



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



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# Doctorate



## Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies (GPTS)

Heidelberg University • Heidelberg

### Overview

Degree	Doctoral degree (Dr phil)
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li></ul>
Languages	All GPTS courses are held in English which is the working language of the HCTS.
Programme duration	6 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	15 February for the following winter semester
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No
Description/content	<p>The Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies (GPTS) is a three-year doctoral programme within the interdisciplinary research environment of the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS) at Heidelberg University.</p> <p>The GPTS combines the German model of highly individualised doctoral studies and a system of guided courses and workshops to support young scholars in all aspects of this stage of their academic careers.</p> <p>Doctoral students become part of a vibrant community of international scholars and are trained in transcultural theories, interdisciplinary approaches, and methods from the participating disciplines. These include anthropology, archaeology, art history, Chinese studies, history, Islamic studies, Japanese studies, literary studies, political science, religious studies, and South Asian Studies.</p>

### Course Details

Course organisation	The structured doctoral programme runs for a maximum of three years. While the second year is dedicated to the collection and analysis of relevant data, doctoral students have to attend a number of courses during the first and third years. These courses, in the form of seminars, reading classes, and colloquiums, are designed to familiarise them with the theoretically transcultural and methodologically interdisciplinary approach of the HCTS.
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Additional workshops help doctoral students to plan and manage their research efficiently and express their results in fluent academic language.  
 Apart from the mandatory courses, doctoral students are required to attend regular meetings and workshops at the HCTS. Where necessary or useful with regard to their research, they may attend other courses from the general curriculum of Heidelberg University (language courses, etc).

First programme year:

- Reading class on theories and methods of transcultural studies
- Colloquium with supervisors, senior researchers and peers
- Workshop "Time management for doctoral researchers"
- Workshop "Academic Writing in English"
- Internal evaluation

Second programme year:

- Data collection and analysis, e.g. field work and/or archival research
- Internal evaluation

Third programme year:

- Individual monitoring of writing process
- Colloquium with supervisors, senior researchers and peers
- Workshop "Academic Writing and Peer Reviewing"
- Workshop "Career Perspectives"

In addition, doctoral candidates are encouraged to present and discuss their work at national and international workshops and conferences.

<b>International elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International guest lecturers</li> <li>• Integrated study abroad unit(s)</li> <li>• Content-related regional focus</li> </ul>
<b>Description of other international elements</b>	In addition to the possibility of self-organised archival and/or field research abroad during the second programme year, candidates have access to international partner and exchange programmes, e.g. with Kyoto University and C'a Foscari University Venice.
<b>Integrated study abroad unit(s)</b>	There are no fixed study abroad units. The entire second year may be used for research trips in connection to the doctoral project. A large number of cooperations and exchange agreements with research institutions abroad facilitate such stays.
<b>Teaching/work obligations or opportunities</b>	Doctoral students have the opportunity (but no obligation) to participate in the teaching activities at the HCTS.
<b>Special promotion / funding of the programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAAD</li> </ul>
<b>Name of DAAD funding programme</b>	Graduate School Scholarship Programme (GSSP)
<b>Course-specific, integrated German language courses</b>	Yes
<b>Course-specific, integrated English language courses</b>	Yes



## Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Semester contribution	Fees are approx. 150 EUR per semester for the student service office, students' council, and the university administration. Fees do not include a semester ticket.
Costs of living	Approx. 900-1,000 EUR per month to cover personal expenses, depending on individual lifestyle.
Funding opportunities within the university	Yes
Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university	<p>For more information, please visit the programme's website at: <a href="https://www.hcts.uni-heidelberg.de/en/studies/doctoral-program-gpts">https://www.hcts.uni-heidelberg.de/en/studies/doctoral-program-gpts</a></p> <p>For general information on how to fund doctoral studies at Heidelberg University, you may also want to visit the website of the university's Graduate Academy: <a href="http://www.graduateacademy.uni-heidelberg.de/index_en.html">http://www.graduateacademy.uni-heidelberg.de/index_en.html</a></p>

## Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements	<p>Applicants must hold an above-average university degree (MA or equivalent with B+ or better; magna cum laude; grades: 2+/1.7 or better) in a discipline related to those involved at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies.</p> <p>Please refer to the programme's website for more information: <a href="https://www.hcts.uni-heidelberg.de/en/studies/doctoral-program-gpts">https://www.hcts.uni-heidelberg.de/en/studies/doctoral-program-gpts</a></p>
Language requirements	Applicants must prove their advanced language skills in English by providing a certificate confirming at least level C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
Application deadline	15 February for the following winter semester
Submit application to	Applications are to be submitted electronically. Please refer to the programme's website for more information: <a href="https://www.hcts.uni-heidelberg.de/en/studies/doctoral-program-gpts">https://www.hcts.uni-heidelberg.de/en/studies/doctoral-program-gpts</a>

## Services

Possibility of finding part-time employment	There are limited job opportunities for doctoral students at Heidelberg University.
Accommodation	Accommodation is available through student services ( <a href="http://www.studentenwerk.uni-heidelberg.de/">http://www.studentenwerk.uni-heidelberg.de/</a> ) or on the private market. Rent for a single room in a student residence is approx.



280-330 EUR.

**Structured research and supervision**

Yes

**Research training / discussion**

Yes

**Career advisory service**

In addition to the central career service available to all students at Heidelberg University, the programme coordination offers individual counselling for members of the GPTS.

**Support for international students and doctoral candidates**

- Specialist counselling

**General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates**

In addition to the support from the management of the GPTS, the Graduate Academy of Heidelberg University (<http://www.graduateacademy.uni-heidelberg.de>) provides support in areas that apply to the university's training of doctoral students in general. It helps them with the logistics of getting started with their doctoral studies and provides information on funding possibilities. It also advises and assists doctoral students in completing registration and enrolment procedures, finding accommodation and settling into their new surroundings. The Graduate Academy organises social events as well as a seminar programme of key skills that it tailors to the needs of the doctoral students in cooperation with other university departments.

## Contact

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🌐 Course website: <https://www.hcts.uni-heidelberg.de/en/studies/doctoral-program-gpts>

Last update 05.05.2024 21:40:47



# International Programmes in Germany - Database

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)  
[www.daad.de/sommerkurse](http://www.daad.de/sommerkurse)

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## Disclaimer

The data used for this database was collected and analysed in good faith and with due diligence. The DAAD and the Content5 AG accept no liability for the correctness of the data contained in the "International Programmes in Germany" and "Language and Short Courses in Germany".

The publication is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and by contributions of the participating German institutions of higher education.



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research