Do we need graduate schools to enlighten science?

Experiences from international joint-graduate programmes in Germany

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- 17.000 students, all faculties
- 3 graduate programms in humanities
- 3 graduate schools in science
- 8 % foreign students

What is the problem?

German Conference of university presidents declared in 1996:

- Doctoral candidates are

  - too old (older than 30 years)

  - too small in number (0,5 doctoral candidate per professor in humanities, 1,0 in science)

  - too slow (more than 5 years per thesis)

  - too isolated

Road to improvement: two strategies under discussion

- ❑ National and International Graduate programmes Graduiertenkolleg) (sponsored by foundations)

- ❑ Graduate schools (Anglo-Saxon model)

Graduate programms vs Graduate schools

- Umbrella theme
- 2 regular seminars related to the umbrella theme
- Interdisziplinary
- (international)
- Additional lectures, symposia, self-organised colloquia
- Workshops on key skills
- 2 years plus 1year
- Scholarships, no fees
- Admission by academic screening nation-wide

- No umbrella theme
- 4-6 regular seminars unrelated to the thesis
- Workshops on key skills
- 3 years
- No scholarships, no fees
- Admission by application

Post Graduate Programmes of the DFG

"Post Graduate Programmes have the goal to allow especially qualified graduate students studying for a doctorate to work on their dissertations in a sophisticated research environment characterized by cooperation. [...] Joint with this objective are a limitation of PhD-duration and a decrease of the doctorate's age and an increase of the attractiveness of the doctorate-process."

http://www.dfg.de/forschungsfoerderung/koordinierte_programme/graduiertenkollegs/programm_info/ziele_profil.html

Post Graduate Programmes of the DFG

Total number of currently supported programmes: 235

- thereof international programmes: 53 (2 with Asia)

- thereof humanities and social science: 66

- thereof biology and medicine: 70

- thereof natural science: 67

- thereof engineering science: 32

http://www.dfg.de/forschungsfoerderung/koordinierte_programme/graduiertenkollegs/liste/gk_gesamt.html

Programm Idea

- Support for universities to introduce graduate programmes
- Establishment of integrated research environment for doctoral thesis
  - Interdisciplinary supervision
  - Extended framework for research
  - Permanent evaluation and feedback ensures higher scientific standard
- Improvement of the development of the doctoral student
  - Training of key skills: rhetorik, scientific writing….
  - Open mindedness towards interdisciplinary work and international cooperation
  - Better job prospects

International Graduate Programmes

- Halle University - Tokyo University
- 10 doctorate students on each side
- Interdisciplinary: philosophy, history, political science, theology, area studies
- Joint supervision
- Bi-lingual plus English
- Joint seminars and study abroad

Integrated Research:
Civil society from a comparative perspective

Sub- themes of doctoral projects

- Integration of migrants by civic engagement
- Citizen as a partner: new public management and burden-sharing between citizen and state
- The establishment of social welfare programs by concerned citizens in the late 18th century
- What is a „citizen"? The notion of „citizen" since the late 19th century in comparison
- Fascism as a counter-project of civility
- Cultural identity as a precondition for transnational NGOs

Structure – financial backing

Resources are provided for

- ❑ provide research material
- ❑ pay visiting professors, postdoc, research students, coordinator
- ❑ Travel allowances to congresses or study abroad
- ❑ Scholarships for doctoral candidates at a maximum of three years
- ❑ Research equipment

In cases of international graduate schools fund-matching by the partner institution

Conclusion: do we need graduate programmes?

Pro :

More quality of doctoral training by

- Interdisziplinary approaches
- International cooperation
- Key skills
- Integrated research

Contra:

- high requirements for supervisors
- highly demanding for candidates
- highly demanding for research program
- high competitive

Thank you for your attention!