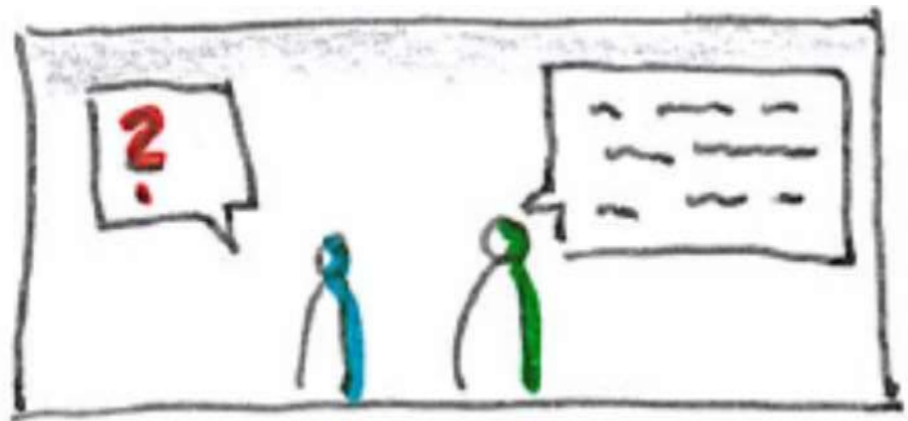
Specific Qualification, e.g.: Week of Methods (GGG)

- contemporary methods from the social sciences' disciplines in interdisciplinary context
- week starts with a keynote
- 4 workshops parallel
- few fringe events



Counseling

- All extracurricular matters
- How to start
- Crisis
- Research integrity
- International PhD students
- Funding Guidance
- (statistics)



Funding

In Germany when doing a PhD you do not automatically hold a scholarship or a position as research assistant.



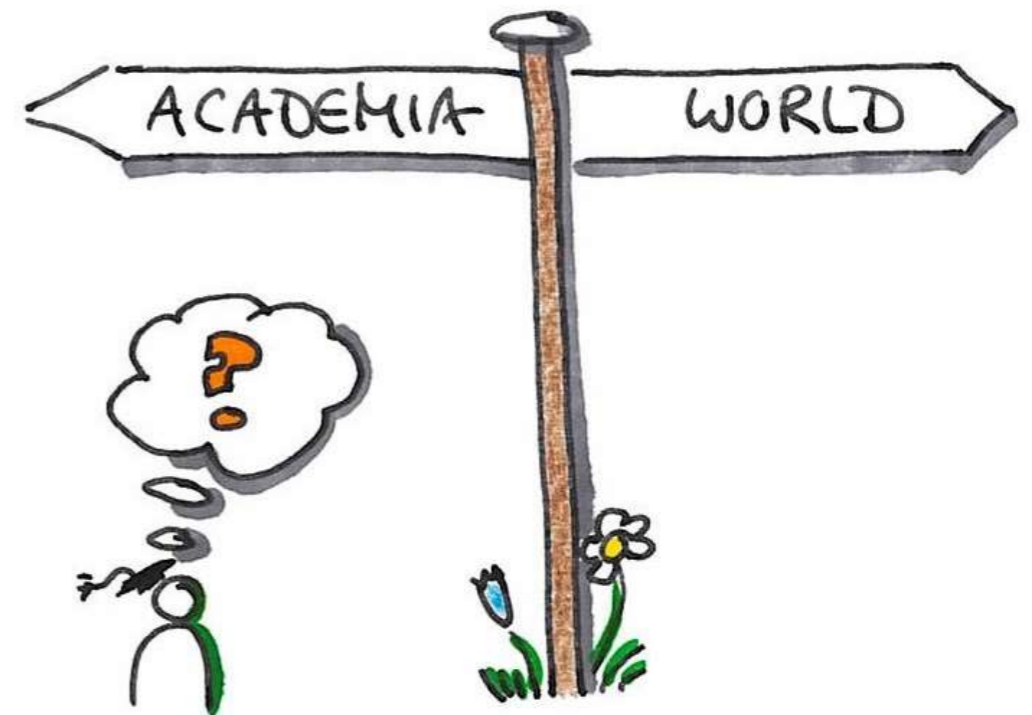
Therefore,

- all graduate schools have small bridging scholarships.
- graduate schools help PhD students to apply for grants/scholarships (funding guidance).

Quo vadis after the doctorate?

In Germany

- only 15 % of all PhD students stay in academia.
- only 5 % gain a professorship in the end.



plenty of possibilities...

... but make up your mind in time

- professional skills courses (all grad schools)
- career guidance (GAUSS)
- career service (university wide)
- mentoring program (HR, grad schools, university business contacts)
- faculties' and university's career fairs
- One year research related to NGO, enterprise, ... (via SNIC/southern Lower Saxony innovation campus)
- Start-up counseling (business contacts)



