

I am enrolled now. What benefits do I get from being a student?

Being a student in Germany and specifically Göttingen is great, there are plenty of advantages you get:

- You can take the bus in Göttingen and the local trains all over Lower Saxony (!) for free.
- You can join the 'Hochschulsport' (University Sports) and participate in hundreds of different sports courses, go to the university gym or climbing hall. Find out more here [LINK](#).
- ! By the way, if you are interested in doing sports: our institute also has a small gym in the basement, recurring gymnastic courses and ambitious running groups have been established.
- Your student ID also acts as the 'Kulturticket', literally 'culture ID'. With this you can attend a multitude of events at highly reduced cost or even free. You can check the detailed offers here ([LINK](#)).
- You should check out the [eCAMPUS](#) and [STUDIP](#) websites if you have not already. On these websites you can interact with the technical side of being a student, e.g. paying your fees, seeing which classes you can teach or accessing your student email account. At [UNIVZ](#) you can check out a list of courses the university offers and that you are free to attend.

I have health problems (physical or mental). What can I do?

Most importantly if possible communicate the problems with your supervisor. If you are having second thoughts and would rather remain anonymous, there are several sources of support you can tap:

- For help with mental health problems you can use the psycho-social service of the university (quick appointments, free of charge, completely anonymous). Have a look at [LINK](#) for more information.
- You can also talk to the institute's elected equal opportunities officer or ombudsperson while protected by anonymity (have a look at [link](#) or [link](#) to see who currently holds that position).
- For physical and mental health problems you can make an appointment with the work doctor of the institute (contact info at ...) who can refer you to an english speaking specialist.

- You can talk to your current PhD representative. He/she will also ensure your anonymity and can point you to the right specialists.

I have a small child, am expecting a child or thinking about starting a family - what support do I get?

There is a childcare facility (*german*: Kita) available at the Fassberg. Furthermore you are entitled to additional money from the German state (Kindergeld) and monetary support to pay for childcare from the institute. Talk to the administration or the equal opportunities officer about details!

There is a room for playing and relaxing with children at the ground floor (administration hallway). The institute is generally a very family-friendly place, many of your peers will have families - you can talk to them about their experiences!

I'm new and want to hang out with people. Where to go?

Göttingen is a young city with a lot of options to enjoy performances, bars, cafes, student events, cinema, clubs, restaurants etc. In general the same principles are true as for 'How do I communicate with other PhDs?': Talk to people in the institute, mention your hobbies and they might know somebody to forward you to. If you want to look up places to go to here is a list of bars&co here [LINK](#) and the following list provides cultural events in Göttingen right now and coming up [LINK](#).

I only recieved this pamphlet in paper. How can I access the links?

The PhDs of the MPI have a website and specifically information on the graduate schools under:

<http://www.ds.mpg.de/graduates>

You can find a digital copy of this pamphlet on this webpage on the right hand site or under the following link:

http://www.ds.mpg.de/graduates/PhD_WelcomeFlyer



WELCOME FLYER

for PhDs at the MPI-DS

December 13, 2017

Overview

Version: July 1th, 2017

Dear fellow new PhD student, welcome to the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization (MPI-DS)!

We are happy to have you with us and hope you enjoy your PhD as much as some lucky ones of us do. For starters we strongly advise you to get yourself an established PhD as a buddy for the first few weeks. If everything went as it should, by now you should have been assigned a buddy and initial contact should have been established. Even though we hope this pamphlet will answer most of your questions, it's often easier to have a person to ask questions especially when you are new in Germany.

IN YOUR FIRST WEEK TALK TO THE PHD REPRESENTATIVE

She/he will sort you out for most of the initial problems you might have.

Furthermore there are two additional guides the **Visitor's Guide** and the **Living and working in Germany Guide** which are both recommended for more technical details about Göttingen and Germany, e.g. information about taxes, public transportation or renting a flat. If you didn't get one of those, ask your secretary about them.

Who is the PhD representative of the institute and what does he/she do?

PhDs in the institute have a special representation within the so-called "Max Planck PhDNet". The PhD representative is elected on a yearly basis and can help you with PhD-related questions. PhDnet also organizes a lot of social gatherings and talks - as a PhD you should automatically get the corresponding announcements via email.

You can always reach the current one under:

phdnet-reps-ds@ds.mpg.de

You are also very welcome to become active within PhDnet and help the community of PhDs grow together - again, talk to your current rep for more info!

Who are all these people around me? How is the institute organized?

