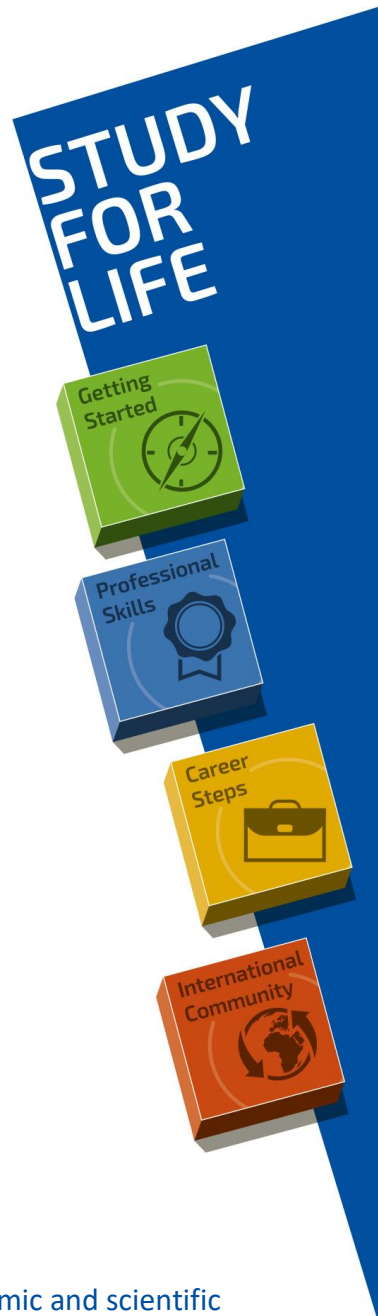


# Next Career Step - Doctorate?!

A program offer for Master's students

Start: September 19, 2024



## Next Career Step - Doctorate?!

About to finish your degree and wondering what comes next? If you enjoy academic and scientific work, research in your field of expertise and stimulating discussions with fellow academics, then you might also be considering a doctorate. But what does it mean to pursue a doctorate? What funding options are out there? What general qualities and strengths should you have, aside from a love of your field of research?

We would like to support you through the decision-making process. Therefore, we have created the “Next Career Step - Doctorate?!” program, which gives 14 master’s students at least halfway through their studies the chance to find out all about doing a doctorate as the next stage in their career. You will be given valuable information and the opportunity to chat to like-minded people specializing in different subjects. You will acquire personal skills that will be useful for your master’s thesis and a potential doctorate as well as in other professional situations. You will also learn how to assess the challenges associated with a doctorate more accurately and handle them better. The program is designed to help you find out whether a doctorate is the right step for your career.

## The program at a glance:

### The program offers:

- Access to an exclusive training program with no participation fees
- Workshops conducted exclusively in English
- The opportunity to improve your academic and personal skills
- Experienced, highly qualified trainers
- The chance to build intercultural skills
- Interdisciplinary dialogue
- Networking with other international students and doctoral candidates

### Requirements:

You must...

- be enrolled as a master’s student at the University of Bonn in the second half of your degree program.
- be seriously considering a doctorate after obtaining your master’s degree.
- have very good English skills.
- be committed to attending at least 80 percent of program events.
- present a letter of support/letter of recommendation from a University lecturer.

## Program

The program consists of two parts, both of which are mandatory:

- **Part 1: Intensive short program (September 19 – 27, 2024)**
- **Part 2: Workshops during the winter semester 2024/25**



