



# The Franco-German University (FGU)

**Broadening horizons and promoting academic excellence**

## **Funding programmes for researchers – doctoral programmes, international mobility, networking**

As well as promoting and funding integrated degree programmes, the Franco-German University (FGU) supports cooperation in the fields of structured doctoral programmes and Franco-German research. It is particularly active in promoting collaboration and an intense pooling of knowledge and experience between researchers.

**Structured doctoral programmes: FGGS**



**CT**



**PHD Track**



### **Franco-German graduate schools (FGGS)**

The aim of the Franco-German graduate schools is to foster structured doctoral programmes, in all disciplines, which require candidates to research in both France and Germany. The association with a third-country partner is possible. The funding primarily helps doctoral students to research and travel abroad.

### **Cotutelle de these (CT)**

A Franco-German *cotutelle* system allows doctoral students to write their dissertation under the supervision of at least one professor in Germany and another in France. Students are awarded a doctoral degree from both institutions after passing the joint defence.

### **PhD track programmes**

The aim of this call for applications is to develop Franco-German programmes in all disciplines that combine the two years of the master's programme with a further three years spent on a doctoral degree to form a five-year study period in total.

**Networking opportunities**



### **Scientific events for junior researchers (workshops, summer schools)**

This call for applications for the funding of research workshops and summer schools in the context of training and networking is aimed at French and German universities as well as non-university research institutes. The events are open to all disciplines, designed for a period of two days to four weeks and provide a venue for high-level academic discourse based on a specific pedagogical approach. They can be organised as individual events as well as a series of events, where events build on one another and which is aimed at building a network. Depending on the duration and design of the event, it is called either workshop (events of up to five days) or summer school (duration of more than six days).

Application deadlines for the next funding period: 15.06.2026

## Preparatory meetings

The preparatory meetings are used as a basis for organising and holding meetings between partner universities and for supporting the development of new degree and research programmes. The funding covers travel and accommodation expenses.

### Information for PHD-students, researchers and post-docs Testimonials



“The cotutelle de thèse gave me the opportunity to benefit from the methodological differences between French and German colleagues in their approach to solving academic problems.”

*Armin Azarian, Former cotutelle doctoral student in engineering at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and ENSAM Metz in cooperation with Siemens*

“The partnership with the French-German doctoral college is very important for us and our PhD-students because it increases the possibility of exchange. We have got partners to start projects and new research areas. The European dimension is an enrichment which offers our students the possibility to present and to discuss their research with other PhD-students and colleges in order to get advice and suggestions.”

*Stelvio Cimato, Department of Information Technology, University of Milan,  
Franco-German research workshop “Multimedia, Distributed and Pervasive Systems“*



The Franco-German University (FGU) is a network of affiliated member universities from France and Germany. Its administration is based in Saarbrücken. The FGU was founded as an international institution by means of an intergovernmental agreement (the Weimar Agreement) in 1997.

The FGU provides expert guidance on Franco-German university relations with the aim of enhancing university and research cooperation between the two countries.

The FGU's main tasks include initiating, coordinating and funding structured academic degree programmes for each of the three Bologna cycles. The degree programmes are subject to external academic evaluation by French and German experts.

The French and German governments, as well as the German federal states, provide equal funding to the FGU.

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