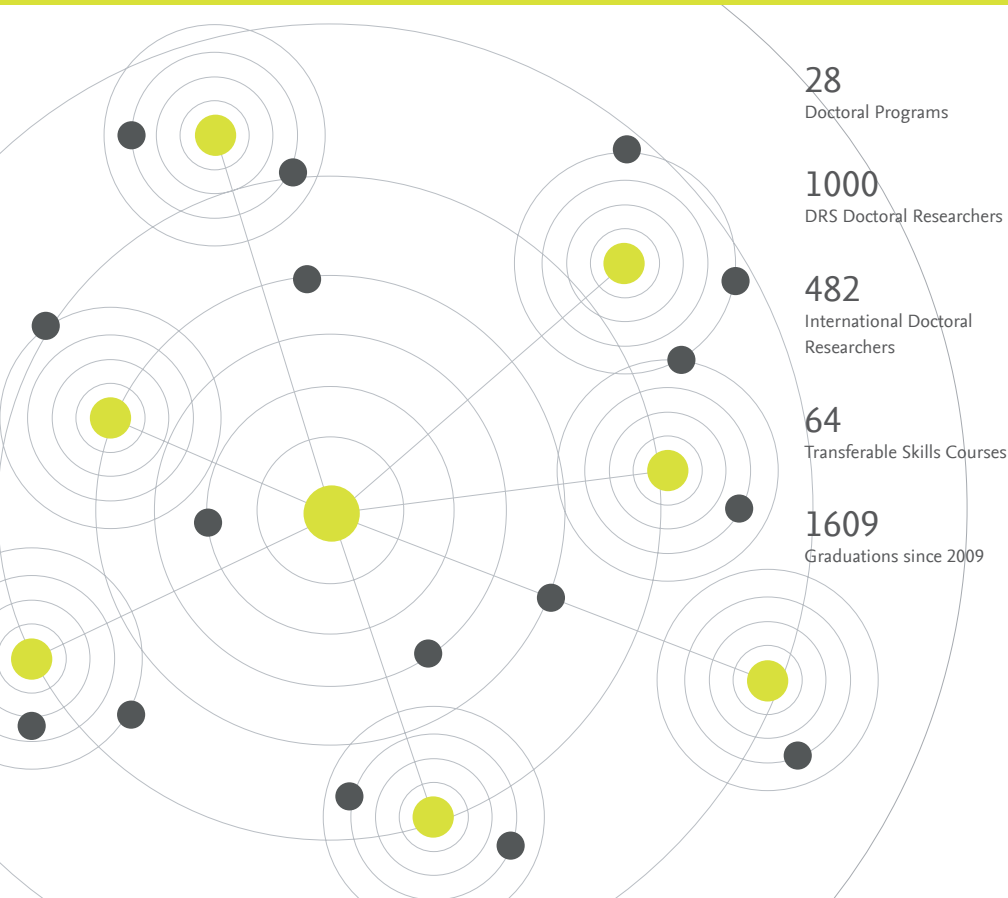




# DAHLEM RESEARCH SCHOOL

Center  
for Junior  
Researchers

## Facts and Figures | 2021



## SUMMARY

“Facts and Figures 2021” is based on

- data as of December 1, 2021 collected from DRS Doctoral Programs
- university enrollment statistics from December 1, 2021
- DRS training statistics for winter semester 2020/21 and summer semester 2021
- the 2021 survey of the National Academics Panel Study (Nacaps), a longitudinal study of doctoral researchers and doctorate holders by the DZHW (German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies).

Highlights of 2021:

- Freie Universität Berlin established new guidelines for safeguarding good scientific practice and a new ombudsperson scheme. A central ombudsperson and elected contact persons at the departments provide confidential advice and support on issues of good scientific practice. In addition, a Coordination Office for Research Integrity was set up and Dahlem Research School has developed a new regular online interdisciplinary basic workshop on research integrity aimed at early career researchers, which together with in-depth discipline specific workshops contributes to promoting good research practice at Freie Universität.
- Dahlem Research School welcomed two new member programs: International Research Training Group GRK 2662 – Charging into the Future, a close partnership between researchers of Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), McGill University, Montréal and the University of British Columbia, Vancouver (Canada), that aims to understand the interaction of polyelectrolytes with biosystems and GRK 2638 Normativity, Critique, Change at Freie Universität Berlin in cooperation with HU Berlin und UdK, which is exploring the nexus of norms, their critique and how norms relate to social change. It seeks to bring together the knowledge gained in Philosophy, German Literature, Art History, Studies of Religion, Dutch Studies and Linguistics, Musicology, Theatre Studies, Law Studies, Dance Studies, Film Studies.

**GRK**  
2662



NORMATIVITÄT  
KRITIK  
WANDEL

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## DAHLEM RESEARCH SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

Freie Universität Berlin is committed to improving the conditions for doctoral training and to sustainably ensuring the quality of research achievements, including doctoral research. As the Center for Junior Researchers, Dahlem Research School develops strategies and measures to safeguard the high quality of doctoral education at Freie Universität Berlin. In addition to advice and services for its member programs, it provides comprehensive training, counseling, and advice for early career researchers.

Dahlem Research School also coordinates and administers the Elsa-Neumann-Scholarship program of the state of Berlin, as well as the selection processes for the Ernst-Reuter-Prizes for outstanding doctoral theses sponsored by the Ernst Reuter Society and the Tiburtius-Prizes for outstanding final theses and doctoral dissertations awarded by the State Conference of Rectors and Presidents of Berlin Universities.

Figure 1 Dahlem Research School – key information

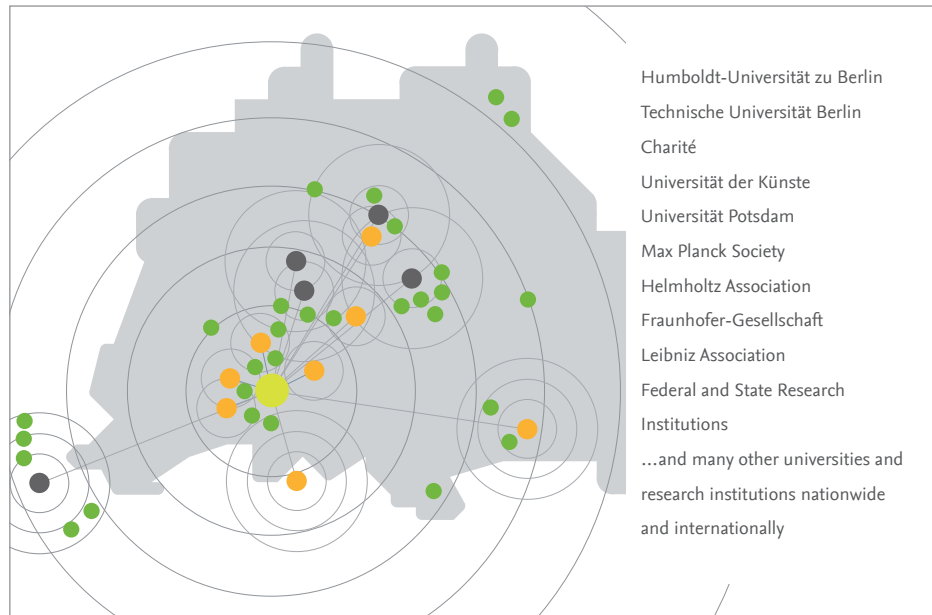
<b>2021</b>	
<b>DRS doctoral programs</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>DRS doctoral researchers</b>	<b>1000</b>
... women	532 (53%)
... international doctoral researchers	482 (48%)
<b>Elsa-Neumann-Scholarships at Freie Universität</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Transferable Skills Courses</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>since 2009</b>	
<b>DRS doctoral graduations</b>	<b>1609</b>
... women	779 (48%)
... international doctoral researchers	616 (38%)
<b>Transferable Skills Courses (Summer Term 2014 until Summer Term 2021)</b>	<b>1124</b>

