



**Leibniz**

**PhD Network**

**SHORT GUIDE**

## Who we are

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The Leibniz PhD Network was founded in September 2016 as an initiative of doctoral researchers from various Leibniz institutes and since then has been officially supported by the head office of the Leibniz Association. Representing 95 institutes and approximately 4000 doctoral researchers under supervision, the Leibniz Association is one of the four big research performing organizations in Germany.

The Leibniz PhD Network is open for all doctoral researchers mainly affiliated to an institute of the Leibniz Association. The representatives of doctoral researchers of the Leibniz institutes meet in an annual general assembly (GA) to elect the steering group, which consists of two spokespersons, a financial officer, and five section officers (according to the section representation within the Leibniz Association).

Visit our [website](#) on <https://leibniz-phd.net/> to find out more about the structure and organization of the network or find an overview at [www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en](http://www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/en) > careers > the next generation of researchers > [Leibniz PhD Network](#).

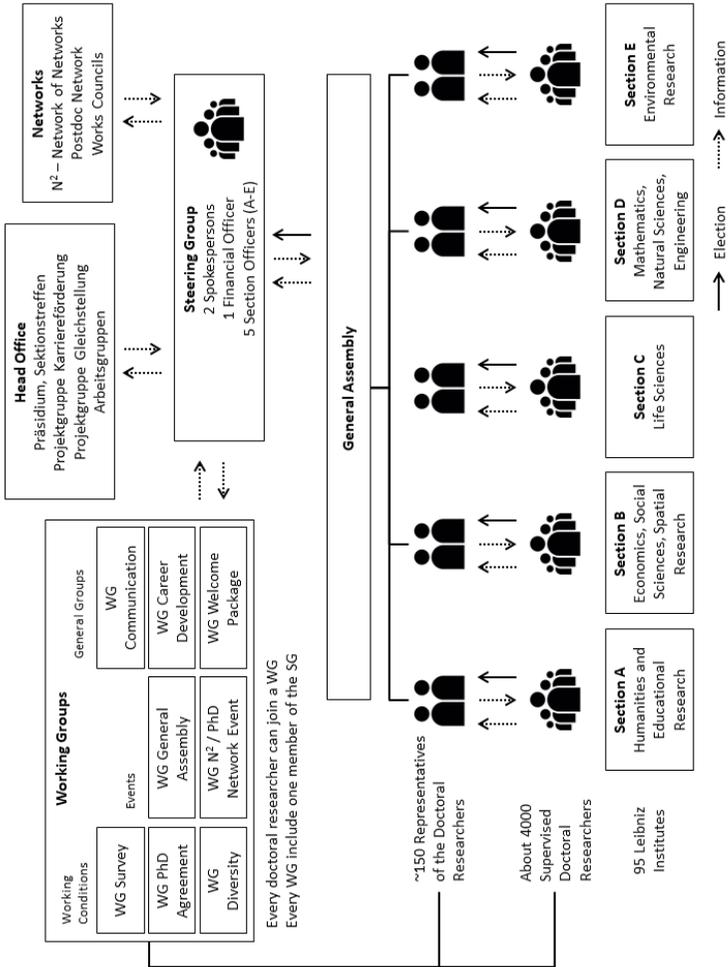
## Goals

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A main goal is to establish a platform to encourage and promote intra- and interdisciplinary exchange among the doctoral researchers of the Leibniz Association. We organize networking events and develop PhD agreement/ supervision guidelines for doctoral researchers at all institutes. In order to evaluate the current situation of doctoral researchers, and identify relevant areas for improvement the Leibniz PhD Network performs a survey among them. [The first survey has been published in 2019](#). Based on these data we raise a voice for fair working conditions and diversity.

Further relevant areas for the network are providing information about the prospects of a career in academia as well as beyond, expanding the contact to other PhD networks, and increasing the visibility and impact of the network.

## Organigram



## Themes and activities

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The activities within the Leibniz PhD Network are carried out by working groups, which are coordinated by the steering group. Working groups are defined at the yearly general assembly but can also be formed or restructured at any time based on current needs and demands. Working groups organize events such as the general assembly and conferences, develop common guidelines for doctoral researchers, and empower diversity within the Leibniz PhD Network.

Every doctoral researcher within the Leibniz Association is encouraged to participate in a working group as well as to set up a new working group (in agreement with the steering group).

## Working groups

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For questions or actively participating in a working group, contact the groups. **We want to stress that all DRs are welcome to join any of the WGs.** If you are interested in starting a new working group, contact the spokespersons.

### Contacts spokespersons:

Katharina Willenbücher

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Jonathan Stefanowski

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Each currently active working group is shortly presented below.

