

Giessen University's **International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC)**, funded by the German federal government's Excellence Initiative, offers a three-year structured PhD programme in the study of culture. With its excellent research environment, a doctoral programme which is tailored to the needs of PhD students and the intensive personal support it provides, the Graduate Centre offers postgraduate students optimum conditions for their PhD projects and a custom-made preparation for the time thereafter, both with regard to academic and non-academic careers.

On initiative of the **Dr.-Herbert-Stolzenberg Foundation** and the **President of Justus-Liebig University Giessen**, the GCSC is this year for the first time able to grant awards for the advancement of research merits to outstanding young scholars in two categories:

Dr.-Herbert-Stolzenberg Award for the Study of Culture:

**4 Awards for Excellent
Dissertation Projects in the Study of Culture**

as well as

**2 Awards for Excellence in Higher Education Teaching
by Doctoral and Postdoctoral Researchers**

All awards amount to 2,000 Euro and serve the advancement of young researchers. They may contribute towards own research purposes (covering printing costs, purchasing of research and teaching material, research trip funding etc.).

Applications are to be submitted to the GCSC, Alter Steinbacher Weg 38, 35394 Gießen, by July 15, 2011 along with the following documents:

Award for Excellent Dissertation Projects

- Recommendation / nomination by one of the dissertation supervisors
- One copy of the dissertation
- Copies of both evaluation reports; alternatively recommendations by both supervisors
- GCSC transcript, or list detailing courses attended and providing overview of extracurricular activities engaged in at the GCSC
- CV including presentations, publications, and courses taught

Award for Excellence in HE Teaching

- Syllabus of seminar taught
- 3-5 paged description of course design (including learning objectives, methods, teaching concept etc.)
- List of participants
- Student evaluations (if applicable)
- CV including presentations, publications and courses taught
- 1-2 paged cover letter in which nominees assess their course in view of one or more of the evaluation criteria provided below

- 1-2 paged cover letter, in which nominees assess their dissertation project in view of one or more of the evaluation criteria provided below

Conditions for nominations

- Present or prior GCSC membership
- Completion of dissertation project within the individually negotiated time-frame of 3 to 4 years
- Dissertation submitted to JLU after January 1, 2010
- Dissertation awarded *Prädikat* (with dissertations submitted but not yet graded, an explicit nomination by a supervisor is required)

Evaluation criteria

- Excellent research in the Study of Culture
- Interdisciplinarity
- Innovative topic and/or methodology
- Internationality of the project
- Relevance to society
- Contribution to the GCSC

Not all criteria have to be met to an equal extent. Please comment in your cover letter on the criteria which your project satisfies particularly well.

Conditions for nomination

- Present or prior GCSC membership as doctoral or postdoctoral member
- At least one semester of teaching at JLU since summer semester 2009

Evaluation criteria

- Appropriate and needs-based teaching concept
- Didactic innovations
- Transfer of research in the study of culture to undergraduate courses

Not all criteria have to be met to an equal extent. Please comment in your cover letter on the criteria which your project satisfies particularly well.

Selection Committee

A committee, consisting of GCSC selection committee members, as well as, as external member, the head of Giessen's *Zentrums für fremdsprachliche und berufsfeldorientierte Kompetenzen (ZfbK)*, will confer the awards from the suggestions submitted. From the selection committee, 3 professors, 1 postdoc and 1 doctoral candidate will be appointed out of the respective status groups. For Awards for Excellence in HE Teaching, two students from faculties covering the Study of Culture will join the commission. External reviewers will be asked for comments if required.

Next advertisement

The award will be advertised again in 2012 for projects submitted between January 1, 2011 and July 15, 2012.

Next advertisement

The award will be advertised again in 2012 for seminars taught in winter semester 2010/11.

Award ceremony

Awards will be presented at the Welcome & Graduation Ceremony 2011 on October 17. All nominees will be informed of the selection committee's decision prior to the ceremony.