Figure 2 Doctoral Programs of Dahlem Research School

Humanities & Social Sciences	Natural & Life Sciences
Berlin School of Economics	Berlin-Brandenburg School for Regenerative Therapies
Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies	Berlin Mathematical School DFG GRK 2434 Facets of Complexity DFG SFB 1114 IRTG Scaling Cascades in Complex Systems Graduate Research Training Program PharMetrX
Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies	Berlin School of Integrative Oncology
Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies Ancient Languages and Texts Ancient Objects and Visual Studies Ancient Philosophy and History of Ancient Sciences Landscape Archaeology and Architecture* Languages and Cultures of the Silk Road	Dahlem Research School Biomedical Sciences DFG GRK 2046 Parasite Infections DFG SFB 958 IRTG Scaffolding of Membranes BB3R Graduate Program Innovations in 3R ZIBI Graduate School – Center of Infection Biology and Immunity
Berlin School of Mind and Brain*	Dahlem Research School Molecular Science DFG SFB 1078 IRTG Protonation Dynamics in Protein Function DFG SFB IRTG 1349 Fluorine-Specific Interactions DFG SFB/TRR IRTG 227 Ultrafast Spin Dynamics Helmholtz Graduate School Macromolecular Bioscience International Max Planck Research School Multiscale Biosystems
DFG GRK 2248 Global Intellectual History	Graduate Program Biodiversity, Evolution and Ecology
DFG GRK 2638 Normativity, Critique, Change	Graduate School Plant Sciences DFG SFB 973 IRTG Biocommunication
DFG FOR 2229 Cinepoetics – Center for Advanced Film Studies	International Graduate Program Medical Neurosciences
Doctoral Program in Business Research	International Max Planck Research School for Biology AND Computation
Doctoral Studies Program History and Cultural Studies	MyoGRAD – International Research Training Group for Myology
Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies	Natural Sciences DFG SFB 1449 IRTG Dynamic Hydrogels at Biointerfaces DFG iGRK 2662 Charging into the Future – Interaction of Polyelectrolytes with Biosystems
Graduate School of East Asian Studies	Research School Future Information Technologies
Graduate School of North American Studies	Research School Materials for Solar Energy Conversion
International Max Planck Research School on the Life Course*	
Latin American Studies from a Comparative and Transregional Perspective DFG iGRK 2245 Temporalities of Future in Latin America	

\* cross-cutting programs with Natural & Life Sciences elements

Figure 3 Regional networks of partner institutions in member programs



Berlin's universities and the Universität Potsdam host more than 100 graduate schools and doctoral programs, most of them cooperating with researchers from other universities in Berlin and Brandenburg or from non-university research institutions. Many collaborations in the field of doctoral education strengthen the bond between the diverse and excellent research institutions of the region and constitute an extremely rich and stimulating research environment. Examples for jointly hosted programs are the DFG-Graduiertenkolleg 2046 „Parasite Infections“<sup>1</sup> in which Freie Universität Berlin cooperates with Charité, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Robert-Koch-Institute, MPI for Infection Biology, MPI for Colloids and Interfaces, Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research and the joint Institute for Bee Research of Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt, Saxony and Thuringia, and the Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies, which is integrated into the Cluster of Excellence “Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)”, a cooperation of Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, WZB Berlin



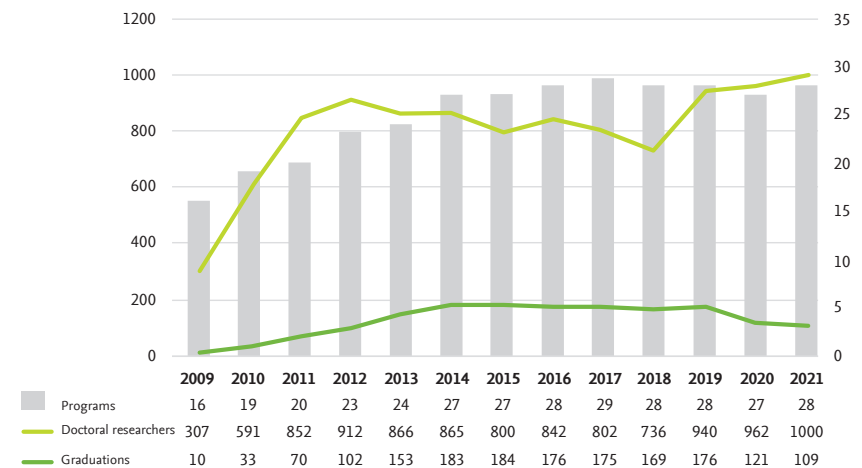
1 Sub-program of Dahlem Research School Biomedical Sciences

Social Science Center, Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS), German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hertie School of Governance and Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO).

With regard to internationalization, doctoral programs play an important role. As our figures show<sup>2</sup>, doctoral programs of Freie Universität receive about 80% of all applications from other countries than Germany; even the Humanities and Social Sciences, where language might be an issue, receive more international than German applications. Evidently, the advantages of structured doctoral studies within a doctoral program are highly attractive especially for international early career researchers, since they provide guidance, orientation, and recruit by transparent application and selection processes, making doctoral programs the main entry door for international talents to the Berlin research area.

As of December 2021, 1000 of the (est.) 4400 doctoral researchers of Freie Universität Berlin pursue their research in one of Dahlem Research School's 28 doctoral degree programs. Doctoral researchers registered in partner universities are not included to maintain comparability.

Figure 4 Dahlem Research School – development since 2009



2 Figures 7, 9 and 11, p. 16ff

2019–2021 figures are based on data provided directly by DRS doctoral programs, similarly the figures for 2009–2014, while the 2015–2018 figures are based on Freie Universität's enrollment statistics. As the number of graduations has remained stable since 2014 it can be assumed that the number of doctoral researchers has also not changed as much as the figures for 2015–2018 suggest. In 2020 and 2021, graduation numbers took a drop of over 30 percentage points compared to 2019. This drop may be explained with COVID-restrictions and the high number of international doctoral researchers in DRS programs.

## DEVELOPMENTS AT FREIE UNIVERSITÄT

### Research quality through culture change

The year 2021 witnessed a broad discussion on quality criteria for good doctoral dissertations at Freie Universität Berlin. Fuelled by an intensive public debate on plagiarism and research ethics, different players in the field of doctoral studies and university stakeholders came together to reach a common understanding of the necessary means for creating a fertile environment for good doctoral research.

Parallel to the re-working of the Statute for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice (s. next chapter), then Vice-President Marianne Braig invited members of Dahlem Research School's Permanent Commission, chairs of the departmental Doctoral Boards, Vice Deans for Research, speakers, coordinators, and doctoral researchers of Freie Universität's Graduate Schools to reflect on the current state of the doctorate and on ways for improvement.

Clearly, the goal of establishing a culture that encourages advancement of knowledge through original research, balances tutelage and freedom, offers guidance where needed and creates an atmosphere of trust and mutual appreciation and respect, can only be achieved if sufficient time is available for it.

Whereas doctoral programs apparently manage to secure room for intense exchange of doctoral researchers with both, peers and supervisors, the National Panel Survey NACAPS (s. pp. 23–29 of the present Facts & Figures) shows that intensity of supervision in the individual doctorate is much lower and results in lesser satisfaction rates compared with the structured doctorate. Among other conditions not easy to measure, it seems evident that the supporting structures typical for doctoral programs help to provide the free space urgently needed for good supervision and good doctorates.

It will be a major task for the near future to transfer these positive effects of structure appropriately to the individual doctorate. To this end, a new concept for Dahlem Research School has been developed, which will extend the responsibility of DRS to all doctoral researchers at FU Berlin.

### Research Integrity

The Executive Board of Freie Universität approved its new "Statute for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice" ("GWP-Satzung") in December 2020, thus implementing the guidelines of the DFG Code of Conduct for Good Research Practice. The Good Scientific Practice (GSP) statute establishes that each department elects two ombudspersons to advise members of their department on all issues of good academic practice. In addition, Freie Universität set up a Coordination Office for Research Integrity and appointed a Central Ombudsperson in July 2021.

The Coordination Office is open to all members of Freie Universität Berlin with questions about good research practice. This includes questions regarding the Statute for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice, the procedure for dealing with scientific misconduct, and support with planned training and preventative measures.<sup>3</sup>

**"Ombudspersons moderate conflicts and ideally resolve them by mutual agreement of both parties. We try to awaken understanding for the other side among those involved and bring about a compromise."**  
*Joachim Heberle, Central Ombudsperson of Freie Universität Berlin*



### Commitment to quality doctoral education in DRS member programs

DRS member programs are committed to common quality standards and regulations of the DRS. In accordance with these, they establish program regulations following the DRS model regulation for doctoral education. This includes a curriculum with mandatory courses on good scientific practice and the appointment of ombudspersons.

<sup>3</sup> [www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/gwp](http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/gwp)

## Offers and services

Dahlem Research School offers introductory and advanced workshops on research integrity for doctoral researchers. It also provides support on topics such as good supervision and mediates in cases of conflict.



Within the framework of the Berlin University Alliance, early career researchers organize the annual high visibility “(In)Credible Research – ECR Conference”. The interdisciplinary online conference with lectures, discussions and workshops around the quality, integrity and credibility of science takes place every October. The conference motto in 2021 was „Science and Communication“.

The University Library offers advice and training in topics such as research data management, open-access publishing, and copyright. It also runs an institutional repository for the storage of open-access documents (Refubium) and provides support with quality assurance of academic texts using special software.

## RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSION IN DRS PROGRAMS

Calls for application of member programs are advertised internationally: on online researcher recruitment platforms, at research career fairs and through the liaison offices of Freie Universität, who advertise directly in the different regions. The liaison offices also provide information and advice on higher education systems and institutions and, as regional contact points, they advise and screen potential applicants.

