



Recent Trends in Bavarian Doctoral Programs

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. H.-Dieter Wenzel

Chair of Public Finance
Bamberg University

Main Sources of Presentation

- DAAD: Paths to a Doctorate in Germany
 - www.daad.de/deutschland/forschung/promotion/04670.de.html
- Volkswagen-Stiftung:
 - www.volkswagen-stiftung.de/
- Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes:
 - www.studienstiftung.de/
- Alexander-von-Humboldt-Stiftung:
 - www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/start.html
- Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics BGPE:
 - www.bgpe.de
- Chair of Public Finance at Bamberg University:
 - <http://www.uni-bamberg.de/vwl-fiwi/daad/>
- International office at Bamberg University:
 - <http://www.uni-bamberg.de/studium/studiuminternational/>



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General Information - German PhD Programs in the Light of the Bologna Process

- Bologna Process creates the European higher education area by making academic degree standards and quality assurance standards more comparable and compatible throughout Europe
- Doctorate as the final stage of the 3 + 2 + 3 cycle definition
- In Germany often the degree of the Dr. rer. pol. (Doctor rerum politicarum) is awarded instead of the PhD in Economics
- As a speciality additionally Dr. habil. (Doctor habilitatus)
- Bergen Communique: “The normal **workload** of the third cycle in most countries would correspond to 3-4 years full time” and “The Doctorate consists of knowledge through original research”



H.-Dieter Wenzel

Bamberg University | Chair of Public Finance

Feldkirchenstrasse 21 | 96045 Bamberg | +49 (0)951 863-2548 | public-finance@uni-bamberg.de | www.uni-bamberg.de/vwl-fiwi

General Information – Aims of PhD Programs

- What is the **main goal** of the doctorate?
 - To create “Doctors for the professional worklife”, with advanced skills in managerial and entrepreneurial leadership
 - To create “Doctors of Research”, with advanced theoretical skills in creativity and innovative problem-solving as well as teaching. The goal is to achieve significant intellectual contributions to the body of knowledge i.e. the linkage between research and teaching (**The Ideal of Humboldt**)
- Shall there be one uniform PhD program in order to best possible fulfill the requirements for careers in Business, Research and Academic Careers?
- Specific Objectives: Business and/ or Economics
 - Interdisciplinary programs?
 - Master-Apprentice Model vs. Graduate Schools?



General Information – Some Facts for Germany, Bavaria and Bamberg

- Around 120 universities in Germany offer opportunities for graduates to follow up their academic studies with a doctorate
- Each year around 25,000 postgraduates gain a doctorate in Germany (out of nearly 2 million students)
- At the Faculty of Social Sciences in Bamberg, each semester around 50-70 postgraduates work on their PhD
- About 1 percent of the German population are awarded the “Doktor” or PhD



General Information – Different kinds of Doctorates

- Mainly two different paths to a doctorate in Germany
 1. **The Master-Apprentice Model as the classical route:**

Students agree their topic with a supervising professor and then produce a thesis or dissertation as a piece of independent research work.

 - There is no curriculum, no set length for doctoral studies and no obligation to attend courses
 2. **The structured doctoral programme:**

Recent years have increasingly seen structured programs, so-called Doctoral Programs, Graduate Schools, Doctoral Colleges, Graduate Centres or Graduate Colleges

 - Many of these programs have an international focus
 - In total, Germany's universities currently offer around 360 programs



General Information – Different kinds of Doctorates

- The Master-Apprentice Model as the classical route must be subdivided into **2 types**
 1. The **internal** doctorate: The PhD Student additionally holds the position of (professors’) assistant.
 - This type is widely-used for Economics
 - The contract of employment demands an obligation for a doctorate
 - Even in full time positions, the doctorate is a crucial component
 2. The **external** doctorate: This type is relevant especially for cooperations between postgraduates and companies
 - This type is widely-used for Business Administration
 - There is no contract of employment with the university
 - Financial issues: scholarships, contracts with companies etc.



General Information – Specific Issues: Possible Scholarships, supported seminars etc.

- Especially the type of an external doctorate often is highly dependend on **scholarships** and other **financial supports**
 - This is true for home as well as foreign PhD Students
- Germany supports with DAAD and DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), an important German research funding organization, a large variety of grant programs even for foreigners. Another important sponsors are
 - Volkswagen-Stiftung, Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, DAAD, Alexander-von-Humboldt-Stiftung
 - Additionally, numerous foundations have scholarship programs for specific subject areas
 - Besides offering financial support, many foundations also provide non-academic support and advice



General Information – Specific Issues: Possible Scholarships, supported seminars etc.

- Financial issues are different when taking part in a doctoral program or a Graduate School (on local level) rather than Master-Apprentice Model:
 - the Graduiertenkollegs (Research Training Groups) initiated by the DFG and the International Max Planck Research Schools initially support their junior scientists for two years with a grant amounting to between 1,000 and 1,400 Euros per month or, alternatively, with a position as a research assistant
- The Bavarian State with its Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics BGPE (on states level) supports PhD Students with additional seminars



German Doctorates in Social Sciences – Exemplary PhD Program at Konstanz University

