

Criteria Determining the Promotion of Projects and Events at the GCSC

If the aims detailed in the GCSC's application to the Excellence Initiative are to be achieved, the involvement of as many committed students and colleagues as possible, along with 'Principle Investigators' and associated proposers of projects, is desirable and indeed necessary. We would therefore like to encourage all those connected to the GCSC to play their part, through projects, in making the measures and steps set down in that application a reality. The application is the fundamental point of reference for all projects initiated or supported by the GCSC, for the simple reason that, in the evaluation process at the end of the support period, we will be required to demonstrate to what extent projects which received Excellence Initiative funding have served the fulfilment of those aims.

We would therefore ask you to take the goals and measures detailed in the application as guidelines when putting forward projects. The purpose of projects promoted within the framework of the GCSC must first and foremost be to advance the aims laid down in the application, provide students in the GCSC with an attractive research and study programme and give them the opportunity to take an active part in the discussion of research as well as to become better qualified through experience presenting and publishing their work. Please see the application (Chapter 3) for information about what kinds of projects and events can receive support.

Taken from the application, the following criteria are decisive in the selection of projects to be supported (cf. also GCSC Application, Chapter 4.1.2).

1. **Contribution to the overall academic objectives of the GCSC:** Projects must visibly advance the aims of the GCSC (cf. "academic aims" and "long-term academic objectives of the GCSC", GCSC Application, Chapter 2.1, 2.1.5).
2. **Relevance to the GCSC research profile:** It must be made clear how the project fits into the GCSC research profile (cf. the research areas listed together in the application). Projects which contribute to the further conceptual development of the research profile are given preference. The application names the development of new approaches and study of culture methodologies, along with the transfer of concepts between diverse disciplines and study cultures as the main objectives of the research programme.
3. **Suitability for the target group:** Projects should not only involve postgraduate students at the GCSC superficially; they should rather be developed specifically for – and where possible by – those students and involve them actively in organisation and implementation.
4. **Academic Excellence:** Preference in the allocation of funds is given to projects of academic excellence, particularly to those programmes and groups (e.g. Research Groups) that have a proven record of excellence (cf. Application Chapter 4.1.2).
5. **Transcendence of disciplinary borders:** Projects should be open to an interdisciplinary approach and should, where possible, be planned and carried out by several of the disciplines involved in the GCSC.
6. **Internationality:** Wherever possible, projects should have an international dimension (such as international contributors and/ or partners).
7. **The GCSC's image and profile:** Projects should contribute to the image of the GCSC and improve its national and, above all, international profile.