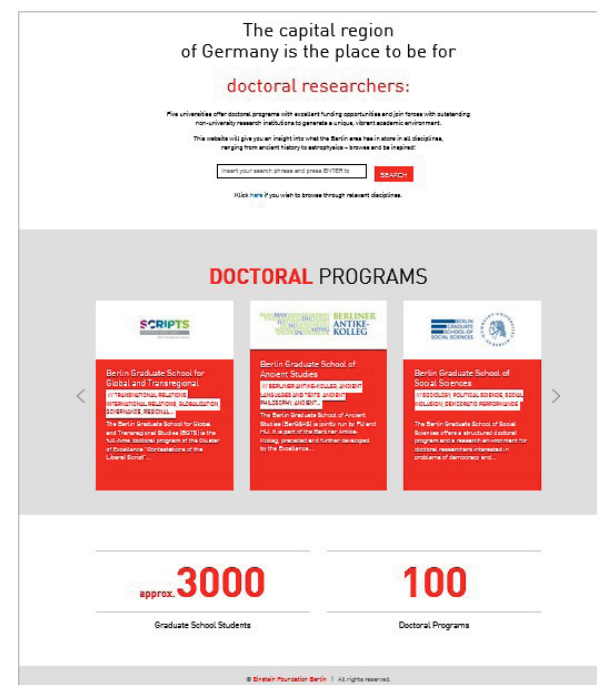
Another instrument for international recruitment is the platform “Doctoral Programs in Berlin”<sup>4</sup>, a cooperation with the other Berlin universities and Universität Potsdam funded by the Einstein Foundation. It provides easily accessible information on research in Berlin, funding opportunities and some 100 doctoral programs allowing searches across disciplines and institutions.

4 [www.doctoral-programs.de/welcome](http://www.doctoral-programs.de/welcome)

Figure 5 Liaison offices of Freie Universität Berlin



Figure 6 Website „Doctoral Programs in Berlin“

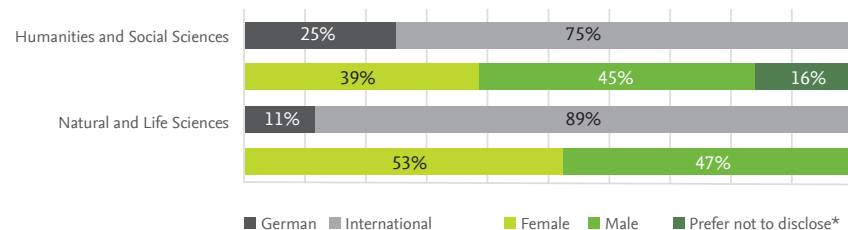




## Application and admission

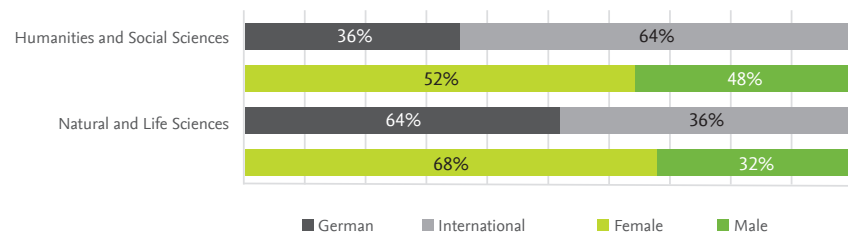
In 2021, 89% of applicants to DRS doctoral programs in the Natural and Life Sciences and 75% of Humanities and Social Sciences applicants are international. 53% of Natural and Life Sciences applicants and 39% of Humanities and Social Sciences applicants are women.<sup>5</sup>

Figure 7 Applications by subject, origin and gender



64% of successful applicants in the Humanities and Social Sciences are women compared with 68% in the Natural and Life Sciences, an increase of 18% and 22% percentage points respectively. The reason for this may partially lie in the fact that different programs were recruiting in 2021 compared to 2020. The rate of international admissions has changed as well since 2020: it decreased by 25 percentage points in the Natural and Life Sciences with now only 48% of admitted researchers being international and on the other hand it increased by 10 points in the Humanities and Social Sciences to 64%. Again, the data is not directly comparable to that of previous years, because some of the DRS programs do not have annual calls and therefore each year we are presented with a different sample of applications.

Figure 8 Admissions by subject, origin and gender



As in 2019 and 2020, in the Humanities and Social Sciences, about 60% of successful researchers come from Germany and other European countries, while in the Natural and Life Sciences, in 2021 more than 80% of successful applicants come from Germany and other European countries. Admissions from Asia have decreased to 18% in the Humanities and Social Sciences and to 12% in the Natural and Life Sciences, while admissions from South America have increased back to 4% in the Humanities and Social Sciences and there were no admissions from Africa in either subject group.

Figure 9 Applications in Humanities and Social Sciences, by origin<sup>6</sup>, in %



Figure 10 Admissions in Humanities and Social Sciences, by origin, in %



<sup>6</sup> Category „Asia and Europe“: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkey have territory in both Asia and Europe.

<sup>5</sup> Two programs do not collect information on gender during the application process.

Figure 11 Applications in Natural and Life Sciences, by origin, in %

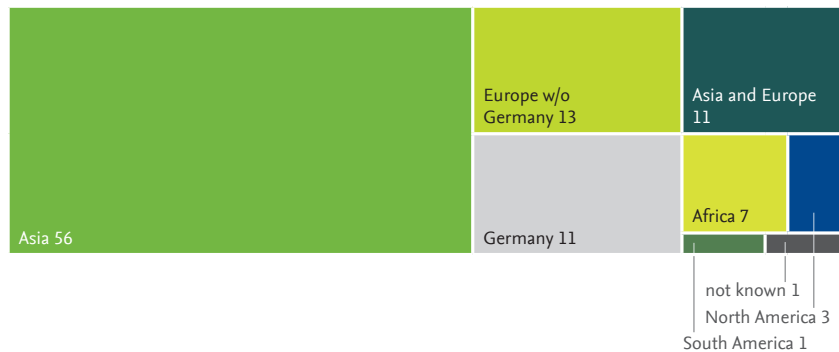


Figure 12 Admissions in Natural and Life Sciences, by origin, in %

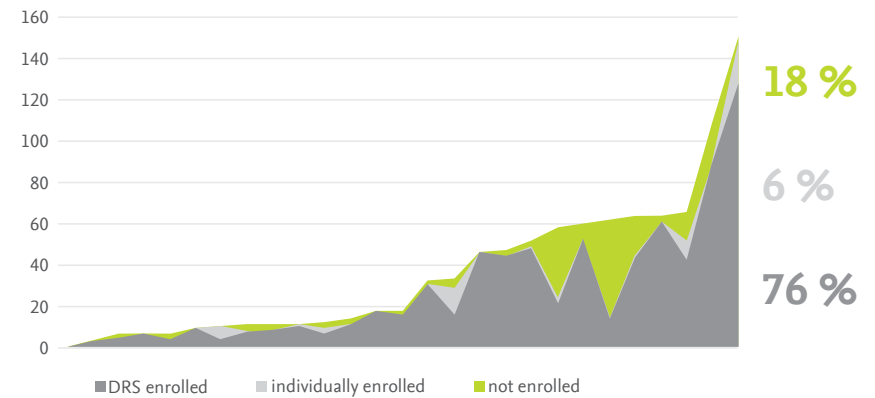


### DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS AT DAHLEM RESEARCH SCHOOL

After comparing the data collected from DRS programs with the enrollment statistics, the results show:

- the share of correctly enrolled DRS doctoral researchers has risen by 20 points to 76%
- only 6% of DRS doctoral researchers in 2021 are enrolled incorrectly as individual doctoral researchers compared to 28% in 2020
- the percentage of DRS doctoral researchers who are not enrolled at all has risen by 2 points to 18%.

