

IFSH Ph.D. Programme

I. Admissions Criteria and Structure of Programme

1. Academic and other admissions criteria for candidates

As a requirement for the programme, candidates must be eligible for a doctoral degree according to German higher education law. The applicant should have a good or very good first degree, as well as broad knowledge of peace research, theories of International Relations and research methodology. Fluency in English is also expected, and other foreign language skills are desirable. Furthermore, the applicant should have internship and/or working experience and illustrate an engaged and disciplined working ethic.

The choice of applicants will be based on written applications. The application should be comprised of an exposé of approx. ten pages. In this paper, the applicant should illustrate his/her proposed research topic, the aim of the project and the planned research methodology.

2. Guiding principles of the PhD programme

The PhD programme of the IFSH orientates itself on the following academic and organizational principles:

Topic of the dissertation. Acceptable PhD theses will relate to the themes of peace research, preferably ones that are linked to the multidisciplinary research fields of the Institute, and which can be supported by in-house expertise. Generally speaking, these fields include empirical and theoretical projects of humanities or natural sciences that concern themselves with peace keeping, peace consolidation, crisis prevention and conflict management on inter-state and domestic levels in the broadest sense. This includes also disarmament and arms control (see research programme of the IFSH). The dissertation work should lead to a significant enhancement of the existing knowledge-basis, simultaneously being of practical relevance for peace policy.

Duration of the programme. The research proposal should illustrate that a PhD is realistically obtainable within two years. The PhD programme will be organized as if it were a two-year research project, and the termination of this period also demarcates the end of both academic support as well as financing.

Professional working method. Instead of being built around a student timetable with semesters and vacations, the programme will be based on professional criteria and timetabling, and residence in Hamburg is obligatory.

Division into quarters. The programme will be divided into eight quarters. Each quarter will be dedicated to a specific phase of the dissertation and to complementary events (see II.3). Central principles are those of obligation and flexibility. Obligation means that certain phases of the work must be begun and completed by a certain date; Flexibility means that such working phases can also be begun and concluded at an earlier date.

Participation in research fields/projects. Each participant will work in a specific research field or - if a research project of the Institute coincides with the dissertation theme - in a specific research project. It is obligatory to participate in the running conceptual-, co-ordination

and evaluation-processes. However, it is not obligatory to make an individual contribution to the work. Participation in a research field or project ensures that the doctoral candidate is integrated into the research work of the Institute.

Personal supervision. Independent of supervisors, who are in charge of the actual academic part of the programme, the IFSH also provides a programme leader. Furthermore, each participant will have as a personal supervisor a project leader of the IFSH who works in a field related to the doctoral candidate's thesis. Later on, the doctoral candidate has direct access to the heads of the Institute if their specific expertise is required. The programme leader will be a research fellow of the IFSH (Dr. Erwin Müller), who has extensive work experience and personal experience in supervising PhD candidates. He has also assisted young researchers in the framework of third-party funded projects. The programme leader is the main contact person of the doctoral candidates for any type of query or need.

Internship. During the programme, the doctoral candidate carries out a several-week long internship. The choice of the internship location will depend on the dissertation theme, and will be considered a research placement.

Research trips. If necessary, the programme grants the opportunity for doctoral candidates to carry out further research beyond the internship in the form of research trips. These are intended for gathering material and information. It is also expected that the doctoral candidate will participate in workshops.

Management of the budget. For academic purposes and travel (literature, PC, internship, research trips), each doctoral candidate receives an individual research budget. The use of this budget will depend on given regulations and decisions made together with the personal supervisor. All expenditure will be itemized. This procedure will teach independent planning and directing of the working process.

Complementary Events. Each participant is expected to participate in a series of complementary optional and compulsory events in order to receive further qualifications and to enhance his/her factual and critical knowledge (see III.1). Written proof of attendance will be required.

Evaluation. At the end of each quarter, the doctoral candidate will provide a brief written report on the progress of his/her work. This report will serve as the basis for a presentation at the interdisciplinary research colloquium that is held at the IFSH. Both supervisors will be invited to attend this session.

3. *Structure of the programme.*

Definition phase (1st quarter)

During this phase, the proposed theme of the exposé, the main questions and sub-questions, as well as the scope of the dissertation will be defined and elaborated on. At the end of this phase a detailed table of contents will be compiled. If possible, this should be based on previously read literature. At the same time, a timetable and research plan will be compiled. The definition phase requires intensive supervision. From the 1st to the 5th quarter compulsory, beyond this period on a voluntary basis, the doctoral candidate will take part in the work of one of the research fields or projects of the IFSH. The project supervisor will ensure that participation in the project is not over-demanding for the participant, but that she/he can optimally participate in the learning- and skill-processes of the project work.

Literature phase (2nd quarter)

The aim of the literature phase is to find and work through relevant documents and secondary literature, and to work through these to such an extent that empirical research demands can be formulated in detail. This phase prepares the doctoral candidate for the following internships and research placements.

Research phase (3rd - 5th quarter)

During this phase, research will be carried out based on empirical work and read literature. An internship will be carried out either during the 3rd or 4th quarter. Further research placements can take place in the 5th quarter. The objective is that the candidate has worked through the main parts of his theme at the end of this period.

