

## Cover letter for the Leibniz PhD Agreement (draft)

The Leibniz PhD Agreement was developed by the working group “PhD Agreement” of the Leibniz PhD Network.

The aim is to provide a universal supervision agreement for doctoral researchers and their respective institutes to ensure a minimum standard – especially with regard to the supervision of doctoral researchers, their education, and funding. We deem this necessary in order to set standards for the rights and duties of doctoral researchers and their supervisors, compensate for possible power imbalances, and establish a basis for a productive doctorate.

Not all of the 93 Institutes of the Leibniz Association have agreements or guidelines on how to conduct a doctoral thesis. For this reason, we want to harmonize the working and supervision conditions for doctoral researchers across all institutions.

If an institution already provides internal guidelines or a supervision agreement, these documents should be cross-checked with the Leibniz PhD Agreement and missing topics should be included. The Leibniz PhD Agreement defines minimum requirements for supervisors and doctoral researchers. Individual adjustments for each Leibniz institution are possible or might even be necessary. Therefore, the Leibniz PhD Agreement can be regarded as a template to which reasonable adjustments can be made if necessary (e.g. financial support of doctoral further education, courses to be offered, timing and scope of the exposé, enrollment at university etc.).

We hope that the Leibniz PhD Agreement will raise the standards of supervision for all PhD candidates across the Leibniz Association and highly encourage its implementation by every Leibniz institution.

The working group “Diversity, Equal Opportunities, working conditions” of the Leibniz PhD Network