



Arguments for an interdisciplinary structured doctoral program

The German doctoral system, which is rooted in the Humboldt tradition, is now being criticized for its close relationship between graduate students and their supervisor. Its weaknesses are considered to be the non-transparent selection process, the long doctoral study period, the often unsystematic training of the graduate students which depends on the discretion of the supervisor, the lack of instruction in interdisciplinary subjects, and the strong dependence on a single supervisor. A trend towards structured doctoral programs can be seen in all European countries. Through obligatory supervision standards they provide a course of studies parallel to the doctorate and a reliable framework for the training of young scientists over a predetermined period of time. This creates a more efficient organisation of the doctoral studies which reduces its duration and the age at which the doctorate is conferred. In the structured doctoral program new features are emphasized which go beyond the learning of scientific skills through the writing of a doctoral thesis to the teaching of further scientific competencies. Thus, obtaining of a doctoral degree is developing more and more into a Research Training.

Doctoral studies remain crucial for learning the skills necessary to pursue independent scientific research. The structured doctoral program of the ArchaeoBioCenter develops them further into a modern form.

Content

The goals of the ArchaeoBioCenter are the promotion of interdisciplinary research, academic instruction and the exchange of knowledge between the social and natural sciences. On the basis of the connections between those involved from the different subjects, the existing relations and ties can be intensified and extended for the mutual benefit of all. The doctoral program of the ArchaeoBioCenter was established to train and learn interdisciplinary scientific work in addition to the above mentioned goals. The doctoral program connects university and non-university institutions of archaeology, anthropology, archaeozoology, archaeobotany, mineralogy, geology and computer sciences.

The Institutes of the LMU where it is possible to obtain a doctorate within the ArchaeoBioCenter doctoral program are:

- Archaeology (Prehistoric and Early Medieval Archaeology, including Archaeobotany, Archaeology of Roman Provinces, Near Eastern Archaeology, Egyptology)
- Palaeoanatomy
- Anthropology
- Geology
- Mineralogy
- Computer Sciences

Non-university institutions such as the Bavarian State Archaeological Collection are partner organizations that offer courses within the doctoral program of the ArchaeoBioCenter.

Within the context of the doctoral program, the goal is to energetically use and extend the existing mutual relationships between the fields of study. The ArchaeoBioCenter doctoral

program is designed to be a research-oriented, systematically structured teaching program. In periodic colloquiums, workshops and symposiums with guest lecturers, the doctoral students can present and discuss their research. Internationally renowned professors and young researchers, a variety of relevant research issues, close -meshed networking in research projects, as well as the excellent infrastructure offer perfect conditions for doctoral students.

