



**University
of Basel**

Faculty of Humanities
and Social Sciences



Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Starting your doctorate





Doctoral subjects

- African Studies
- Ancient History
- Anglophone Literary and Cultural Studies
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Classical Archaeology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Digital Humanities
- East European History
- Egyptology
- English Linguistics
- European Archaeology
- European Global Studies
- French Linguistics
- French Literature
- Gender Studies
- General Linguistics
- Geography
- German Linguistics
- German Literature
- Greek Philology
- History
- Ibero-Romance Linguistics
- Ibero-Romance Literature
- Italian Linguistics
- Italian Literature
- Jewish Studies
- Latin Philology
- Literary Studies
- Media Studies
- Musicology
- Near & Middle Eastern Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Russian Studies
- Scandinavian Studies
- Science of Religion
- Semitic Philology
- Slavic Studies
- Sociology
- Sustainability Research
- Urban Studies

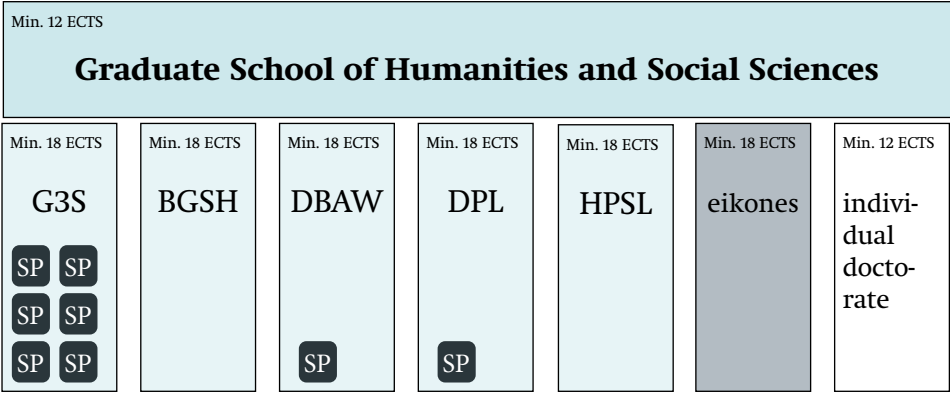


Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

The **Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences** (GS-HSS) is an umbrella structure created by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to further improve doctoral training.

All doctoral students are automatically members of the GS-HSS and benefit from optimum conditions, ensuring that they are well informed and integrated in order to complete their doctorates successfully. Just as before, students can choose between individual and structured doctorates in many subject areas. Doctoral students must earn a minimum of 12 credit points (ECTS) in an individual doctorate. Structured doctorates require students to be members of a doctoral program and to acquire at least 18 credit points.

The existing **doctoral programs** and integrated specialization options act as pillars of the GS-HSS. The structure enables greater networking and interaction, the GS-HSS serving as a point of contact and integration platform. In particular, it consolidates existing services and information about events and calls for proposals and makes them visible to all interested parties .



- G3S Graduate School of Social Sciences
- BGSH Basel Graduate School of History
- DBAW Doctoral Program of Ancient Civilizations
- DPL Doctoral Program Literary Studies
- HPSL Hermann Paul School of Linguistics
- eikones Center for the Theory and History of the Image (university doctoral program)
- SP various (disciplinary) sub-programs



Starting your doctorate

<https://philhist.unibas.ch/en/doctorate/>

It usually takes 3–4 years to complete a doctorate, which comprises a dissertation (monograph or cumulative), a curriculum-based academic program and a doctoral examination. A dissertation project should be agreed with the first supervisor and a funding plan should be in place before the doctorate starts.

1. First supervisor

The first supervisor must be named in the application for admission to a doctorate at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. To this end, the first supervisor must complete an [application](#) which is to be submitted to the [Student Administration Office](#) along with the application admission.

