

GSLs newsletter

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"A Message to Excellence"

FAQ

- **What happens when you haven't finished with your dissertation after three years and you want to extend your dissertation phase for another six months?**
GSLs doctoral students may research on their dissertation up to five years as long as their supervisory committee accepts the extension. As for the financial aspect: those doctoral students who had a three-year fellowship have to organize new funds as everybody else does.
- **Do you have to pay the registration tuition fee of 500 Euros (Studiengebühren) in case you extend?**
This is not mandatory, but optional. The GSLs prefer you to stay an official member and settle the tuition fee. This is not only that you keep being entitled to GSLs benefits but also to officially prove that you are participating with the GSLs.
- **Does the seventh semester cost any registration tuition fee (Studiengebühren)?**
This is your decision. You may matriculate – which is preferred by the GSLs – or you may not.
- **Can you take a sabbatical after the third year?**
This in fact is not necessary: you are either registered or you are not registered.
- **Do you have to be matriculated for the defense?**
No.
- **What exactly is a 'semester'?**
The German word 'semester' translates as term. However, the academic year in Germany (and Austria) is differently structured than the British and American equivalents. The German academic year is divided up into Winter 'semester' ('WS': October - March) and Sommer 'semester' ('SS': April - September).