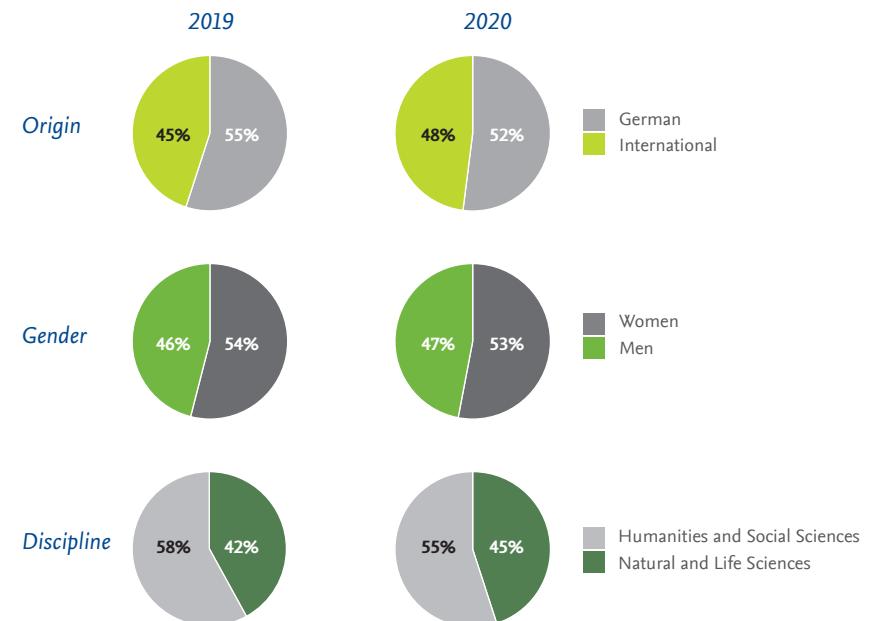
Figure 13 DRS – doctoral researchers 2021, by enrollment status



In the following, we refer to the data collected directly from DRS programs unless stated otherwise.

On December 1, 2021, one thousand doctoral researchers pursue their doctoral research in one of the DRS member programs.

Figure 14 DRS – doctoral researchers 2021, by origin, gender, and discipline



Dahlem Research School and its member programs are internationally oriented: most programs include research collaborations with international partners and almost all are exclusively or partially taught in English. Consequently, 45% of DRS doctoral researchers are international. The share of international doctoral researchers among all doctoral researchers of Freie Universität Berlin is 37%.

In contrast to 2020, the percentage of international doctoral researchers from Europe is the highest followed closely by Asia and after some gap then by the Americas and Africa. China remains the single nation with most researchers followed by Italy, India, Iran, Turkey and France.

Figure 15 DRS – doctoral researchers 2021, by discipline and region

a) Humanities and Social Sciences



b) Natural and Life Sciences

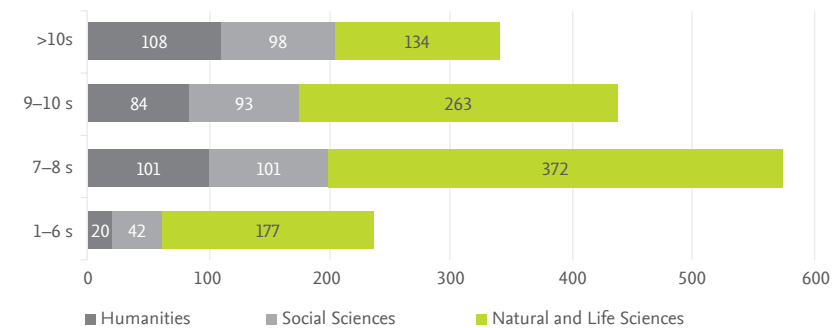


Doctoral degrees

Between 2009 and 2021, 1607 doctoral researchers completed their doctoral degree in DRS programs. 38% of the graduates are international and 48% are female researchers.

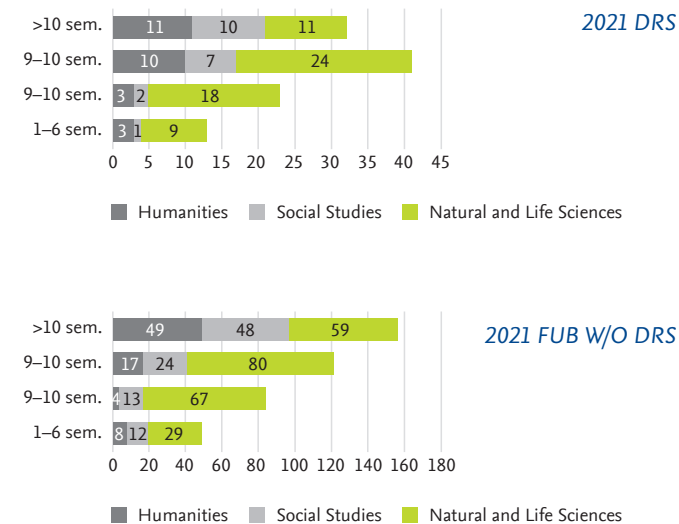
51% completed within 8 semesters, 21% took longer than 10 semesters. In comparison, during the same time period, 49% of individual doctoral researchers completed their degree with 8 semesters and 23% took longer than 10 semesters.

Figure 16 DRS – doctoral degrees since 2009, by duration in semesters



In 2021, 109 DRS doctoral researchers completed their doctoral degree. 40% of the graduates are international and 48% are female researchers. 33% completed within 8 semesters and 29% took longer than 10 semesters. In comparison, 32% of individual doctoral researchers completed their degree with 8 semesters and 38% took longer than 10 semesters.

Figure 17 DRS & Freie Universität – doctoral degrees 2021, by duration



When looking at the nationality of DRS graduates and the duration of their studies, a striking difference emerges: of international 2021 graduates, 52% completed within 8 semesters and 25% took longer than 10 semesters. In contrast, 20% of German graduates completed within 8 semesters and 32% took longer than 10 semesters. During the period 2009–2021, of international DRS graduates, 56% completed within 8 semesters and 19% took longer than 10 semesters. During the same time period, 47% of German DRS graduates completed within 8 semesters and 22% took longer than 10 semesters. It seems that international researchers are under more pressure to complete their doctorates within the standard processing time (4 years for most departments) compared to German researchers.

Of all researchers who started their doctorate in a DRS program between 2009 and 2021, 55% have graduated, 34% are actively pursuing their doctorate and 11% were exmatriculated for different reasons. Of these, 2% stated that they were still completing their studies, at Freie Universität or a different university, 7% were exmatriculated for unknown reasons (most likely because they are close to completion and did not want to or forgot to re-enroll), and only 2% declared that they dropped out altogether. This drop-out rate has remained stable since we started analyzing this data in 2019.

Figure 18 DRS – all doctoral researchers 2009–2021, with exmatriculation causes

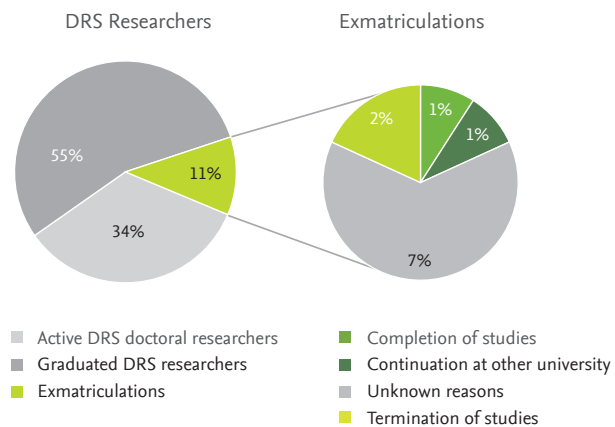
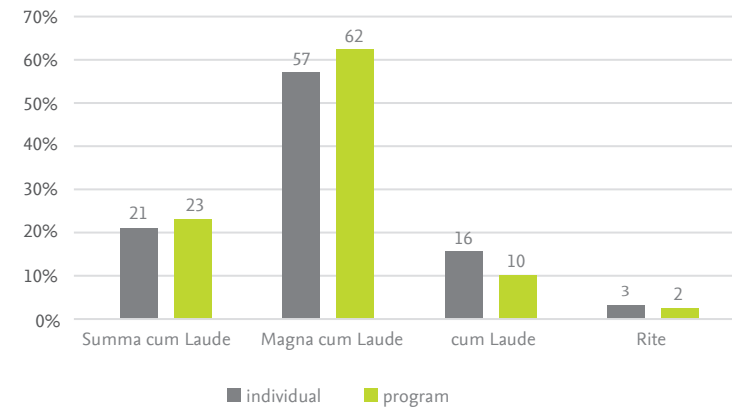


Figure 19 DRS & Freie Universität – doctoral degrees 2021, by grade



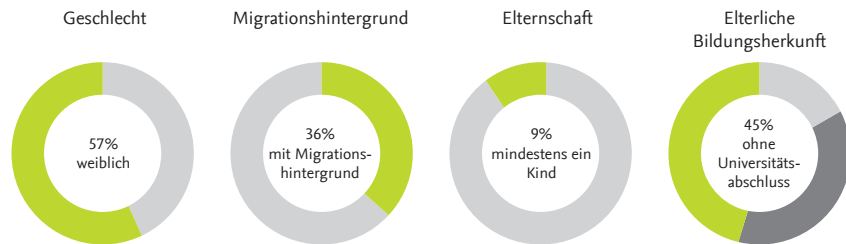
DRS doctoral programs still seem to have the edge when it comes to grades achieved. This may be explained by the competitive selection carried out by the programs and the high level of support during the research phase.