## Part 1: Intensive short program

Thursday, September 19 06:00 – 08:00 p.m.	<b>Opening with Snacks &amp; Drinks</b>
Friday, September 20, 10:00 a.m. – 04:00 p.m.	<p><b>Kick Off Workshop</b> <b><u>Dr. Merjam Wakili</u></b></p> <p>We will start the intensive short program with a kick-off workshop where you will get to know each other in order to create a good group feeling and a facilitated safe space for reflection. Who are your peers? How do you benefit from being part of the <i>Next Career Step – Doctorate?!</i> - community? How can you support each other in your journeys? The first day of the kick-off is designed as a get-to-know-each-other-day and learning about your motivation and team spirit. On the second day (half day) we will talk about intercultural competence. Why is it important and what is needed to achieve it?</p>
Saturday, September 21, 09:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<p><b>Kick Off Workshop, 2<sup>nd</sup> part (09:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)</b></p> <p>In the afternoon, the group undertakes a small leisure program. Participation is voluntary.</p>
Sunday, September 22	Day Off
Monday, September 23, 09:00 a.m. – 05:00 p.m.	<p><b>Preparing for Your Doctorate: Critical Steps and Advice</b> <b><u>Dr. Maia George</u></b></p> <p>This workshop is designed to assist prospective doctoral candidates in making informed decisions and navigating the journey towards a successful PhD. This on-site workshop, conducted in English, caters to both international and local Master's students considering a doctoral path.</p> <p>Through a blend of presentations, interactive exercises, and discussions, participants will gain insights into key aspects of embarking on and completing a PhD journey. Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making the decision to pursue a PhD: Self-reflection and career goals</li> <li>• Finding effective supervision: What constitutes good mentorship?</li> <li>• Navigating common challenges in a doctoral program</li> <li>• Essential insights into the German academic landscape</li> </ul>

<p>Tuesday, September 24, 09:00 a.m. – 03:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>How to Fund your Doctorate in Germany</b></p> <p><b><u>Dr. Maia George</u></b></p> <p>This workshop offers a condensed session designed to equip prospective doctoral candidates with essential knowledge and resources about the intricacies of financing doctoral studies in Germany, catering to both local and international participants. Through an interactive format comprising presentations, practical exercises, and collaborative discussions, attendees will gain invaluable insights and actionable strategies. Throughout the workshop, we'll explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the landscape: An overview of funding options available for doctoral studies in Germany</li> <li>• Navigating the application process: Tips and best practices for crafting successful funding applications</li> <li>• Personalizing your approach: Identifying funding opportunities</li> <li>• Leveraging resources: Discovering databases and search platforms</li> </ul> <p><b>The Bonn Graduate Center will introduce its support for prospective doctoral students as well as funding opportunities offered by the University of Bonn.</b></p>
<p>Wednesday, September 25, Thursday 26 and Friday, 27, 09:00 a.m. – 03:00 p.m.</p>	<p>3-Day Course on: <b>Planning Your PhD-Thesis, Writing an Exposé and Personal Time Management</b></p> <p><b><u>Dr. Alexandra Leipold</u></b></p> <p>This course is a 3-day course during the <i>Next Career Step - Doctorate?!-program</i> that addresses aspects of research that relate to all future PhD candidates. We will discuss the formal requirements of an exposé and talk about your topics. Working in academics means you must deal with many tasks related to research, teaching, administration, lab-work, collaboration, writing and much more. Often you will be self-managing your time and trying to prioritise work tasks while balancing work with other parts of your life. During the course, an interactive session, "Plan Better – Get more Time" will be a brush up on your planning and writing habits. Because writing is an essential part of life in research, but it is sometimes daunting. While the summer school is designed to stimulate the mind and your academic interests, there is also plenty of time for social and physical activities, networking, and enjoying the beautiful surroundings of Bonn Poppelsdorf.</p>



## Part 2: Workshops during the winter semester 2024/25

Friday, November 8, 2024	Writing Retreat (1-day)
Saturday, December 7, 2024	'Mental Health' (0,5-day)
Friday, January 24, 2025	Writing Retreat (1-day)
Friday, February 14 & Saturday, 15 & Friday, 21, 2025	Presentation Skills (3-day)

During the semester, we plan meetings and exchanges with current doctoral candidates that match the participants' subject focus.

To apply for the program, please complete the registration form by **July 7, 2024:**

If the number of applicants exceeds availability, admission to the program will be decided by a committee, in which case you will be notified by July 20, 2024.

**The application deadline has expired.**

### Contact:

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