



How to apply to Grad School

in Social Science

A digital Autumn School for aspiring researchers

from structurally disadvantaged regions

For many, applying to a graduate school is the start of an international career in academia. However, writing a convincing application is an art that must be learned. This is exactly what the SCRIPTS Digital Autumn School (DAS) aims to support you with. It will prepare you for any Social Sciences Grad School. You will have the opportunity to work on your own exposé and receive feedback from a coach. Additionally, you will get an introduction to the German academic system. Check out the full program on the next page.

WHO CAN APPLY

- You finished or are about to finish your Master's degree
- You were or are currently enrolled at an academic institution in a region underrepresented in academia
- students and alumni of the SCRIPTS Partner Network will be treated preferentially
- Your academic background is either in Social Sciences, Humanities, Law, Area Studies, or Economics

HOW TO APPLY

- Cover letter indicating your motivation for pursuing a PhD, and your current topic of interest **1 Page**
- Indicate whether "morning track" (9am–12:30pm CET) or "afternoon track" (2–5:30pm CET)
- Short academic CV **1 Page**
- Email your documents to careers@scripts-berlin.eu with "Application DAS" in the subject line
- Deadline for application: September 21, 2026 (2 pm CET)

SCRIPTS
CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE
Contestations of the Liberal Script

ABOUT US

The Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS (Contestations of the Liberal Script) examines why liberal democracies around the world face growing pressure and what strengthens their resilience. Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) under the German Excellence Strategy since 2019, SCRIPTS is hosted by Freie Universität Berlin and partners with five Berlin-based partner institutes.

The Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies (BGTS) is the unit within SCRIPTS providing junior researchers with an enriching environment to pursue their doctoral studies. To learn more about the BGTS, please visit our website:

<https://www.scripts-berlin.eu/career-development/bgts/index.html>

DIGITAL AUTUMN SCHOOL 2026

Organization: BGTS Team

Instructor: Dr* Joh Sarre

The Exposé Writing part of the DAS will be facilitated by Dr* Joh Sarre. Joh holds a PhD in African Studies/Cultural Anthropology and is an experienced academic writing coach and online workshop instructor. More info about Joh: www.joh-sarre.de

Online via Webex

Morning Track (9am – 12:30pm CET) OR Afternoon Track (2pm – 5:30pm CET)

October 5 – Introduction and Application to a Grad School

- Welcome and introduction
- Introduction of the BGTS
- How to apply to a grad school of social sciences & application documents
- Outlook for the coming days

October 6 – Exposé Writing

- Workshop „How to write an exposé“ Part 1

October 7 – Exposé Writing

- Workshop „How to write an exposé“ Part 2

October 8 – Exposé Writing and Introduction to the German Academic System

- Workshop „How to write an exposé“ Part 3
- Introduction to the German academic system
- Tips for an outstanding application

Writing Phase

November 5 – Review of the Exposés

- Workshop „How to write an exposé“ Part 4
- Presentation of exposés

November 6 – Review of the Exposés

- Workshop „How to write an exposé“ Part 5
- Presentation of exposés
- Q&A “Opportunities at the BGTS”