### NATIONAL ACADEMICS PANEL STUDY

Freie Universität has been participating in the longitudinal study of junior academics, the National Academic Panel Study (Nacaps) of the German Center for Research on Higher Education and Science (DZHW), since 2018. Nacaps systematically collects data on the career paths of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in Germany. Since 2019, around 40.000 doctoral researchers from around 60 universities have taken part. More than 40 indicators were collected for seven topic areas ranging from employment conditions to the type and structure of the doctorate, from the motivation for doing a doctorate to career strategies. In 2021, just over 400 doctoral researchers from Freie Universität participated, which translates into a response rate of about 34%.

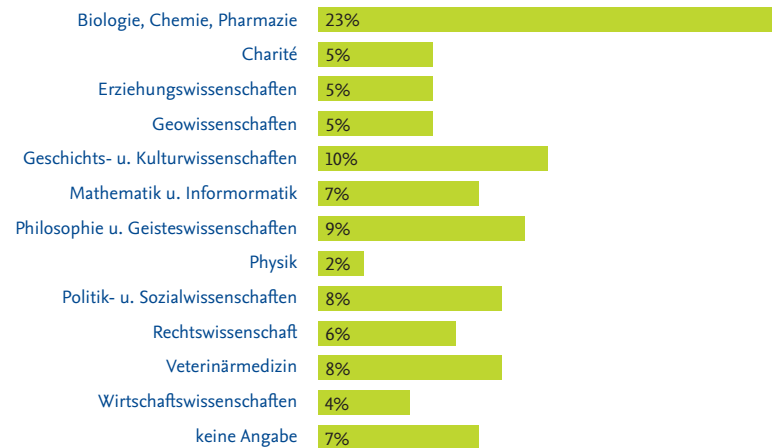
Figure 20 Nacaps: Participation in 2021 survey<sup>7</sup>

Überblick und zentrale Merkmale der befragten Promovierenden an der Freien Universität Berlin – n (eigen Hochschule, gefiltert) = 409



In comparison, nationwide 51% of participants are women, 24% have an international background, 11% are parents and for 50% at least one parent is not university educated.

Figure 21 Nacaps: Participation in 2021 survey by department



In 2021, 50% of the participants come from the Natural and Life Sciences departments and 42% from the Humanities and Social Sciences departments, with 7% not specifying a departmental affiliation. This represents an inverted distribution in comparison with 2019, when 55% of responses came from humanities and social sciences. FUB's enrolment statistics report doctoral researchers from humanities and social sciences have a share of 53% in 2019 and 52% in 2021. In other words, the share of responses from the natural and life sciences has risen disproportionately to the share of doctoral researchers from these disciplines.

Figure 22 Nacaps: Highlights of 2021

Nacaps-Facts Freie Universität Survey 2021 (n=409)



You can find these and other Nacaps results at [www.nacaps-datenportal.de](http://www.nacaps-datenportal.de) or [www.nacaps.de](http://www.nacaps.de)  
Source: German Center for Higher Education and Science Studies (DZHW)/Nacaps survey 2021

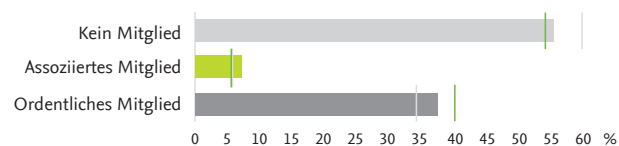
<sup>7</sup> The partner section of the Nacaps data portal, in addition to your own university's results, also offers benchmarks from the entire sample of all Nacaps partner universities. The portal is only available in German. <https://nacaps-datenportal.de/partnerindex.html>

Figure 23 Nacaps: Membership in a structured program

Indikator: Mitgliedschaft in einem strukturierten Doktorandenprogramm

Eigene Hochschule (gefiltert): n = 388 vs. eigene Hochschule (ungefiltert): n = 1.849 vs.

Bundesbenchmark (gefiltert): n = 13.445



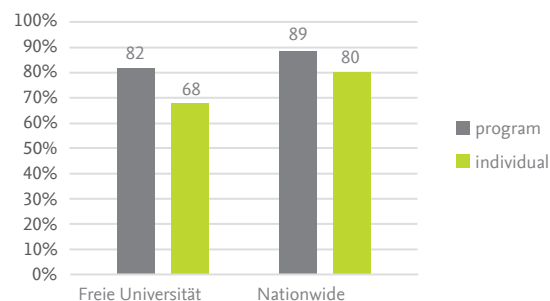
According to the Nacaps results, 40% of respondents nationwide and 37% of Freie Universität's respondents are members of a structured doctoral program. The Federal Statistical Office still reports a share of only 19% of structured doctorates for the year 2021, same as in 2019.<sup>8</sup>

According to the enrolment statistics of Freie Universität Berlin, in winter semester 2020/21, 22% of doctoral researchers are enrolled in a program. Dahlem Research School's own data collection for the same period reveals a share of 23% structured doctoral researchers. This represents a much smaller discrepancy with the enrolment database than was found in 2019, which can be still explained by the fact that 6% of doctoral researchers are enrolled incorrectly (see Figure 13, p. 19).

Members of structured programs are overrepresented in the responses. This may be simply because they can be reached better via their program coordinators.

In the following, we present some of the results of the Nacaps study.

Figure 24 Nacaps: Supervision agreements

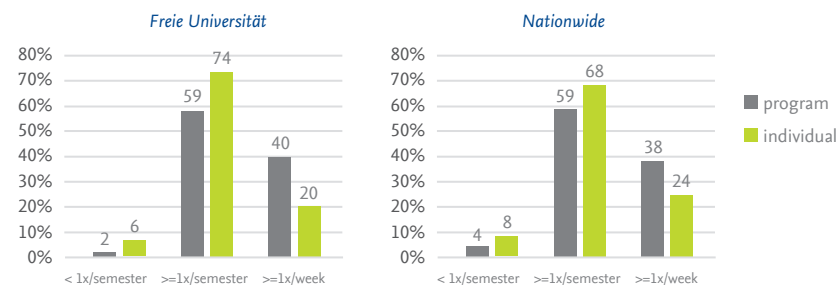


8 Statistisches Bundesamt (2022): Statistik der Promovierenden 2021

At Freie Universität, 82% of researchers in doctoral programs and even 68% of individual doctoral researchers have signed a supervision agreement, an increase compared to 2019. This shows that elements of the structured doctorate are becoming more prevalent also in individual doctorates. Nationwide even more so: 80% of individual doctoral researchers state that they have a supervision agreement.

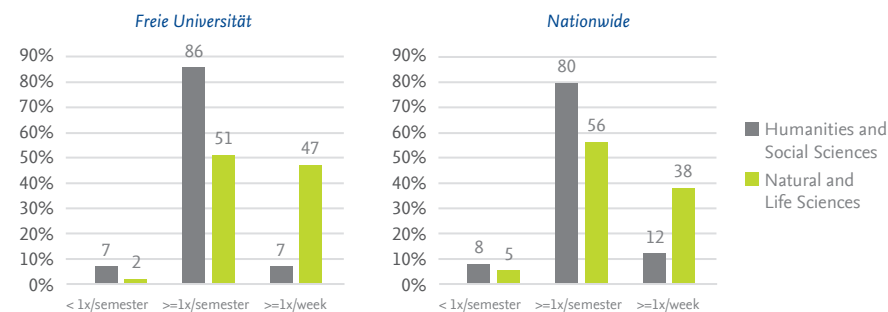
69% of researchers in doctoral programs and 48% of individual doctoral researchers at Freie Universität report a team of two or more supervisors, slightly fewer compared to 2019. The nationwide results are very similar: 67% of program members and 53% of individual researchers have more than one supervisor.

Figure 25 Nacaps: Intensity of supervision in structured vs. individual doctorates



40% of doctoral researchers in programs and 20% of individual researchers at Freie Universität meet with their supervisor(s) at least once a week. 2% of program members and 6% of individual doctoral researchers meet much less frequently, fewer times than once per semester. It seems that doctoral researchers in programs see their supervisor(s) more often than individual doctoral researchers. This is mirrored in the nationwide results.

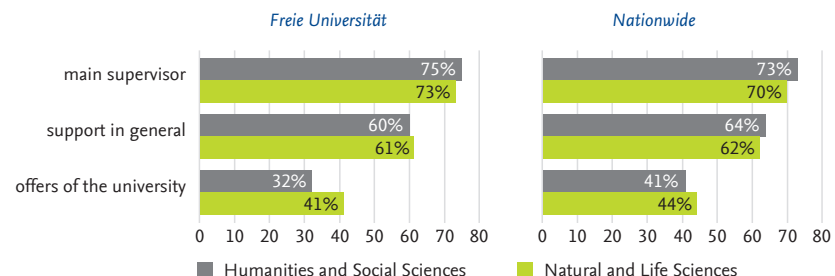
Figure 26 Nacaps: Intensity of supervision by discipline



Differences are more noticeable between the disciplines: 47% of doctoral researchers in the Natural and Life Sciences meet their supervisor once or more a week, while this is the case for only 7% of doctoral researchers in the Humanities and Social Sciences. On the other hand, 7% of doctoral researchers in the Humanities and Social Sciences see their supervisor less frequently than once per semester while only 2% of natural and life sciences researchers report such a low meeting frequency. Nationwide we see a very similar picture.