2. Doctoral agreement

The doctoral student and first supervisor define the doctorate conditions and conclude the doctoral agreement. The original agreement is kept by the doctoral student. During the first semester, a copy of the cover page and funding plan must be submitted to the Student Administration Services of the Dean's Office (by post or email to Hildegard.Raeuber@unibas.ch). The first supervisor should also keep a copy. The doctoral agreement is updated at least once a year as part of a status review meeting. In the event of changes to the details specified on the cover page of the doctoral agreement, a copy of the updated agreement must be submitted to the Doctoral Board via the Student Administration Services of the Dean's Office.

3. Forming the Doctoral Committee and defining general conditions

If possible, the supervisors should be appointed at the beginning of the doctorate. However, the Doctoral Committee must be appointed by the Doctoral Board at the latest 12 months after the start of the doctorate with the naming of the second supervisor. A copy of the updated doctoral agreement cover page is to be sent promptly to the Student Administration Services of the Dean's Office (by post or email to Hildegard.Raeuber@unibas.ch). The addition of any further reviewers can be requested up to the point of registration for the doctoral examination.

At the outset, it should also be determined whether the doctorate is to take place within a doctoral program and whether a *cotutelle de thèse* (a doctorate at two universities) is to be pursued.



Documents, regulations and factsheets

<https://philhist.unibas.ch/en/doctorate/documents-factsheets/>

All relevant documents and forms can be found on the website mentioned above. It is important to familiarize yourself with the doctoral study regulations and the doctoral guidelines before beginning your dissertation.

Here you will also find all documents required to start a doctorate and factsheets on the requirements for a cumulative dissertation or a *cotutelle de thèse*.

Academic program courses

Courses are offered at subject level and/or doctoral program level that will allow you to acquire the required credit points in accordance with the respective curricula and your individual doctoral agreement.

Each semester, the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences offers courses in transferable skills specifically for doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences.

These are announced in the News section of the GS-HSS website:

<https://philhist.unibas.ch/en/doctorate/>

GRACE, the Graduate Center for doctoral students and postdocs, also provides a wide range of training formats and networking events:

<https://www.unibas.ch/en/Research/Graduate-Center.html>

Questions – points of contact

The Office of the Dean of Research will be happy to address any questions or concerns that may arise during your doctorate at any time.

The services listed below are also available.

New in Basel, representation of interests and legal advice

New in Basel, representation of interests and legal advice

[Welcome Center](#)

National and international cooperation

[National and international cooperation](#)

Assistants' association of the University of Basel

[avuba](#)

General legal advice

[skuba legal advice service](#)

Legal advice for family matters and students

[Legal advice for students and families](#)

Academic integrity

[Information and contact persons](#)

Financial and individual support

Support and funding for female early career researchers

[antelope](#)

Funding for:

- Doctorates in general
- Research stays
- Conference participation
- Academic events
- Printing dissertations for publication
- Editing costs

[Career advancement - doctorate funding](#)

Funding options

[Research Professional Database](#)

National and international funding programs

[Grants Office](#)

Careers and continuing education

Academic career advice and status review

[Career advancement – advisory service](#)

Career services

[Graduate Center](#)

Dual Career - couples pursuing academic careers

[Dual career options](#)

| | |
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| Transferable skills | Transferable skills courses |
| More training options and workshops | Further training |
| Personal integrity and psychological counseling | |
| Personal integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual harassment • Discrimination • Violation of personal rights | Coordinator Personal Integrity Advice on sexual harassment |
| Diversity management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal opportunities • Integrity • Diversity | Diversity Management |
| Counseling for personal or psychological issues, such as stress and overload | Basel Student Advice Center |
| Physical, psychological and chronic barriers to study | "Students Without Barriers" (StoB) service point |
| Terms of employment and working conditions | |
| Employment – Human Resources | Human Resources |
| Internal university concerns and complaints | Ombudsman's Office |
| Conflicts, distribution of roles, cooperation in the workplace | Training and Development |
| Studying for a doctorate/postdoc as a parent | Family Services get on track for PhD students stay on track for female postdoctoral researchers |
| Income compensation during military and civilian service & maternity and parenting | Income compensation during military and civilian service Maternity and parenting |



Educating Talents since 1460.

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