In general there are currently two active departments, the *Laboratory for Fluid Dynamics, Pattern Formation and Biocomplexity (LFPB)* lead by Prof. Eberhard Bodenschatz and the department of *Dynamics of Complex Fluids (DCF)* lead by Prof. Stephan Herminghaus. Additionally Prof. Theo Geisel recently retired and used to lead the department of *Nonlinear Dynamics (NLD)* and some people still work in the emeritus group. In each department you have one director, a number of senior faculty staff who also supervise PhDs, some post-docs, a lot of fellow PhDs and occasionally undergraduates (Bachelor or Master students). Furthermore there are several independent research groups which have a similar, albeit much smaller, structure.

Additionally there is the administration (*german: Verwaltung*) and technical facilities like the workshop (*german: Werkstatt*). Everybody working in the institute can speak english and is happy to help you out if you have questions at hand.

You should be able to associate most people you see wandering through the halls regularly to one of the groups above. In the intranet you can also find a full organigram ([LINK](#)) and a list of all employees including room and telephone numbers and email addresses ([LINK](#)) in case you are interested.

Who is awarding me my PhD?

In Germany only universities and associated facilities can award PhD titles (or the German Dr. pendant). That is why the MPI-DS, even though funded mostly by public funds, can NOT

award you a PhD. But a graduate school can and will award you a degree when you follow their program.

Meanwhile the institute acts as an employer and gives you your needed research infrastructure and your working contract. Getting enrolled in a graduate school might be overwhelming at first, but is in the end very advantageous for you (i.e. professional method or skill courses, thesis committee and access to a bigger scientific network or peers).

What are the formalities of getting a PhD?

You have to adhere to the following procedure:

- You need to enroll at Göttingen university ([LINK](#)). You can enroll to a semester which already started in case your work contract starts in an ongoing semester.
- You need to join a graduate school which will provide you with the organizational framework to get your degree. There are several options and the most common graduate programs can be found here ([LINK](#)). Talk to your supervisor about which one is right for you.
- You need to choose a thesis advisory committee (TAC) which guides and evaluates your research. Usually you have to decide within 2-3 months after starting your PhD about who to ask. Discuss this with your supervisor and ask about suggestions for TAC members!
- You need to do teaching and attend some classes for every graduate school. Therefore inform yourself early about the required tasks you have to fulfill besides your research and thesis. Every graduate school will give you a detailed list of things you need to do to get your degree in the end.

Every graduate school has a coordinator. These people are there to help you with the formalities and answer your questions. If you have any doubts about the procedure, drop them a line or, even better, call them - they are very nice and helpful!

I need access to the clusters and/or information about IT-infrastructure. Who do I talk to?

Your responsible IT contact person depends on the department you are working in, they can inform you on all IT related questions.

- **DCF** (Herminghaus): Thomas Eggers (Room 2.61 - Tel. 237)

- **LFPN** (Bodenschatz): Gerhard Nolte (Room 2.08 - Tel. 330)

- **Independent groups or NLD**: Yorck-Fabian Beensen (Room 1.85 - Tel. 446)

- **Clusters**: Hendrik (Hecke) Degering (Room 1.89- Tel. 441)

What kind of regular scientific seminars can I attend?

In general, you should ask your secretary to add you to your department specific mailing list and the 'Wissenschaftler' mailing list. Both regularly inform about scientific talks, e.g. about the *MPI Campus Seminar*, the *MPIDS Colloquium* or the *Fassberg Seminar* among many others.

On a broader level you can check out the events section on the Göttingen Campus website, which informs about a plethora of talks all around the campus ([LINK](#)).

Where do I find teaching jobs at the university?

There is a website on-line which you can use to apply for teaching jobs before the semester start ([LINK](#)). Additionally the secretaries of the graduate schools usually get informed of classes in the upcoming semesters. If you have a specific class you want to teach it is also no problem to directly contact the lecturer.

An important note: teaching and attending lectures is part considered *working* time as a PhD. You do NOT have to do this in addition to your regular working hours at the institute!

How do I communicate with other PhDs?

Obviously the nicest way is just to talk to people. Nobody will bite you (hopefully) and you will usually meet most PhDs in a coffee area nearby at some point during the day. If you would like to address a larger crowd you can use Slack, a chat/share program, where we set up a hub for all PhDs at the MPI-DS ([LINK](#)). If you prefer the classic way you can also send out an email to the students-ds@gwdg.de mailing list to reach everybody via email. Graduate schools and the institute also offer yearly retreats for all their PhDs - this is a nice way to get to know people outside your research group!