

Basic information on the Structured PhD programme of the Department of Psychology at Bielefeld University

All doctoral students in the Department of Psychology have the opportunity to take part in a structured PhD programme. In this programme, doctoral students take part in subject-specific and interdisciplinary events and activities in order to expand their skills in independent scientific work and to be better equipped for the preparation of their doctoral thesis. The structured PhD programme aims to encourage and facilitate networking and exchange between the department's doctoral students.

Contents and scope

Participants in the structured PhD programme select subject-specific and interdisciplinary courses and activities worth at least **18 credit points (CP)** from the following areas. A minimum and maximum number of CPs is specified for each area.

1) Research activities (4 to 10 CP)

Possible events and activities:

- Active participation in research colloquia (within and outside Bielefeld University)
- Active participation in national and/or international conferences
- Seminars, courses, workshops, winter and summer schools on (primarily) content-related topics
- Contribution to publications that are not part of the doctoral thesis
- Participation in the scientific publication process (in particular guided or independent peer review)

2) Research methods (4 to 10 CP)

Possible events and activities:

- Seminars, courses, workshops, winter and summer schools in research and evaluation methods
- Offer of methodological advice for other doctoral students
- Independent supervision of theses in psychology or related disciplines

3) Transferable skills (2 to 4 CP)

Possible events and activities:

- Courses, workshops, winter or summer schools on the following topics:
 - Scientific writing / assessment / application
 - Communication skills (presentation, moderation)
 - University didactics
 - Time and project management
 - Acquisition of in-depth relevant IT skills (e.g. in evaluation procedures, test control software, programming)
- Independent implementation of or involvement in courses
- Participation in academic career counselling and planning
- Participation in science-related, academic self-administration (e.g. member of a university committee)

4) Network/Networking (2 to 4 CP)

Possible activities

- Peer exchange and advice (e.g. on the doctoral process, topics relating to publishing, preparing for symposia)
- Courses, workshops on the topic of networking
- Participation in a mentoring programme aside from supervision of the doctoral thesis and mentoring within the programme
- Research stays domestic and abroad

Analogue to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), **one CP** corresponds to an average workload of **25 to 30 hours**. The decision on the choice and use of the courses is the responsibility of the doctoral candidate in consultation with the supervisor. In total, the structured PhD programme is therefore based on a workload of around 480 hours.

Crediting limit:

In order to achieve a sufficiently broad use of the structured PhD programme, the programme stipulates a credit limit. This means that a maximum of 2 CP can be credited per course/activity (exception: longer stay abroad with 3 CP). To ensure that participants are active in each qualification area, a range of minimum and maximum points is specified, whereby it is clear that the focus is on research content and methods, with at least 4 CP each.

Minimum unit:

Each individual activity should be credited with at least 0.5 CP. Block courses or workshops must have a project duration of at least 11 hours (without breaks) to be counted as 0.5 CP and they must involve active participation by the participants. Meetings of a purely informative nature cannot be considered. To count courses that are **significantly** shorter than 11 hours (e.g. one-day courses), a concise written justification is required as to why these have made a decisive contribution to further academic qualification despite the short time required.

Supervision

The dissertation topic is worked on under the supervision of a member of the Department of Psychology who is authorized to supervise. The supervisor also supports the doctoral candidate in planning the activities in the structured PhD programme.

Mentoring

As part of the structured PhD programme, doctoral students are assigned a mentor from the group of university lecturers in the Department of Psychology at Bielefeld University for three years. Alternatively, psychology lecturers from other universities can also act as mentors. In justified exceptional cases, mentors from non-university institutions may be requested. In individual cases, it is possible to request non-specialist mentors if they are staff, people from disciplines related to the subject and the mentee submits a brief justification. Doctoral candidates have 6 months after registration with the doctoral programme to find their mentor. Together with the mentor, the doctoral candidate answers questions about viable perspectives and action strategies for successfully shaping the doctoral period and their own career planning within psychology. In addition to the exchange between mentor and mentee, the mentoring programme includes participation in a more comprehensive framework programme, for example for support in developing goals and structuring topics for mentoring.

Offers

In the structured PhD programme, participants can take courses from various areas. Some of the courses are provided by the Department of Psychology (e.g. methodological advice and workshops). Transferable skills can also be acquired as part of qualification programmes offered by Bielefeld University (e.g. ZLL or PEP). Participation in comparable courses offered by providers outside Bielefeld University is encouraged.

Registration

Registration for the structured PhD programme takes place simultaneously with the application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate in accordance with the specifications (qualification, documents, etc.) of the current doctoral regulations (Examination regulations of 16 October 2016 and amendment regulations of the examination regulations of 01 August 2022). Prior to registration, a supervision agreement is completed with the supervisor and a plan for participation in the structured PhD programme is recorded. Doctoral students who have already been accepted by the Department of Psychology can subsequently register for the structured PhD programme. To do this, they must submit the documents specified in the examination regulations amendment regulations of 01 August 2022 after joint planning with the supervisor. When planning, past activities within the framework of the independent doctorate/PhD studies as well as prospective activities within the framework of the doctoral programme can be taken into account, provided that they comply with the provisions within the four qualification areas. Proof must be submitted for the recognition of past activities (e.g. in the form of original certificates or the signature of the supervisor).

Degree

The doctoral programme is considered completed when at least 18 credit points (CP) have been demonstrably earned in accordance with the requirements of the resolution of the Doctoral Committee of the Faculty of Psychology and Sports Science of 04 July 2024. A corresponding transcript can be requested and submitted at the start date of the doctoral examination procedure.

Promotion office

Ruth Reinardy (programme coordinator) and Christine Schröder (secretary's office of the doctoral committee) form the doctoral office of the Department of Psychology.