

## 10 Positions for Early-Stage Researchers

The **Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)** invites applications to its PhD program BIGSSS-departs (doctoral education in partnerships). It is part of the COFUND scheme funded by the European Commission under the Framework for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020. BIGSSS is an international Social Science inter-university graduate school, located at the University of Bremen and Jacobs University Bremen, Germany.

### Description

BIGSSS-departs provides close supervision of dissertation work in a demand-tailored education and research environment. It supports doctoral fellows in achieving early scientific independence, and provides funds for conducting, presenting, and publishing their research. The language of instruction is English. Successful applicants will pursue a topic in one of BIGSSS' research areas that are organized in three thematic fields:

- A. Global Governance and Regional Integration
- B. Welfare State, Inequality, and Quality of Life
- C. Changing Lives in Changing Socio-Cultural Contexts

BIGSSS-departs Early Stage Researchers dedicate themselves to:

- conducting a specific dissertation project,
- following a 42-month structured curriculum, including a six-month stay abroad at an external academic partner institution or with an external non-academic partner.

For the stay abroad, BIGSSS has established a network of prestigious international social science partner organizations (Duke University, Manipal University, Moscow Higher School of Economics, Institut d'études politiques de Paris/Sciences Po, Taras Shevchenko University, Università degli studi di Milano, University of Edinburgh, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Edna Pasher PhD & Associates).

### Conditions

The duration of the time-limited work contract is 42 months, with no possibility for extension in the program context. The employment is governed by the Fixed Term Research Contracts Act, §2 (Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz – WissZeitVG), with a pay rate according to the regulations of the COFUND

program. The salary includes social insurance and health insurance with a monthly income of €2250 (before deductions). Funds for additional research costs such as travel, conference participation, in-house events, and outreach events will be available.

Fellows commit themselves to their own dissertation projects and the full academic program of the BIGSSS curriculum. Additionally, BIGSSS encourages all accepted fellows to dynamically integrate in research activities at various Bremen Social Science institutes.

### **Requirements**

For the program starting in February 2017, we seek candidates with strong academic abilities and a Master's degree (or equivalent) in political science, sociology, or psychology. Potential candidates with a degree in related social science disciplines are also welcome.

Applicants must be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and not yet have been awarded a doctoral degree. All accepted researchers are asked to move to Bremen for the program as presence at the institution is required. Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Germany for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the date of their application. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account. All nationalities are welcome to apply.

BIGSSS strives to increase the share of women in the university and hence also strongly encourages women to apply. Disabled persons will be given preferential treatment in case of otherwise equal qualification. Applications must be submitted online at <https://admissions-departs.bigsss-bremen.de>.

The call is open until September 15, 2016.

### **Application**

Applicants have to include a "Statement of Fit" between their dissertation proposal and faculty members they have identified as potential supervisors. Applicants are requested not to contact faculty members directly but to consult the BIGSSS-departs admissions website for a list of recent research areas and supervisors, as well as detailed guidelines for research proposals.

More information on the Bremen faculty and research areas, the international network of BIGSSS-departs and application guidelines can be found at [www.bigsss-bremen.de](http://www.bigsss-bremen.de).

For additional inquiries, please check the online FAQ and feel free to contact our admissions officer ([admissions-officer@bigsss-bremen.de](mailto:admissions-officer@bigsss-bremen.de)).