



DFG-funded Research Training Group “Doing Transitions”: Formation of transitions in the life course” (2nd round, starting 1st of January 2020)

Information and guideline for applicants (12 doctoral student positions)

Goethe University Frankfurt and Eberhard-Karls-University Tübingen are inviting applications for 12 doctoral student positions (salary for each position will be 65% of a full TV-L, E13 position) for a fixed term of 3 years.

6 posts will be located in Frankfurt and 6 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 multiple arguments.

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 (translation necessary if not in German or English),
- a research proposal (max. 10 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). Your envisaged dissertational project may be limited to one life age (e.g., childhood, youth, late adulthood) and you may as well choose one of the three levels of analysis (i.e. discourse, institutions, individuals) in your empirical research. However, interrelations with the other levels need to be taken into account in the theoretical framework as well as in the interpretations of results. Your research proposal shall be structured as follows:
 1. Topic and brief description of your project and main research question; explanation how your research project might be related to the Research Training Group programme at large
 2. Brief introduction to relevant theories / background concepts and a selected overview over existing research in the field (does not need being 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. Time schedule: Show how your project can be realised within three years.

- two letters of reference (each about 1 page) by two professors; the letters of reference shall provide 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 13th of September 2019 at the latest in one email (if possible in one pdf file with a file name containing your second name) to doingtransitions@uni-frankfurt.de.

Basis of assessment

Selection for PhD students (see also section 2.1 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 not that only phds in the 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 acquire the German language in the first year to a level that allows discussing others' works and data in German;
- the quality of the research proposal that relates 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 shaping and production of transitions, and to complete a PhD within the period of three years.

The programme is not limited to a specific methodological and methodical approach. This means that different types of studies are possible addressing the question for the formation and construction of transitions in the life course on the basis of a diversity of data and research methods (qualitative and quantitative).

The job interviews are scheduled for the following dates:

- Tuesday, 8th October 2019, 10 – 18 h
- Wednesday, 9th October 2019, 10 – 18 h
- Thursday, 10th October 2019, 10 – 18 h

Please, make sure you are available on every of these 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 composition of this tandem during the first year. External supervisors are not foreseen in the programme. You will sign an agreement of work and 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, E13 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 German ‘Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz’ that regulates employment of early career researchers.

We expect from you

- continuous presence at the respective location,
- participation in the local and joint mandatory events of the qualification programme
- and 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.

Unfortunately, travel costs for interviews cannot be reimbursed.

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