



University of Potsdam

Where Knowledge is Brought to Life

Overview

- Founded in **1991**
- **Largest university** in the federal state of Brandenburg
- About **20.600 students**, 13 % international, 18% in the Masters' degrees
- **3 campuses, 7 faculties** (new in 2017: „Digital Engineering Faculty“, formerly Hasso-Plattner-Institute; new in 2018: Faculty of Health Science)
- Numerous collaborations with the local **research institutes** (Max Planck, Fraunhofer, Helmholtz, Leibniz, IASS)



Welcome Center Potsdam

- **Central consultation service for international scholars**
- **Euraxess service center**
- **Two service points**
 - Facilitate the research stay of international guests and their families, ease mobility
 - Support the hosts (professors, scientific employees, secretaries)
 - Offer professional service structures



Welcome Center Potsdam

Customers

- International PhD students, PostDocs
- Guest Researchers, Guest Professors
+ accompanying families
- Scholars at Risk



Our Service for International Researchers

Individual Consultation and Support

- Information on the university, Potsdam, Berlin and grant programs
- Visa applications
- Housing
- Arrival formalities (registration, residence permit, work contracts, bank account, insurances)
- Family issues e.g. kindergarten and school
- Application for PhD admission to the University
- Departure formalities



Our Service for International Researchers

Networking and Integration

- Cultural and sportive activities
- Information regarding events
- Language courses
- Buddy program
- Monthly newsletter
- Social media



Scholars at Risk | University Activities

- Refugee Teachers' Program
- German Language Courses for refugee students
- Opening of special courses for refugees
- Psychological and legal counselling for Refugees
- Theater Project for diversity and tolerance „Sans souci avec Shakespeare“
- Voltaire prize for tolerance, international understanding and respect for differences (5.000€ - yearly since 2017)
- Joining SAR network in 2017



Scholars at Risk | Our Activities



- Hosting scholars
- Supporting projects dealing with at risk academics and promoting academic freedom
 - Lecture series „Science at Risk, Scholars at Work“
 - Seminars and workshops dealing with academic freedom
 - Off-University- online courses

Financial resources

- PSI (5 fellowships)
- Own financial support – phd scholarship
- Regular positions for phd/research stay- by invitation or application

Scholars at Risk | Challenges

- Access to the university, finding an academic mentor/host
- Language barriers
- New university system, new research methods
- How to write publications?
- Getting adjusted- suffering from fleeing, traumatic experiences
- Integrating into society
- Short term scholarships
- Perspectives -new ways outside academia?



Thank you for your attention!



Contact | Welcome Center Potsdam

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