

Guidelines for the admission of PhD candidates in Social and Cultural Anthropology, Committee for Doctoral Examinations IfSKA, FU Berlin

5 March 2024

This document specifies the regulations for admission of candidates to the doctoral programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology, as given in § 3 of the *Regulations for the Conduct of Doctoral Examinations* of our faculty and published in *FU-Mitteilungen* on 23 May 2018. Please note that these regulations form the legally binding basis for the admission of PhD candidates. They can be accessed [here](#) (in English) and [here](#) (in German; please note that only the German version is legally binding).

The prerequisite for the admission to the doctoral programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology is having successfully completed a MA programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology ('a field that is essential for the doctoral subject' with a total of 300 credit points or equivalent and the at least overall grade of "good," see §3 (1) of the *Regulations*).

In case this criterion is not met, §3 (3) allows for the admission of doctoral candidates if their qualification for the doctoral subject can be ensured. Thus, the Committee for Doctoral Examinations may admit the candidate on the condition that s/he or has earned credit points or will earn them within a defined period in fields that the committee deems relevant for the respective doctoral subject.

The necessary qualifications for the doctoral subject of Social and Cultural Anthropology include sufficient knowledge in the core areas of the subject, i.e. in

- Ethnographic Methods
- Anthropological Theory
- at least one thematic area of Social and Cultural Anthropology, which is relevant for the envisaged doctoral project

If proof of sufficient knowledge in these areas cannot be established, the Committee for Doctoral Examinations may – in accordance with §3 (3) of the regulations for the Dr. phil. of May 23rd, 2018 – grant admission to the doctoral procedure under the condition that the candidate broadens his or her knowledge by completing study modules in Social and Cultural Anthropology. This can be done by completing regular classes in the BA or MA study programmes offered by the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology or by a mentoring arrangement with the supervisor of the PhD project.

Such a conditional admission, however, can only come into consideration if the missing or rudimentary knowledge is restricted to *one* of the core areas. If this is not the case, the required qualification of the doctoral subject can neither be ensured nor established in passing.

If an admission in accordance with §3 (3) is envisaged, the request for admission should include a workplan signed by the candidate and the supervisor stating how and within which time frame the missing or rudimentary knowledge in (one of) the core areas can be secured.

Please find further information for PhD supervisors and committee members at our faculty website [here](#).