

# DAAD

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**WILLY BRANDT SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC POLICY**  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT

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## **GRADUATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (GSSP) Managing Fragility: Critical Perspectives on Good Governance Program at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy in Erfurt**

### **Scholarships for Doctoral Students beginning in 2015**

#### **I. The GSSP Doctoral Program at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy**

The Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt educates young professionals and academics for management and leadership positions in the public and non-profit sector. Established in 2002 as Germany's first professional (graduate) school of public policy, its approach to teaching and research is based on transdisciplinarity, interculturality and practice-orientation with a particular emphasis on conflict, transition, and development contexts. Besides its two-year, English-medium Master of Public Policy within the Faculty of Economics, Law and Social Sciences (*Staatswissenschaftliche Fakultät*) at the University, the Brandt School also offers a select doctoral research program.

The *Managing Fragility - Critical Perspectives on Good Governance* Graduate School Scholarship Program (GSSP) emerged out of the Brandt School's DAAD-funded Conflict Studies and Management Program (CSMP) and aims to support doctoral research on the complex causalities and trajectories of transition processes in fragile contexts. It seeks to bring together researchers interested in exploring innovative ways of exploring and critically reflecting the normative and empirical premises of (good) governance. This involves questions such as how governance norms are incorporated locally, and how functional or dysfunctional they are in fragile states and transition societies; by which criteria empirical governance processes can be compared and assessed; how pluralized governance across layers or functional categories (such as states and non-state actors) can be modelled; or which forms of intervention can be shown to be effective, ineffective, or counterproductive in terms of (good) governance.

The *Managing Fragility – Critical Perspectives on Good Governance* program is open to researchers from relevant disciplines including political science, international relations, conflict studies, law, economics and sociology and is divided into the following three thematic clusters:

(1) *Political Transition in Fragile States (Good Governance)*

Fragile states tend to be characterized by crises of both legitimacy and effective governance. They are frequently either post-conflict societies in which stability is artificially retained by international actors with limited legitimacy, or they come from autocratic legacies with a tradition of lack of responsiveness to citizens' demands. This research cluster focuses on analyzing good governance mechanisms that enhance legitimacy and efficiency of governance at the local, national, transnational and international level.

(2) *The Rule of Law, Human Rights and Development in Fragile States (Law)*

The nexus between development and human rights has been an integral part of the debates surrounding development policy in recent years. Rights frameworks are now frequently used as benchmarks for the prioritization and assessment of development policies such as health or education and they are seen as important tools for fostering stakeholder participation and empowerment. They are an integral part of good governance promotion, though they have also been critically examined as a new form of aid conditionality. This cluster focusses on how the rule of law, rights frameworks and, generally, social accountability mechanisms impact on development processes under conditions of fragility.

(3) *Public Administration Reform in Fragile States (Public Administration)*

A considerable amount of resources and attention are attributed to creating effective public administrations during the reconstruction and stabilization of fragile states. For the successful implementation of administrative reform, institutions and structures need to be based on modern administrative practices, which, however, is difficult under conditions of fragility. This cluster focuses on analyzing implementation and outcomes of 'new public management' and 'public administration reform' in fragile contexts, focusing on whether public administration reforms have actually led to improvements for local populations.

Interested candidates are invited to submit innovative and interdisciplinary projects falling into any of the above research clusters. The GSSP is a three-year structured postgraduate research programme leading to a thesis-based doctoral degree in the social sciences or humanities from the University of Erfurt.\* GSSP scholars are part of a uniquely international group of doctoral researchers at the Brandt School; they participate in a wide range

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\* Ordinarily, the GSSP will result in the conferral of a Doctor of Social Science (Dr. rer. pol.) within the Faculty of Economics, Law and Social Sciences, though, depending on thesis topic and supervisor, a Doctor of Humanities (Dr. phil.) is also possible.

of academic activities, including the monthly Brandt School Research Colloquia and specialized workshops, language instruction – including six months of intensive German courses prior to commencing their research – and soft skills training. In addition, doctoral students are welcome to attend courses offered in the Master of Public Policy (MPP) programme and, at an advanced stage of their research, are encouraged to gain teaching experience by helping to design and conduct MPP courses.

## **II. GSSP Scholarships**

GSSP scholarships are awarded for a period of three years, plus a six-month German language course, with a yearly progress report by the supervisor being a condition for renewal. Researchers from eligible countries are welcome to apply. The scholarship consists of a monthly stipend of €1000, health insurance in Germany, a travel allowance, rent subsidy and family allowance, as well as some study and research subsidies.

## **III. Application Requirements**

GSSP applicants must hold a Master's degree or equivalent with a minimum grade of 2.5 or equivalent from a university or other recognized higher education institution in a discipline relevant to the proposed research topic within one of the program's three research clusters (see I.). Highly qualified applicants with other academic backgrounds are also eligible in exceptional cases as long as they can prove either professional or academic experience in the relevant field of study. In addition, proof of an excellent knowledge of English is required for non-native speakers (TOEFL: 577/233/90; IELTS 6,5; Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English: A or B – previous instruction in English is not an applicable substitute). If the doctoral thesis is intended to be written in German, additional proof of German language proficiency (e.g. TestDaF or DSH) needs to be submitted. Applicants who have resided in Germany for more than fifteen months prior to their application, or whose previous academic degree was obtained more than six years prior to application are not eligible.

## **III. Application Process**

Applicants should submit the following documents via mail by **September 30, 2014**:

- DAAD Application Form for Research Grants and Study Scholarships (download [\*\*here\*\*](#))
- Motivation Letter
- Research Proposal [up to ten pages]
- Curriculum Vitae
- Language Certificate(s) (max. two years old)
- Two Letters of Recommendation (from academic or professional contexts [max. two years old] download form [\*\*here\*\*](#))
- Hardcopies of academic certificates (originals or notarized/consular approved photocopies)\*\*

Mail complete applications to the following address:

**Universität Erfurt**  
**Willy Brandt School of Public Policy**  
**P.O. Box: 900221**  
**D-99105 Erfurt, Germany**

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for a phone or Skype interview.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Kathleen Leary at:

admissions-mpp@uni-erfurt.de

or visit our website:

<http://www.brandtschool.de/research-and-phd/doctoral-studies.html>

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\*\* Applicants from francophone countries should provide the following: Licence and Maitrise with Assez-Bien, and also a DEA/DESS-certificate or Master according to the LMD-System