

Giessen University's **International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC)**, funded by the German federal government's Excellence Initiative, offers a three-year, structured PhD-programme in the study of culture. With its excellent research environment, a doctoral programme which is tailored to the needs of PhD students and the intensive personal support it provides, the Graduate Centre offers doctoral researchers optimum conditions for their PhD-projects and custom-made preparation for the time thereafter, both with regard to academic and non-academic careers.

The GCSC invites applications for one of the

**up to 13 PhD scholarships**

available, which are funded by the Excellence Initiative as well as the Justus Liebig University Giessen.

The PhD scholarship period starts on October 1, 2013 and includes a monthly stipend of approximately €1,468 (plus family allowances when applicable). Scholarships are offered for one year with the possibility of two extensions, each of one year. The GCSC supports young researchers with families; appointees with children under the age of twelve are eligible for renewals of up to four years.

Acceptance of a scholarship requires participation in the study programme and wide-ranging events offered by the GCSC, as well as active involvement in at least one GCSC graduate research group. PhD scholarship holders must register as PhD students at the Justus Liebig University. There are no tuition fees for doctoral students at the JLU, except for an enrolment fee of approximately €200 per semester. All scholarship holders are expected to assume residency in or near Giessen.

The GCSC expects scholarship holders to:

- Research a dissertation project that contributes to the GCSC's research profile\* and can be supervised at the Justus Liebig University
- Actively participate in one of the GCSC's research areas\* by initiating, coordinating and documenting collaborative research projects, such as conferences or publications
- Participate in the GCSC's curriculum

The GCSC offers a research-intensive environment and comprehensive multi-tier supervision at all stages of a dissertation project through e.g. interdisciplinary research colloquia and professional support in preparing academic papers and conferences. The GCSC Teaching Centre offers systematic qualification in HE teaching; opportunities to teach at the BA level are available.

**Eligibility:** We invite applications for contributing to the study of culture in various historical contexts as well as those analysing contemporary phenomena. An international research perspective i.e. international study experience is an advantage. The GCSC encourages applications from graduate students who have or expect to obtain a first or upper second class honours M.A.-degree (or equivalent) in one of the GCSC's academic subjects\* or in the arts/humanities, cultural studies, or the social sciences. The GCSC's working languages are German and English, and applicants must be fluent in at least one of them; knowledge of both is an advantage and should be acquired during the scholarship period.

The GCSC focuses its research within the following Research Areas\*: Research Area 1: Cultural Memory Studies | Research Area 2: Cultural Narratologies | Research Area 3: Cultural Transformation and Performativity Studies | Research Area 4: Visual and Material Culture Studies | Research Area 5: Media and Multiliteracy Studies | Research Area 6: Cultural Identities | Research Area 7: Global Studies and Politics of Space | Research Area 8: Cultures of Knowledge, Research and Education.

In addition, the GCSC is currently establishing working groups organized around “emerging topics” that are expected to contribute to the research spectrum by establishing and strengthening links to neighbouring disciplines. Initial working group activities have bridged the study of culture with the fields of economics, ecology, life sciences and law.

**Application procedure and deadline:**

The main selection criteria are the candidates' academic qualifications, the academic quality of the research proposal and the suitability of the project for the GCSC's research programme. Short-listed candidates will be invited to a 30-minute interview.

**The application deadline is March 1, 2013 (date of receipt). All applications (including an application form and further documents as stated on the GCSC-website) have to be submitted online. Please find all information about the two-stage application procedure on our website at <http://qcsc.uni-giessen.de/application>.**

If you have any questions concerning your application, please contact us at [qcsc-application@uni-giessen.de](mailto:qcsc-application@uni-giessen.de). On **January 28, 2013**, the GCSC will host an Information Day at the Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC), Justus Liebig University Giessen, Alter Steinbacher Weg 38, 35394 Giessen. The Information Day gives potential applicants the opportunity to meet the staff and students involved in the doctoral programme. You will also have a chance to obtain more information on the research areas and academic objectives of the GCSC; the wide range of interdisciplinary courses, colloquia, and conferences; the research support on offer; our international networks and partner institutions; as well as publishing and additional funding opportunities available to GCSC-members. To register for the Information Day, please visit our website.

\*) see <http://qcsc.uni-giessen.de> or <http://qcsc.uni-giessen.de/research>