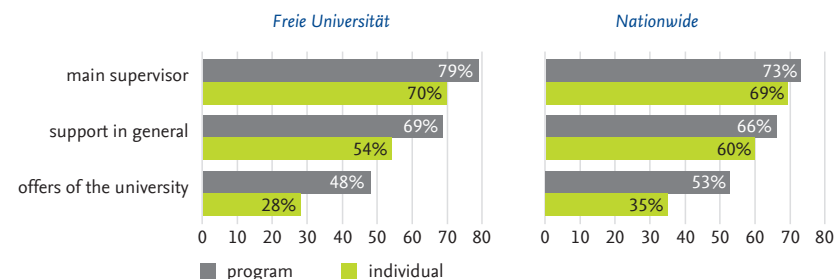
Nonetheless, 75% of the Humanities and Social Sciences doctoral researchers at Freie Universität are satisfied with their main supervisor, slightly more compared to the satisfaction rate of 73% among the Natural and Life Sciences. Overall, respondents are a lot happier with their supervision than in 2019.

Figure 27 Nacaps: Satisfaction with supervision by discipline



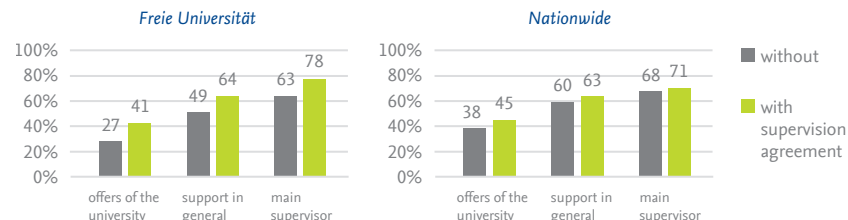
When comparing individual with structured doctorates at Freie Universität, 79% of doctoral researchers in structured programs are satisfied with their main supervisor, 9 percentage points more than individual researchers. Regarding support in general, structured doctorates at Freie Universität score 15 points higher, while strikingly, satisfaction with the university's offers among program members at Freie Universität is 20 points higher than among individual doctoral researchers, indicating a clear difference. This might be explained by the fact that those who are members of a program usually have tighter bonds to the university than those who follow the traditional individual path. There is room for improvement, especially regarding the perception of what the university has to offer.

Figure 28 Nacaps: Satisfaction with supervision in structured vs. individual doctorates



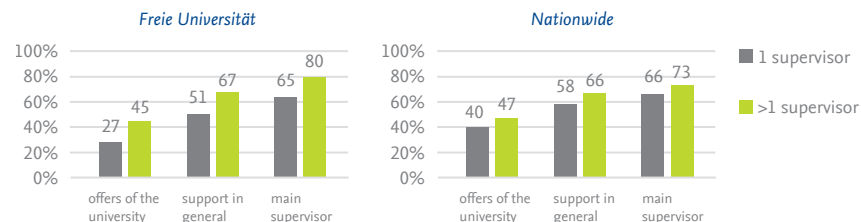
Taking a closer look across all disciplines and all doctoral researchers, it emerges that on average 15 percentage points more of those who have signed a supervision agreement at Freie Universität are satisfied with all areas of supervision, compared with those who have not signed such an agreement. Nationwide the differences are less pronounced but still observable.

Figure 29 Nacaps: Supervision agreement and satisfaction with supervision



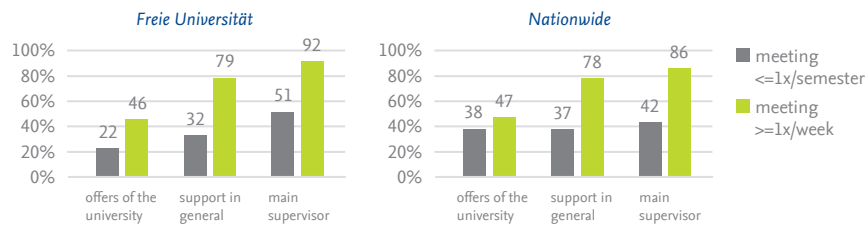
More doctoral researchers who have a supervision team of two or more supervisors, at Freie Universität and nationwide, are satisfied with all areas of supervision compared to those with one supervisor.

Figure 30 Nacaps: Supervision teams and satisfaction with supervision



The most striking difference in satisfaction rate can be observed when examining the intensity of supervision. The share of researchers who are satisfied with their supervision and support is considerably higher – 40 percentage points in the case of the main supervisor – among those who meet their supervisor at least once per week compared to those who meet less often. Again, this is the case both at Freie Universität and nationwide.

Figure 31 Nacaps: Intensity of and satisfaction with supervision

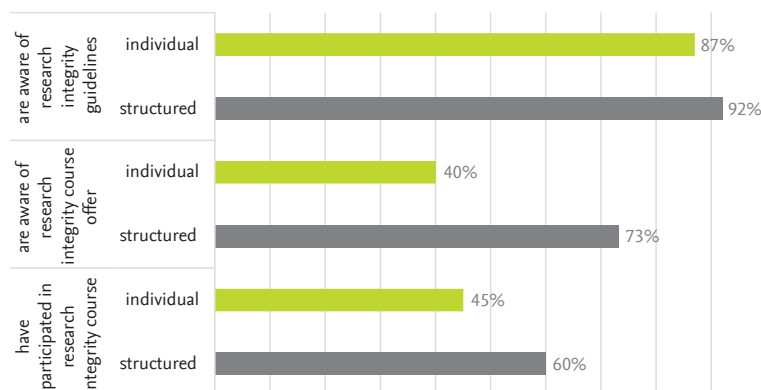


These results show that elements of the structured doctorate, such as supervision agreements and team supervision, seem to have a positive effect on the satisfaction of doctoral researchers.

Another argument in this direction is the survey result that 56% of the respondents at Freie Universität are aware of the general qualification offers for doctoral researchers. Among structured doctoral researchers, the share is 73%.

The following diagram focusses on the offers around research integrity:

Figure 32 Nacaps: Research integrity awareness at Freie Universität

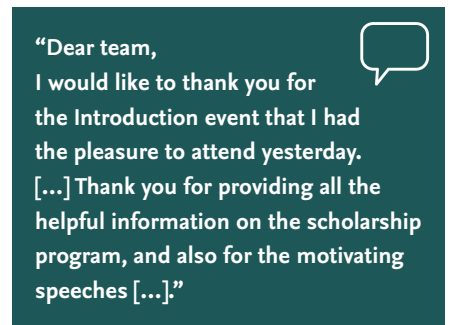


## ELSA-NEUMANN-SCHOLARSHIPS

The state of Berlin awards Elsa-Neumann-Scholarships to excellent doctoral researchers at Berlin's state-funded universities. The program is named in honor of the physicist Elsa Neumann, the first woman to receive a doctorate from Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität zu Berlin in 1899.



On November 5, 2021, an introductory event for new scholarship holders of the Elsa-Neumann-Program took place for the first time. Due to the pandemic situation, the event took place virtually and 34 scholarship holders from all four participating universities attended.



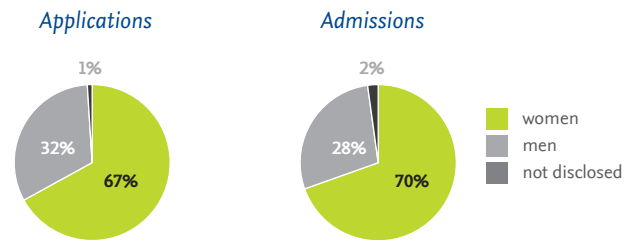
After a welcome by the chair of the commission, Prof. Maria Parr (FU), two keynote speeches by professors of the scholarship committee followed about the historical figure of Elsa Neumann and the role of science communication for doctoral researchers. A former scholarship holder then reported on his experiences in the program, and finally the participants had the opportunity to meet the Elsa-Neumann-team, to exchange ideas and to get to know each other.

The event served as a welcome and networking event and was very well received by all participants. It is planned to take place twice a year in the future.

In 2021, 100 applications from all disciplines were received and 46 scholarships were awarded by the interdisciplinary and inter-university selection commission appointed by the Senate of Berlin. The selection process and the administration of the Elsa-Neumann-Scholarships is carried out by Dahlem Research School.

