



DFG-funded Research Training Group “Doing Transitions”: The Formation of Transitions over the Life Course

Information and guideline for applicants (12 doctoral student positions, 3rd round, starting 1st of January 2023)

The research training group is located at Goethe University Frankfurt and Eberhard-Karls-University Tübingen.

Six posts for doctoral students will be located in Frankfurt and six in Tübingen. You may indicate a preference for one of the locations in the application form. Preferences will be considered in the selection process, although the final decision will depend on the total of selected applicants.

In its second funding period the focus of the research training group has slightly shifted in the direction of "The Constitution of Life-Course Transitions".

Application procedure

Applications must contain

- A covering letter in which applicants describe themselves and their motivation,
- the completed application form,
- a curriculum vitae (CV),
- copies of grade certificates / university degree and other documents that the applicant wishes to refer to (translated if not in German or English),
- a research proposal (of 5 to max. 8 pages plus references and ½ page abstract) which relates to the research programme of “Doing Transitions” (please make sure to be familiar with the programme description available on this website and please refer to the current version of research and training programme (<https://doingtransitions.org/en/research-training>), not to the previous funding period). Your envisaged dissertational project may relate to one life age (but projects might also address more than one life age). The empirical approach should address one of the three dimensions (interpersonal relationships, temporality, materiality) while the theoretical framework and the overall interpretation should consider interrelation with the other dimensions (as well as with the modes of shaping and producing transitions, i.e. discourse, institutions, individuals, structuring the previous research programme, see website).

The research training group is not bound to particular methodological approach. Thus, different types of studies addressing the relational constitution of transitions in the life

course on the basis of different sorts of data and research methods (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods) are possible and eligible.

Your research proposal should be structured as follows:

1. Topic and brief description of your project and main research question; explanation how your research project relates to the Research Training Group programme and contributes to research on transitions in the life course
 2. Outline of relevant theories / background concepts and a selected overview over existing research in the field (not necessarily encompassing) and own previous work (if existing and relevant)
 3. Work programme: objectives and study design of your research project; specification of design, methodology and research methods
 4. Work plan: Show how your project could be organised and realised within three years.
- One letter of reference (about 1 page) by a professor providing information about the candidate's scientific potential, personal eligibility for a PhD post in a Research Training Group, thematic fit and competencies in empirical research methods.

Please, apply online! Send all documents until 15th of September 2022 at the latest in one email (and if possible in one pdf file with a file name containing your second name) to doingtransitions@uni-frankfurt.de.

Criteria assessment and selection

Selection for PhD students (see also section 5.1 in the project proposal on this website) is based on knowledge and skills relevant to the programme. That is:

- A completed Master's degree in Educational Science, Psychology, Sociology or related disciplines in social sciences with an excellent grade point average. Depending on your degree you may be required to obtain specific modules (please, consider the doctorate regulations of the respective university and that only PhDs in these three disciplines are possible!)
- excellent competencies in empirical research methods and research experience
- profound knowledge in at least one area of transition research;
- very good knowledge in spoken and written English;
- basic proficiency in German and the willingness to learn the German language in the first year to a level that allows discussing other research fellows' works and data in German;
- the quality of the research proposal, its relation to the research programme of the Research Training Group as well as to the state of art; it shall demonstrate the ability and willingness to get involved in a joint research process, to undertake empirical research on the constitution of transitions, and to complete a PhD within the period of three years.
- Apart from this, the application should resonate with the applicant's previous CV in a way that contributes to improving career opportunities

For your planning, we want to inform you that interviews with candidates whose applications have been evaluated as relevant and excellent, will take place on Wednesday, 12th of October

2022, afternoon, or Thursday, 13th of October 2022, in Frankfurt (for international applicants, depending on the distance of travel, online interviews may be organised). Please, make sure that you will be available during these two days!

In case of selection you will be allocated to a tandem of supervisors (ideally one from each location). However, you will have influence of the final composition of this tandem during the first year. External supervisors are not foreseen in the programme. You will sign an agreement of supervision with all professors involved in the Research Training Group in accordance with the PhD regulations of the universities Frankfurt and Tübingen.

PhD posts are part time positions (65%), funded by the DFG, and limited to the period of 3 years (the salary is according to TV-L E 13 and varies according to prior job experience; level 1 applies for persons without prior academic job experience). The limitation of contracts is in line with the ‘Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz’ that regulates employment of early career researchers.

We expect from you

- continuous presence at the respective location (at least 3 days per week)
- participation in the local and joint mandatory events of the training programme
- active contributions to the co-organisation of the Research Training Group.
- Important: Funding though a 65%-post instead of a grant is due to the intention of both DFG and the consortium to provide social insurance benefits (i.e. providing eligibility for pensions or unemployment benefits). In principle, a part time position allows a side job. However, it is important to take into account that the time needed for a PhD thesis definitely exceeds the time of a 65%-post over three years. Eventual side jobs will therefore be object of the supervision agreement.

Both universities are committed to equal opportunities for men and women. Therefore, women are particularly invited and encouraged to apply. The Research Centre provides excellent conditions for the reconciliation of work and family.

Applicants with impairments are prioritised in case of equal qualification.

Please note: Only the German version of this document is legally binding; this translation is only intended to assist your understanding.

Unfortunately, the universities can not reimburse travel costs for the interviews.