

Teaching-Assistantship-Workshop

How to Successfully Prepare and Write Your Application(s) in a German Context

Organizational details

Instructor:	Laura Popa, International PhD Candidate at JLU
Date:	December 6, 2022, 2.00 – 5.30 p.m., and December 7, 2022, 9.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Location:	Room 201, Erwin-Stein-Building, Goethestr. 58, 35390 Giessen
Max. number of participants:	15

Objectives

As a workshop participant, you will have gained an understanding of the StipendiumPlus network's profile and values, including the thirteen foundations and their diverse perspectives on politics, religion, and social questions after the workshop. You will be able to identify at least one foundation that aligns with your professional and personal profile. Additionally, you will have learned strategies and techniques for writing an application to a foundation, ideally with similar values to increase your chances of being accepted. Finally, you will have had the chance to write the first draft of the application(s) or revise the existing one accordingly with guidance of the instructor.

Content & Methods

Content

After the doctoral proposal has been accepted or a supervision agreement has been made, the question of funding often arises. Therefore, this course will help guide you through the process of writing a funding proposal. To assist you, this workshop is designed to be both informative and practical. In this sense, it is split into two blocks. During the morning session, the instructor will:

- describe the profile and values of the StipendiumPlus network in Germany, which consists of thirteen major funding organizations,
- provide strategies for ensuring a successful application.

During the second part of the workshop, you will

- receive and give specific feedback on the application(s),
- enjoy a safe space to write the first draft or revise the existing one accordingly,
- receive assistance. In this sense, make sure you send your draft(s) ahead of time so the instructor may have enough time to assist you properly.

Methods

During the first part, you will be instructed on the formal steps for submitting your application, as well as general requirements and strategies. We will closely examine the ‘ideal’ profile every association in the StipendiumPlus network searches for. As such, prepare yourself to discuss issues such as socio-political values and religious values. It's an important strategy that will help you connect your academic achievements and your personal background with the organization(s) you prefer. The advantages of a successful application, e.g., economic support or exclusive access to networks of like-minded individuals, will be considered alongside its flows. As part of a solution-oriented approach, factors like the likelihood of failing to fit into a specific profile, stress, and discouragement should also be dealt with.

The second part of the workshop consists of in-depth work on your application(s). First, small groups discuss the applications uploaded in advance. After a brief introduction by the applicant, each application will be discussed with the whole group in which the participants are expected to note at least one strength and one limitation of it. Second, a writing session will be held, so that peer feedback can be incorporated, if possible. Finally, the most important achievements may be discussed in the group.

The instructor and participants will share perspectives through concept mapping, brainstorming, and two-way feedback. This method emphasizes the writing of an application that corresponds with the profile of at least one of the thirteen major funding organizations in Germany through tasks that provide a closer look at the StipendiumPlus network.

Detailed timetable

<u>Day/part I: Introduction of the StipendiumPlus Network and successful strategies for writing your application(s)</u>	<u>Day/part II - Re/write, discuss, and get feedback on your application(s)!</u>
2.00 - 2.15 – Introduce yourself	9.00 - 9.30 – Overview of the applications
2.15 - 3.15 – StipendiumPlus network in Germany	9.30 - 10.00 – Discussion in small groups
3.15 - 3.45 – Plenary discussion	10.00 - 10.30 – Plenary discussion
3.45 - 4.00 – Break	10.30 - 10.45 – Break
4.00 - 5.00 – Strategies for a successful application	10.45 - 11.45 – Revise your proposal
5.00 - 5.30 – Plenary discussion	11.45 - 12.15 – Present your revised version
	12.15 - 12.30 – Final feedback

Target group & Course Language

Target group: Students and Ph.D. candidates of all disciplines are invited to take part in the workshop.

Participation requirements: Certain previous knowledge is not necessary. Please note that is not necessary to have already a concrete draft of an application. Even without a concrete draft, attending this workshop can be beneficial. If you do not have your own concrete application, the instructor will provide a concrete example so you can see and discuss it.

Course language: English

About the instructor

Laura Popa is an international Ph.D. candidate in History and Cultural Studies at JLU, and a recipient of the Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst scholarship. Over the past few years, she has conducted workshops that covered issues such as feminism, and nationalism, as well as how to revise or rewrite theoretical frameworks for Cultural Studies projects. Additionally, Popa lectured on gender and nationality in nineteenth-century Europe, Italian evangelical women's history, and U.S. religious history.

Registration

By *****November 29***** via e-mail at info@ggs.uni-giessen.de.