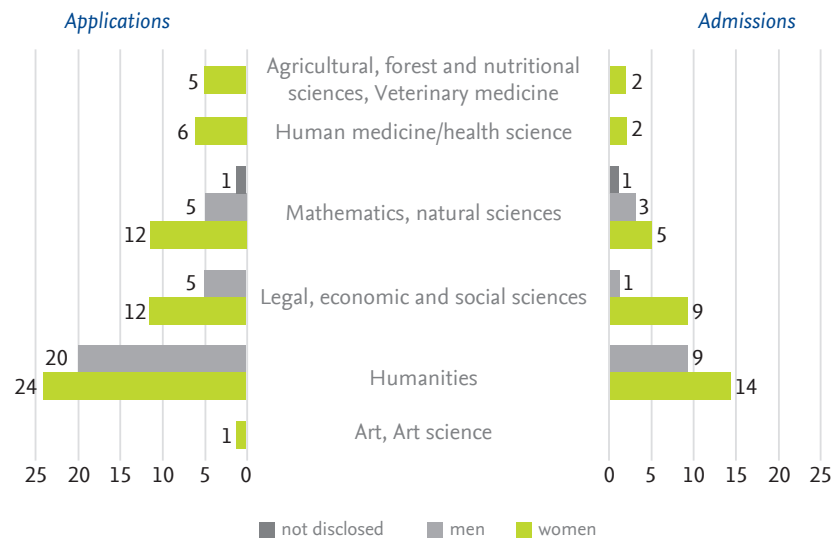


Figure 33 Elsa-Neumann-Scholarships at Freie Universität 2021



The success rate among women was 48%, among men slightly lower with 41%.

Figure 34 Elsa-Neumann-Scholarships at Freie Universität 2021 by subject group



As in previous years, the strongest subject group were the Humanities and Social Sciences. In comparison to 2020, there were more international applications again, which carried through to the admissions: 52% of applications were made by international researchers and 48% of admissions were international.

Figure 35 Elsa-Neumann-Scholarship applications at Freie Universität 2021, by region

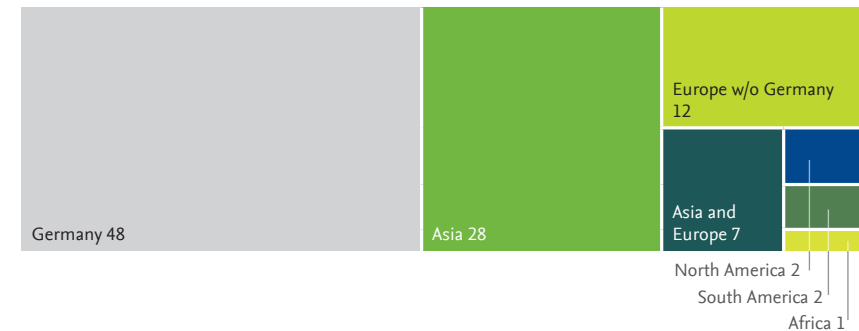
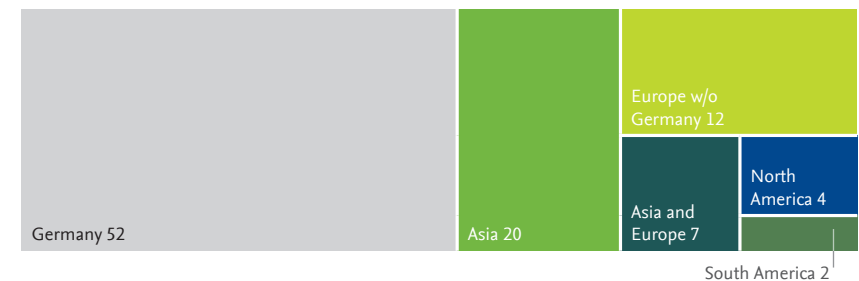


Figure 36 Elsa-Neumann-Scholarship admissions at Freie Universität 2021, by region



### DRS AWARD FOR EXCELLENT SUPERVISION

Each year, Dahlem Research School acknowledges and rewards two professors of Freie Universität Berlin for high quality supervision. Doctoral researchers from DRS member programs may nominate their supervisors for the DRS Award for Excellent Supervision.

Each nomination is evaluated according to four criteria categories by help of a questionnaire. The most important dimension is the supervision of the doctoral thesis itself and the provision of feedback on both, the development of the research and the personal development of the doctoral candidate. The provision of the necessary research infrastructure, including the training in research skills and in research integrity as well as help with applications for funding, is another important aspect. "Integration into the scientific community", that is provision of networking opportunities, fostering collaboration with colleagues, encouraging participation in national and international conferences, and, finally, "career guidance", make up

the other dimensions. The questionnaire is semi-structured, asking for the level of agreement with a set of statements and allowing for comments on each dimension plus a letter of nomination.

A selection panel comprised of doctoral researchers and staff members of Dahlem Research School evaluate the anonymized proposals and select the awardees. Each award consists of a grant of 2,000 Euros earmarked for further support of junior researchers.

Winners of the 2021 award were Prof. Dr. Barbara Fritz (Economics, Latin American Institute and Co-director of the Graduate School trAndeS) and Prof. Tibor Szabó, PhD (Berlin Mathematical School). Both were selected for their intensive and personal support, extending beyond the professional to personal development, while guiding their candidates towards the goal of a successful doctorate with high scientific standards.

### ERNST-REUTER-PRIZES FOR OUTSTANDING DISSERTATIONS

The Ernst-Reuter-Prizes are named after the former mayor of Berlin, Ernst Reuter, who was instrumental in founding Freie Universität in 1948. The awards, each worth 5,000 euros, are sponsored by the Ernst Reuter Society of Friends, Sponsors, and Alumni of Freie Universität Berlin. The selection process is coordinated by Dahlem Research School.

The 2021 awardees:

School psychologist Christina Bauer is developing methods for the educational integration of refugees.

Historian Martin Gehlmann analyzes the role of ancient Chinese educational academies in the cultural exchange between China and Korea, which are considered the nucleus of universities.

Physicist and member of DRS program “Molecular Science” Sven Niclas Tebogo Müller uses metallic nanoparticles to research optical processes for transmitting data in order to make computers and smartphones even faster.

Neurobiologist Ferdi Ridvan Kiral uses fruit flies to gain groundbreaking insights into diseases of the visual apparatus, which could open up new treatment options for humans.

Business informatics specialist Lena Wolbeck is developing algorithms to make duty rosters in nursing more equitable.

### TIBURTIUS-PRIZES FOR OUTSTANDING FINAL THESES AND DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

The Tiburtius-Prize, named after Professor Joachim Tiburtius, who held the office of Senator for National Education in Berlin from 1951 to 1963, is awarded annually by the State Conference of Rectors and Presidents of Berlin Universities for outstanding final theses and doctoral dissertations. The selection process is coordinated by Dahlem Research School. In 2021, in total three master’s theses and six doctoral dissertations were honored.

Three researchers from Freie Universität Berlin received a recognition award: Johannes Czakai from the Institute for Eastern European Studies for „Nochem’s New Names. The Jews of Galicia and Bukovina and the Introduction of German First and Family Names 1772–1820“.

Jan-Philipp Freudenstein from the Department of Education and Psychology for „Underlying Psychological Processes of Situational Judgment Tests. Towards a Theory-Driven Integration of Person-Situation Interactions“.

Nora Haakh from the Institute of Islamic Studies and member of DRS program “Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies” for „Layla and Majnun in the Contact Zone. Translations from Arabic into German in the field of contemporary theater“.

### FURTHER PRIZES AWARDED TO DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS IN DRS PROGRAMS (SELECTION)

#### **Berlin-Brandenburg School for Regenerative Therapies**

Jonas Kath received the FOCIS Research Award of the FOCIS Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies for “Improved Non-Viral Car-Reprogramming of Conventional And Regulatory T Cells Using Crispr-Cas and Double-Stranded DNA”.

Wera Pustlauk received the Young Investigator Award DeGAG 2021 Award der German/Swiss/Austrian Society of Arterial for “Osteoporosis and vascular calcification – an immunological link”.

#### **Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies**

Jannis Grimm received the GPSA Dissertation Prize 2021 of the German Political Science Association (GPSA) for his dissertation titled „Contesting Legitimacy: Protest and the Politics of Signification in Post-Revolutionary Egypt“.

Nora Haakh receives the special award in „Culture“ from the city of Augsburg for her

doctoral thesis on „Majnun und Layla in der Contact Zone: Translations from Arabic into German in the field of contemporary theater“.

Hanna Nieber received the Steppat-Prize for her dissertation „Drinking the Written Qur’an: Healing with Kombe in Zanzibar Town“.

Besnik Sinani won DAVO Dissertation Award 2021 by the German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation (DAVO) for his dissertation „The Ba Alawi Sufi Order in Saudi-Arabia: State, Orthodoxy, and Deviance in Contemporary Islam“.