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## Communication

The tasks of this group initially consisted of establishing structures and platforms intended for the network's online presence and externally visibility as well as among Leibniz doctoral researchers, and working towards higher inclusion and participation rates from Leibniz institutes. Currently, the communication group is in charge

of tasks such as preparation of official documents as well as management of the official weblog and communications through social media.

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## **Career Development**

The Working Group Career Development wants to create a network and database for Leibniz PhD Students to aid in creating their individual road maps to their careers. This newly founded working group aims amongst other things to establish a Leibniz Alumni Network to learn about individual career paths in science and the free market and build a database of people and companies providing soft- and hard skill courses to draw from when organizing winter/summer schools or similar events. Since this working group was founded only recently, there are many possibilities to actively contribute with your time and ideas.

**Contacts:**

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## **Diversity, Equal opportunities, Working Conditions**

The working group aims at establishing a culture of diversity and inclusion towards improving working conditions. The main goal is to ensure that all Leibniz doctoral researchers benefit from equal opportunities throughout their professional development, regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, and physical or mental health. It is subdivided in the *survey group* and *PhD agreement group* as well as the newly formed *diversity group*.

The *survey group* is evaluating the position of doctoral researchers with regard to the topics mentioned above and will use the results of a Leibniz-wide survey among all doctoral researchers to formulate recommendations for the Leibniz Association. We invite all Leibniz doctoral researchers to share their ideas and raise their concerns.

The *PhD agreement group* focuses on the creation of guidelines that will help ensure equal and rightful supervision standards for all doctoral researchers and collaborates closely with the working group “*Karriereförderung*” of the Leibniz Association. The current aim is to provide an agreement with minimum standards that apply to all institutes. The agreement is meant to function as a basis to establish or improve existing PhD agreements. The *diversity group* deals with how the multi-faceted academic society can work effectively together towards a framework in which diversity is considered in all processes of research. The aim of the work is to develop concepts for reaching this goal in all Leibniz institutes. The WG formed during the GA 2018.

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**Contact PhD Agreement:**

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**Contact Diversity:**

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## Events

The Leibniz Association is very diverse in its scientific portfolio. Doctoral researchers should benefit from this diversity by gathering together in interdisciplinary conferences. The event group organizes such opportunities for doctoral researchers ranging from section-specific conferences to interdisciplinary events and joint events together with other young scientists from different research associations in Germany. Furthermore, this group is responsible for planning the network’s annual general assembly, which marks the end of a term within the Leibniz PhD Network and to which all members of the network are invited.

**Contacts N2 Event:**

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Aman Malik

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**Welcome Package**

For the newly hired doctoral students and other employees, not all institutes have information summarized, which one needs for the start at a new work place. The newly founded working group Welcome Package develops ideas and concepts for a Leibniz-wide welcome package in which general information is made available and which can be supplemented by the corresponding institute. Therefore, in addition to a general part, a template with important information for the institutes will be created. Since this working group is completely new, there are still many possibilities to participate creatively!

**Contact:**

Katharina Willenbücher

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**Cooperation**

The Leibniz PhD Network collaborates with the Max Planck Phdnet and the Helmholtz Juniors. Since March 2017, this cooperation is known as **N<sup>2</sup> – N squared - Network of networks**.

N<sup>2</sup> represents the collective interests of doctoral researchers within the research performing organizations in Germany and aims to work closer together on the following topics:

- Working conditions and equal opportunities for doctoral researchers in non-university organizations and beyond;
- Career opportunities for doctoral researchers in Germany;

- Science policy in Germany and Europe (for instance, issuing a [political statement](#) on the future of young scientists in October 2017 or a [position paper](#) of power abuse and conflict resolution in May 2019)
- Organising joint events for doctoral researchers ([conference on science communication](#) in November 2017 in Berlin) and [from basic research to application](#) in November 2019 in Berlin

The elected spokespersons of the Leibniz PhD Network, Helmholtz Juniors, and Max Planck PhDnet are the official N<sup>2</sup> representatives and belong to the N<sup>2</sup> board. The doctoral researcher representation of the International PhD Programme (IPP) is an associate member of N<sup>2</sup>. Former spokespersons of the three networks are members of the advisory board for one year.



For more information on N<sup>2</sup> you can contact:  
Jonathan Stefanowski or  
Katharina Willenbücher

For updates and detailed information please subscribe to our [weblog](#) and visit our [social media pages](#)

Weblog: [www.leibniz-phd.net](http://www.leibniz-phd.net)

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Twitter: find us as "Leibniz PhD Network" ([@Leibniz PhD Net](#))

Instagram: find us as "leibniz\_phd\_net" ([@leibniz\\_phd\\_net](#))

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**Edition notice**  
6<sup>th</sup> edition, September 2019  
The communication working group  
on behalf of the Leibniz PhD Network