



New Course programme structure for the BAGSS Course Programme according to the new funding environment in 2019 and onwards

This document defines new guidelines of our course programme as it will be adjusted in response to student feedback and the new funding environment BAGSS will find itself in from January 2019. The main ideas of this paper are to develop a course program that is tailored toward doctoral fellows, to reduce administration costs as well as to enable potential strong collaborations with other bodies in- and outside of the university.

Fundamentally, funded BAGSS members will participate in courses/workshops in the four different categories listed below:

I. Doctoral Seminars and Lectures

- a. **BAGSS Monthly Colloquium:** In this interdisciplinary lecture series, key note speeches about more general topics shall be held (can also be non-scientific). Furthermore, doctoral fellows have the possibility to present their research project in front of the BAGSS faculty and students. This can be done in an alternating form every semester. The lectures take place on Wednesdays at least **twice per semester**. Doctoral students would prefer a time slot from 16.00 to 18.00. According to feedback retrieved from doctoral fellows, this reduction aims to increase the support for **self-organized workshops** in the subject areas covered by the school under III c). Such workshops help to improve the network of doctoral fellows and usually cover more research areas in comparison to an ordinary BAGSS Monthly Lecture.
- b. **Pillar-specific doctoral seminars:** In these seminars, doctoral researchers regularly present their own projects and receive feedback from their fellow doctoral candidates and supervisors. Active participation is mandatory for **all regular and associate** BAGSS members. If there is the need, doctoral fellows can organize their own doctoral seminars on a more informal basis during the semester break.

II. Courses on Methods and Research Design

- a. A course covering **Research Design in the Social Sciences** will be offered every winter semester. This course is **mandatory** for all recipients of BAGSS scholarships, unless there is evidence that they have taken a comparable course in the course of a research Master's Degree or equivalent.

- b. **Introductory courses in statistics programs** will be offered on a regular basis. They are open to all BAGSS fellows and will be delivered by the Graduate School itself, or **Lifbi (Stata)**, or via **DataCamp (R and Python)**, a **commercial online platform the Graduate School is subscribing to. [Annex 1]**.
- c. Further **advanced method courses in qualitative and quantitative areas** are taking place depending on individual training needs. This demand should be assessed **annually**. Training needs are established in supervisory discussions in the context of assembling the Individual Research Training Plan (IRTP). Besides the possibility to invite an experienced researcher, such method courses are also regularly offered at the university and by members of the BAGSS and therefore can be implemented in the course program. Examples of frequently requested qualitative courses are Process Tracing or (fuzzy set) Qualitative Comparative Analysis. In terms of quantitative methods, there is frequent demand for a variety of longitudinal models, structural equation modeling with MPlus, quantitative text analysis (mostly with R) as well as advanced methods with Stata.

III. Subject-Specific Courses

- a. In the past, doctoral fellows were required to participate in a **Theoretical Core Course**. This course was to be completed in the first year of the doctoral studies. However, student feedback on the course was ambivalent. It will have to be decided whether to revamp, replace or drop this course. Possible content covered by this course is usually integrated in most seminars under III b).
- b. Because of the various research fields covered by BAGSS, doctoral fellows are advised to participate in seminars held by members of BAGSS and their supervisors. Participation will continue to be agreed in the IRTP and recorded by the BAGSS administration for certification.
- c. Furthermore, BAGSS supports doctoral fellows in organizing workshops in the subject areas covered by the School. Such workshops will typically need to be of sufficient interest to more than one pillar. **Proposals will be evaluated competitively once per semester in terms of quality and the volume of funds requested.**

IV. Developing Professional Skills

- a. The workshop **“Introduction to the Legal Framework of Doctoral Studies and Good Academic Practice”** will continue to be mandatory for all regular students. It covers aspects of academic integrity and other crucial questions.
- b. Furthermore, BAGSS will offer at least one additional **professional skills workshop per semester** which may cover various fields of interests. In this sector, we also intend to increase the ties towards Trimberg Research Academy (TRAC) that aims to further expand their offers on our behalf.

Depending on the needs of doctoral fellows, examples are: Academic Writing, Networking for Academics, Career Strategies, How to publish in Journals or Time Management in Academia.

ANNEX 1

DataCamp is an online learning platform that offers a “classroom concept”. Within the classroom, the lecturer can report the activities of doctoral fellows as well as providing them with a premium license of Datacamp. With this premium license, students have full access to online courses in different research areas (1). Furthermore, daily exercises and real world applications are provided (2), further improving the process made from the courses. List of all courses: <https://www.datacamp.com/courses>

(1)


Explore our Course Library

The screenshot displays a grid of six course cards from the DataCamp library, each featuring the R logo at the top. The courses are:


- Introduction to R**: Master the basics of data analysis by manipulating common data structures such as vectors, matrices and data frames. Duration: 4 hours. Instructors: MATT DOWLE (Author of data.table) and GARRETT GROLEMUND (Data Scientist at RStudio). A "Continue Course" button is visible.
- Data Analysis in R, the data.table Way**: Master core concepts in data manipulation such as subsetting, updating, indexing and joining your data using data.table. Duration: 4 hours. Instructor: MATT DOWLE (Author of data.table).
- Data Manipulation in R with dplyr**: Master techniques for data manipulation using the select, mutate, filter, arrange, and summarise functions in dplyr. Duration: 4 hours. Instructor: GARRETT GROLEMUND (Data Scientist at RStudio).
- Data Visualization in R with ggvis**: Learn to create interactive graphs to display distributions, relationships, model fits, and more using ggvis. Duration: 3 hours. Instructor: GARRETT GROLEMUND (Data Scientist at RStudio). A "Continue Course" button is visible.
- Reporting with R Markdown**: Learn to create interactive analyses and automated reports with R Markdown. Duration: 3 hours. Instructor: GARRETT GROLEMUND (Data Scientist at RStudio).
- Intermediate R**: Continue your journey to become an R ninja by learning about conditional statements, loops, and vector functions. Duration: 6 hours. Instructor: FILIP SCHOUWENAARS (Data Science Instructor at DataCamp).

(2)

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PRACTICE
Introduction to R




PRACTICE
Intro to Python for Data Science



PRACTICE
Intro to SQL for Data Science



PRACTICE
Intermediate Python for Data Science




PRACTICE
Intermediate R




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Introduction to DataCamp Projects
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Exploring 67 years of LEGO
NOT YET STARTED



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NOT YET STARTED



Phylloaxis: Draw flowers using mathematics
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