### Berlin Mathematical School

Ander Lamaison Vidarte and Lena Walter received the MATH+ Dissertation Award 2020/2021, awarded in cooperation with the Einstein Foundation Berlin for their dissertations „Upper density problems in infinite Ramsey theory“ and „Toric Newton-Okounkov Functions, the Kingman Coalescent, and Fully Mixed Cells“ respectively.

### Friedrich Schlegel Graduiertenschule für literaturwissenschaftliche Studien

Alexandra Ksenofontova received the 2021 Screenwriting Research Network (SRN) Award for her monograph “The Modernist Screenplay: Experimental Writing for Silent Film”.

Lea Schneider received the Art Award Berlin 2021 of the Akademie der Künste, endowed with 5000 Euro. She is working on the topic „Vulnerability as a Weapon. Poetics of self-exposure between internet culture, emancipatory strategy, and the literature business“.

### Graduate School of North American Studies (GSNAS)

Dominique Haensell was one of ten authors awarded by publisher De Gruyter with a free Open Access publication of her dissertation “Making Black History – Diasporic Fiction in the Moment of Afropolitanism”.

Lucas Hellemeier was awarded the 3rd place Aquila ascendens Prize of the Dialogue Forum Security Policy for his master thesis „The United States and European Defense Cooperation“.

### QUALIFICATION AT DAHLEM RESEARCH SCHOOL

The joint qualification program of the Berlin University Alliance (BUA Graduate Studies Support Program) consists of two program elements: (1) core events and (2) satellite events that are grouped around the cores. Core events are carried out jointly, satellites are offered separately by the partner institutions. In addition, Dahlem Research School’s own events are open to all doctoral researchers from the BUA partner institutions.

Figure 37 BUA Graduate Studies Support Program

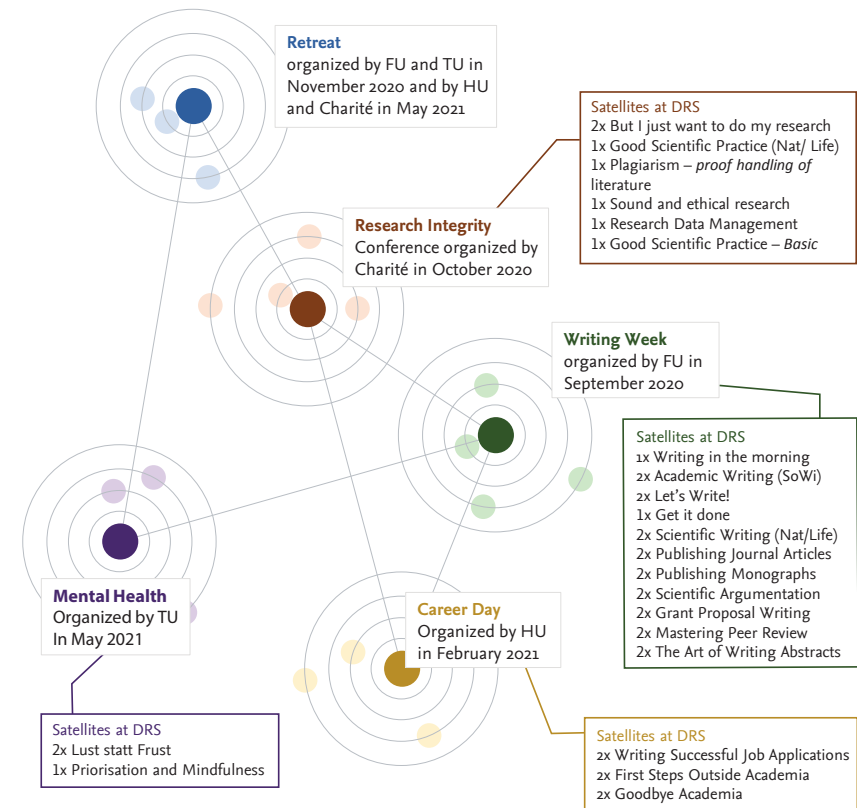


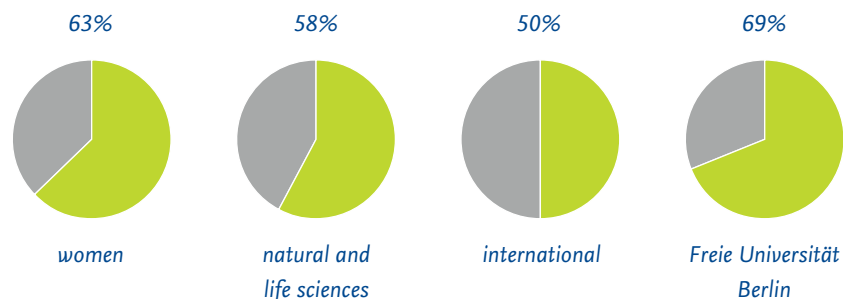
Figure 38 Course participation 2021



In total, 709 confirmed participations were recorded for DRS organized events, with about 750 applicants on waiting list places.

69% of participants came from Freie Universität, 12% from Humboldt-Universität, 9% from Technische Universität, 7% from Charité and 3% from joint projects with other universities.

Figure 39 Who were the participants in 2021?



Since May 2021, core events have taken place in Lounjee. Participants access events via the platform, „enter“ online rooms and retrieve event-relevant materials. However, Lounjee is primarily a networking tool. It allows connecting with peers in an „Early Career Researcher“ network. For example, a „writing group“ has already formed, which regularly meets online. Another group, „Socializing,“ facilitates regular exchange among doctoral researchers not yet settled in Berlin.

As part of the spring retreat, a networking evening with virtual “speed dating” took place in Gather.town, an innovative conferencing tool that allows video calls and chats. Participants move around as avatars in virtual conference hotel lobbies or seminar rooms. In response to participants’ requests, two further networking events have since taken place and more are planned.

Due to COVID-19, during the reporting period 2020/2021 all events took place virtually. The lack of face-to-face interaction was challenging, but digital formats also have many advantages such as less travel and fewer difficulties to meet childcare obligations. Plus we now have the infrastructure and expertise as well as the enthusiasm of trainers and participants to engage with digital formats! Virtual events will continue to complement and expand our range of face-to-face courses in order to offer greater participation flexibility in the future.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The new edition of the DRS statistical report, Facts & Figures 2021, is the second edition reflecting the pandemic. With regard to internationalisation, the field that was most seriously affected by travel bans and lockdowns, no progress was made in comparison to 2020. Admission rates of international doctoral researchers to DRS programs even declined, and again, there were no researchers admitted from African countries. However, the Friedrich-Schlegel-Graduiertenschule applied to the Einstein-Stiftung Berlin with a proposal to establish a digital predoc program for doctoral researchers from the Global South. If granted, the program could become a pilot to change the picture, worthy of imitation.

The Executive Board of Freie Universität Berlin and Dahlem Research School started the process of evaluating the Graduate Schools of the former Excellence Initiative. Based on self-reports, international reviewers will assess the achievements of the schools and join an evaluation commission chaired by the former Rector of the Universität Freiburg, Hans-Jochen Schiewer. Site visits are planned for late winter, and in spring next year, the Executive Board will decide on continued support before summer 2022. Dahlem Research School, being in charge of coordinating the evaluation and documenting the results, will gain highly valuable experience from this process on which we can build the development of future quality assurance measures.

In September 2021, the new Berlin Higher Education Law (BerHfG) became effective. For the first time in Berlin the law established a formal representation of doctoral researchers in the university and its Academic Senate: the “Promovierendenvertretung”. All Berlin universities are to enact by-laws for this new body; the DRS is mandated by the Executive Board to develop those rules during the next year.

Highest public and inner-university attention, however, found another reform forced by the new Higher Education Law: the implementation of a mandatory tenure track for postdoctoral researchers. Most likely, the obligation to offer permanent positions to postdocs who qualified themselves successfully on a fixed-term contract will exert an enormous influence on the qualification of junior scholars and on the system as a whole, touching also of course upon the doctorate as a first step on the career path in academia. New concepts for the doctorate will be needed, regarding supervision, career counselling, progress monitoring, and overall career support. Dahlem Research School stands ready to accompany and help with these reforms. Facts & Figures 2020 for the first time included a report on career tracking, and in

the future developments chapter, we expressed the hope to follow up each year on a basis of growing cases. To our great regret, instead we had to stop data collection on the careers of our graduates because of data protection concerns. Therefore, this topic is absent from the present and will not be addressed by future editions of Facts & Figures. This is even more painful in the light of the new developments briefly described above. Career tracking however will remain an issue and reliable statistics are urgently needed to adjust the tools developed by all partners of the Berlin University Alliance for supporting early career researchers and making their career paths more secure. As it seems, the NACAPS data will remain the best source for information on career developments for us. Which makes it all the more important to achieve maximum participation in this national survey.

The team of Dahlem Research School thank all contributors to the new edition of Facts & Figures and all participants in the NACAPS surveys.



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