Writing-up phase (6th - 7th quarter)

During these quarters, the doctoral candidate will write up her/his work and carry out any further necessary research. A short research trip is also possible if this is required. The writing-up phase, as well as any other phase, can be carried out before these dates, but cannot be begun after the 6th quarter. The IFSH expects that a dissertation of 250 pages can be written up in half a year, and can be worked over in an additional quarter. In order to attain the necessary concentration that is required for writing, no complementary events will take place during the writing-up phase.

Correction phase / Reserve (8th quarter)

During this phase, the content of the dissertation will be worked over and the language will be corrected.

II. Supervision and support by the IFSH

1. Complementary events

The doctoral candidate of the PhD programme will participate in a number of available events, the aims of which are to:

- enhance the interdisciplinary aspect of the programme,
- expand the existing knowledge and skills that are required for the dissertation work,
- be able to move beyond the narrower research themes of the candidate's own dissertation
- acquire professional and practical skills.

Participation in events is partially compulsory, partially optional. If the IFSH does not itself offer the complementary events, it will ensure that such events are available and form any necessary contacts. The events will comprise of:

Organizing research, writing, citing, and editing

Bloc seminar in the 1st or 2nd quarter, offered by the IFSH, compulsory.

Selected fields of theory and methodology

A two-hour, weekly, doctoral seminar on selected theories and methodologies of peace research. The content will be defined by the specific needs of the doctoral candidates at the Institute. Each participant will attend sessions in at least four quarters during the 1st and 6th quarter.

Research ethics

A compulsory event in the form of a bloc seminar, which is an integral part of the seminars. The sessions will be held at the IFSH and/or at the Institute for Theology and Peace in Barsbüttel, in the proximity of Hamburg, or at another relevant institute.

Higher education didactics

An optional, complementary event in the form of a bloc seminar at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Higher Education Didactics (IZHD) at the University of Hamburg. The session will take place during the 3rd and 6th quarter. Later on, it will be possible to take up a supervisory role as a tutor within the framework of the postgraduate Master Programme "Peace research and security policy" at the University of Hamburg, which is also contributed to by the IFSH.

Practical research management

A compulsory event in the form of a bloc seminar, carried out by the IFSH between the 2nd and 5th quarter. Content: Writing research proposals (various formats), work- and resource-planning, personnel recruitment, project and finance management, research project and budget reporting, supplementary proposals.

IT and media competence

An optional event at the Institute for Journalism and Communication at the University of Hamburg (during the 1st and 2nd quarter, in particular for research and presentation techniques).

Research Colloquium at the IFSH

A weekly, two-hour research colloquium has taken place at the IFSH since its founding. All researchers of the Institute participate, and external presenters frequently contribute to the sessions. The possibility for the doctoral student to attend this colloquium serves to further educate the participant, and offers her/him a possibility to present her/his results to a forum of qualified experts.

Events held by/at the IFSH

Participation in events held by the IFSH is optional, but strongly hoped for and supported. In general, all events of the IFSH are open to doctoral students. These include also the sessions of the "Falkenstein Discussion Forum" with prominent personalities and the "Forum for the Promotion of the Institute of Peace Research" (VFIF).

2. Support and Supervision

Approximately 20 multidisciplinary research projects are carried out at the IFSH at one point in time. These are divided into four research fields (see research programme of the IFSH). Involvement in these fields or projects, the possibility to use the communication and co-operation network of the Institute with regard to Germany as well as beyond Europe, as well as the opportunity to use the infrastructure of the Institute provide optimal conditions for completing a PhD.

In particular, the support and supervision offered by the IFSH for doctoral candidate is comprised of four components:

- continuous, extensive supervision by the programme leader; specific supervision by the leader of the research project the participant works in; direct access to the head of the

Institute; supervision by lecturers in charge of the PhD. Combined, these factors provide for intensive and unique supervision;

- several thematic research projects, in which the PhD candidate can find orientation, supervision and support;
- already tested forms of deepening PhD studying (doctoral seminars, research colloquium);
- access to the comprehensive, specialised library of the Institute, which comprises of more than 24,000 works and 140 up-dated journals, as well as to the documentation of the Institute and to the information system "Specialised Information Network International Relations and Area Studies", which entails approx. 500,000 entries. Access also to the building space and technical infrastructure of the IFSH;
- intensive and continuous working relations to national bodies (German FO, Defence Ministry, Parliament), international organizations (UN, EU, OSCE), international courts, including the International Court of Justice in the Hague and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, national and international research centres, as well as to the institute's external researchers abroad. The IFSH maintains very good contacts to all of the above-mentioned institutions, as well as their highly ranked employees and officials (e.g. judges, leading civil servants, permanent delegations of Germany). It follows that these actors are very receptive to the views of and matters relating to the Institute.
- a broad range of yearbooks and monographs edited by the Institute, including also a research journal as well as further research papers, that allow for the opportunity to view and experience editing and publication processes. The IFSH publishes, alongside other material, the "OSCE Yearbook". The publication and editing of the only German reference journal on peace and security policy ("S+F. Vierteljahresschrift für Sicherheit und Frieden / Quarterly for Security and Peace") also by-and-large takes place at the IFSH. Furthermore, it is important to note that the IFSH with the highly valued series "Demokratie, Sicherheit, Frieden / Democracy, Security and Peace", published by the Director of the Institute, has its own book series, to which dissertations can be contributed to;
- assistance in finding an internship and research placement, in particular with reference to the above-mentioned organizations;
- assistance in publishing the PhD thesis;
- advice on how to apply for printing cost grants. The IFSH itself frequently provides funds for the publication of qualitative works;
- support in finding employment.