- **Title:** Doctoral Program in Quantitative Economics and Finance
- **Degree:** Dr. rer. pol. (PhD in Economics)
- **Course Language(s):** The language of instruction is English
- **Program Duration:** 6 semesters (3 years)
- **Program Description:**
 - In the **first year**, students take **two** courses in economic theory, **two** courses in econometrics and **two** courses in one of the research fields: finance, labour economics or public economics
 - At the end of the first year, an outline of the doctoral thesis is submitted. In the second and third year, students concentrate on writing their thesis and attend a research seminar in each year
 - Throughout the program, students are supervised in their research activities by two professors. Doctoral students benefit from the regular research colloquium at the Department of Economics and the Centre of Finance and Econometrics, as well as from the regular doctoral colloquium
- **Double Degree Program:** a binational Doctoral Programme in Quantitative Economics with the Université Louis Pasteur Strasbourg, funded by the German-French University (DFH) is possible



German Doctorates in Social Sciences – Exemplary PhD Program at Frankfurt University

- **Title:** PhD Program in Law and Economics of Money and Finance
- **Degree:** Dr. rer. pol. (PhD in Economics)
- **Course Language(s):** The language of instruction is English
- **Program Duration:** 6 semesters (3 years); **4 semester courses** and 2 semester PhD thesis
- **Program Description:**
 - First-year courses in the field of Law and Economics such as Fundamentals of Microeconomics, Fundamentals of Macroeconomics, Fundamentals of Econometrics, Law and Economics I and II
 - Second-year courses include: Industrial Organisation and Antitrust, Comparative Company Law, Law of Corporate Finance, German and European Take-Over Law, Banking and Securities Regulation, The Governance of Capital Markets in Europe
 - The Doctoral Thesis is thought of as **interdisciplinary**, but will be either an economics thesis or a legal thesis
 - » Supervision and Control of Financial Intermediaries
 - » Corporate equity, corporate control and legal regulation



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German Doctorates in Social Sciences – Exemplary PhD Program at Bonn University

- **Title:** Doctoral Programme in Quantitative Economics
- **Degree:** Dr. rer. pol. (PhD in Economics)
- **Course Language(s):** All courses and seminars are taught in English, thesis is submitted in English
- **Program Duration:** Approx. **4 years** for students entering the BGSE with a Master's degree
- **Program Description:**
 - In the **first year** basic courses in each of these fields: micro-, macroeconomics, applied econometrics are taught during the winter semester and advanced-level courses on specialised topics such as international macroeconomics, labour economics, mechanism design and contract theory during the summer semester. It may also include compact courses, some of which are taught by visiting professors
 - In the **second year** students continue their studies in Bonn or spend the year at one of the other EDP institutions (**European Doctoral Programme in Quantitative Economics**). In either case, students begin writing their thesis. In Bonn, results must be presented in weekly workshops
 - After the second year, students continue writing their thesis



German Doctorates in Social Sciences – The Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics BGPE

- **Degree:** Depending on the regulations of the participating universities
- **In Cooperation with:** University of Augsburg, University of Bamberg, University of Bayreuth, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, University of Passau, University of Regensburg, University of Würzburg
- **Course Language(s):** English
- **Program Description:**
 - The BGPE is based on the cooperation of academic researchers from different Bavarian universities and other renowned centres of economic research in Bavaria
 - BGPE students work in part-time positions at the different Bavarian universities
 - The Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics is a modular program. Each of the modules lasts one week, with lectures and seminars. The curriculum consists of **four** mandatory PhD modules in the first year, **one semester abroad** in the second year and an **internship** in the last year
 - The BGPE students are supervised by two professors at different universities in Bavaria. Even though students will work at one of the two places for most of the time
 - Four exams in the doctoral courses in the first year, local PhD assessment regulations (Part 3 of this Presentation)



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Bavarian Doctorates: The case of Bamberg University – Local requirements

- Applicants are expected to meet certain requirements:
 - Record of study
 - Credentials certifying the professional qualification
 - Resume with List of scientific publications
 - Certificate of good conduct and Contract of employment with the university
 - Announcement of mentoring
 - Proposal of composition of the PhD commission
 - Candidates who want to enrol as PhD students have to certify german language skills (DSH)



Bavarian Doctorates: The case of Bamberg University – Process and stages

The process for the doctorate is subdivided into several stages:

1. The main supervisor has to **announce the mentoring** of a PhD candidate and must be a **member** of the faculty
2. PhD candidates have to **meet the local admission requirements** such as the Masters Degree. An application, showing the professional qualification must be handed out to the PhD admission board
3. The **PhD admission board** decides of whether the candidate is **accepted** or not and who are **members of the PhD commission**
4. The **PhD Commission elects a spokesman and agrees on topics**
5. The candidate **develops and hands in the thesis** to the PhD admission board which itself commissions reviewer (PhD commission)
6. The members of PhD commission **develop their reports** which are approved by the PhD admission board
7. The PhD admission board **displays the reports and the thesis** for 4 weeks
8. The PhD commission initiates the **public disputation** and the **appraisal** which is forwarded to the admission board
9. After publishing the thesis the faculty's dean **awards the Doctor rer. pol**



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Bavarian Doctorates: The case of Bamberg University – Mentoring and Supervision

- At Bamberg University most of the economics PhD candidates work at the university and therefore students have a vital and continuous assistance
- Mentoring and supervision does not follow any formal process
- Several seminars allow candidates to present their research progress which is an instrument for ongoing feedback
 - After each semester one **Internal Doctoral Seminar (IDS)** takes place
 - Additionally the **European Doctoral Seminar (EDS)** takes place every year
- **Double PhD Program Bamberg – Tirana:** Candidates can profit by the recently established Double-PhD program between the universities of Bamberg and Tirana
 - Financial aid is granted by a special program of DAAD
 - Double PhD candidates are allowed to experience research stays in Bamberg as well as Tirana



Thank you for your attention!

Questions and Remarks are appreciated!

Contact: public-finance@uni-bamberg.de

