



Research Training Group ‘Doing Transitions’: Information and Guidelines for Applicants for the Position of Postdoctoral Fellow

The Doing Transitions Research Training Group is located across two universities: Goethe University of Frankfurt and Eberhard Karl University of Tübingen. Postdoctoral Fellows can either apply for an assignment at one of the two locations or for a flexible assignment shared between both universities.

In preparing your application, please familiarise yourself with the Doing Transitions’ Research and Training Programmes available on the Research Training Group’s website: www.doingtransitions.org. As the Research Training Group is now entering its second funding phase, please make sure to review ‘Research and Training Programme 2’.

In contrast to doctoral fellows in the Research Training Group who focus on a single aspect of the constitution of transitions, postdoctoral fellows are expected to focus on the interrelations between different dimensions involved in the constitution of transitions and to make theoretical contributions to the Research Training Group on a conceptual level. Postdoctoral researchers are also expected to contribute in the terms of methodological reflection and innovative research methods. Such contributions are to be beneficial for postdoctoral fellows’ own academic profile and career development as well as for the Research Training Group’s profile and its contribution to transition research more generally.

The Research Training Group offers postdoctoral research the opportunity to further develop their expertise in exchange with doctoral fellows and the participating faculty members. Where possible, postdoctoral fellows will be mentored by a team of two professors (one from each university) and are expected to proactively use the colloquia, workshops and conferences to discuss and further develop their projects. Where appropriate, postdoctoral fellows will be invited to speak at such events. The Research Training Group also offers fellows ample opportunities for national and international networking and further academic career development.

To apply for this position, applicants must submit the following documents:

- A motivation letter that describes the applicant’s professional skills and reasons for applying for the fellowship;
- A curriculum vitae; and
- A research proposal of (maximum 10 pages plus bibliography and a 250-word abstract), which is directly related to the Doing Transitions’ Research Programme (please familiar yourself with this programme on the Research Training Group’s homepage)

The research proposal should be structured as follows:

1. Topic: Brief description of the project that identifies its central research question; Rationale for the research topic in terms of how it is related to the Doing Transitions Research Training Group's research programme;
2. Brief overview of relevant theories / and the related state of the art of transition research as well as the researcher's own work where applicable;
3. Work programme: Description of the project's research objectives and research design; elaboration of the work programme and tentative research methods/methodology;
4. Research schedule: Details how the proposed project will be realised within the four-year funding period.

The motivation letter should indicate whether you prefer to be assigned to Frankfurt or Tübingen or explicitly note whether you are flexible in this regard. Requests for a specific location or flexibility between both sites will be taken into account where possible.

Selection criteria

- An above-average PhD in the disciplines of Education, Psychology, or Sociology;
- Superb research competencies in empirical research methods and profound knowledge of transition research;
- Proficiency in spoken and written English;
- International applicants who are not already proficient in German must show a willingness to learn German within the first year in order to participate in the discussions of German-language papers (their own research project as well as contributions can be written in English);
- Publications in national and international peer-reviewed journals;
- A promising research proposal with the potential to make theoretical and research methodological contributions on the interplay between different dimensions involved in the constitution of transitions in the life course;
- Symmetry between the desired qualifications and the applicant's curriculum vitae, i.e., the postdoctoral position should substantially advance the applicant's future career opportunities.

Selected candidates will be invited to an interview that will be scheduled in the first two weeks of July subject to Covid-19 pandemic protocols.

The postdoc position is a full-time position, funded by the DFG, for a period of four years and falls under the regulations outlined in the *Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz* in conjunction with the Hessian and Baden-Württemberg *Higher Education Act* for fixed-term contracts for academic staff.

We expect from you:

- regular presence at the respective location;
- mandatory participation in all site-related and cross-site compulsory events;
- teaching one course every second semester; as well as
- active participation in the Research Training Group's self-governing structure.

Both universities are committed to equal opportunities and therefore invite and encourage qualified women and gender-diverse applicants to apply. The Research Training Group offers a variety of support for reconciling work and family demands. People with disabilities are prioritised in cases of equal qualifications.