



Potsdam
Graduate
School



International Teaching Professionals 2017 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Are you a researcher and interested in an international academic career and want to

- ✓ improve your didactic skills?
- ✓ gain teaching experience?
- ✓ network with other international researchers?
- ✓ boost your chances of academic career success?

Submit your application
for the *International Teaching Professionals* program
offered by the Potsdam Graduate School
by July 9th, 2017

This program was awarded the price "Exzellente Lehre" (Excellence in Teaching). It is now part of the University's strategy for continuously boosting study conditions and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research.



The *International Teaching Professionals* Program

- Supplemental Certificate for Early-Stage Researchers -

The Potsdam Graduate School announces for the eighth time an English-language teaching certification offered as a supplemental qualification for internationally oriented researchers. The *International Teaching Professionals* (ITP) program is provided for early-stage researchers as a comprehensive framework in which to further develop their university didactic skills and network with one another. The program is designed both for international PhD and postdoctoral candidates, as well as for German researchers who aim at an international academic career.

For foreign researchers, it is frequently difficult to gain teaching experience due to language barriers or uncertainties about the local teaching culture. Also, academic teaching requires not only subject-related knowledge but also didactic proficiency and experience. Those teaching skills have played only a minor role in the academic reputation of a researcher for many years, despite their great importance. This well-structured training program gives academic teachers knowledge from the educational sciences in order to successfully cope with the challenges of teaching in institutions of higher education. It helps young talent to reflect their individual competences and to develop a professional self-concept. In the program, participants work on their profile that covers both research and teaching and helps to improve the linkage between these two performance areas. It furthermore provides the participants with didactic and methodological know-how and helps them design student-centered concepts for a course in close connection with their own field of research. As a result, the newly acquired options support effective teaching and more successful communication with students in the classroom.

The certified teaching experience offers a long-term advantage for participants' future academic careers. Along with the acquisition of university didactic competence, the program additionally aims to improve networking among international researchers and reflect on their cultural background. The program consists of four main elements:

(1) Didactic Training¹

The workshops are conducted in English by experts experienced in academic teaching and the international context. They help to build up pedagogical knowledge and to systematically professionalize participants' teaching activities. Attending the seven inter-coordinated workshops is mandatory for all selected program participants:

Workshop	Topic
Workshop 1	<i>Intercultural Competence in the Context of University Teaching</i> August 22 + 23, 2017 (2 days)
Workshop 2	<i>The Basics of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education</i> August 28 + 29, 2017 (2 days)
Workshop 3	<i>E-Learning and E-Teaching with Web 2.0 Tools</i> September 25 + 28, 2017 (2 days)
Workshop 4	<i>Deepening Your Teaching Skills</i> November 29, 2017 (1 day)

¹ Please note that this training is designed as a supplemental qualification for researchers of several disciplines. Subject-specific training cannot be provided.

Workshop 5	<i>Competence-Oriented Examining and Advising Students</i> February 15 + 16, 2018 (2 days)
Workshop 6	<i>Feedback on the Concept of the Practical Teaching Project</i> March 21, 2018 (1 day)
Workshop 7	<i>Reflection</i> July 2018 (0.5 day)

In addition to this mandatory workshop program, topics like “English Skills for Non-Native Teachers” (1 day), “Research-Based Learning as a Teaching Method” (1 day) or “Presenting in English” (1 day) are offered as optional, complementary workshops. They can be attended on an individual basis if desired.

If needed, free childcare for the workshop times can be arranged.

(2) Practical Teaching Project

In order to put theoretical ideas into practice, program participants will teach their own courses at the University of Potsdam. While developing their pedagogical background, they design their own course in English language to teach during the Summer Semester 2018. This course will be held at one of the departments of the university. It covers 1-2 semester hours per week and should have a close connection to the research field of the participant. She/he might also adopt a course from another lecturer of the University of Potsdam, who supports the didactic redefinition of the course content by the program participant. At the end of the semester, the course should be evaluated by all students to receive feedback.

(3) Mentoring

The conception and realization of the practical teaching project will be guided by an experienced university teacher. Each program participant searches for his/her own mentor from whom to receive support regarding the teaching culture in the respective discipline. This helps the participant to develop teaching competence appropriate for the academic context. Before the teaching period starts, they discuss the possible teaching concept and find ways to implement it. The mentor provides subject-specific guidance and visits the course 1-2 times per semester to give feedback. Students can take part in the feedback discussions, too. Student exams are conducted by the program participants in close cooperation with the mentor. A detailed description of the mentoring can be found in [“Guidelines of the ITP Mentoring”](#).

(4) Networking: Peer Coaching and Forum “ProTeaching”

In addition to the mentoring, the interdisciplinary exchange and peer coaching among the group of participants are of central importance. Mutual teaching observations have to be conducted at least once during the summer semester in order to give and receive feedback on the teaching performance. The “ProTeaching” forum likewise gives program participants the opportunity to exchange ideas with one another and encourages reflection on their role as a teacher. The Potsdam Graduate School provides a room for this regular gathering. An experienced teacher can be present in the forum meetings upon request.

Program Details

The *ITP* program admits 10-12 participants per cycle, i.e. from August 2017 until July 2018. At the end of the program, participants are encouraged to reflect on their own learning process over the course of the program, e.g. how the didactic knowledge gained in the workshops was applied and adapted. This written reflection (4-8 pages) provides the basis for a sustainable learning process as a teaching researcher. Upon completion of the compulsory program components, each participant receives the *ITP* certificate.

After successful completion of the *Teaching Professionals* program, participants can also attend the advanced training module "*Fit für Führung an Lehrstühlen und Wissenschaftseinrichtungen*". It aims to extend the particular skills needed for executive positions in academic departments or other scientific institutions. More information on the ACADEMIA training path within the "High Potentials – Academy for Postdoctoral Career Development" can be found on our [website](#).

Application and Selection Procedure

The program addresses foreign and German early-stage researchers who want to orient themselves internationally and are working towards a career path as university teachers. PhD candidates as well as Postdocs from all disciplines of the University of Potsdam can apply. In order to successfully take part in the program, participants must be fluent in English.

For PhD and postdoctoral candidates of the University of Potsdam membership in the Potsdam Graduate School is required. It can be applied for at any time and is free of charge: <https://www.pogs.uni-potsdam.de/article/mitgliedschaft/Mitgliedschaft.html>

For a successful application, candidates are asked to register in the profile sheet: <https://pogs.uni-potsdam.de/article/546.html>

Besides this registration, an application should be submitted **by July 9th, 2017**, including further specific documents (preliminary confirmation of participation in all parts of the program [see page 5], statement of purpose, CV, institutional affiliation, description of your research project, suggestion for a mentor, letter of reference). The completed application documents have to be compiled into one PDF file (carrying the family name). This file has to be sent via e-mail to pogs@uni-potsdam.de (subject: "ITP application") by the given date. For further details, please see the [FAQ-list](#).

Program participants are selected by a multidisciplinary jury according to the following criteria: motivation and engagement; prospects for successful participation in the supplemental qualification; existence and feasibility of a teaching project in English language at the University of Potsdam; and completeness of formal requirements for the application documents.

Schedule

Introductory Meeting: **August 21st, 2017, 10:00 - 11:30am**

Workshops: **August 2017 – July 2018**

Teaching Project: **Summer Semester 2018**



For further questions and details of the program content, please contact the program coordinator at Potsdam Graduate School:

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Preliminary confirmation of participation in the program “ITP 2017”

First and last name: _____

The “International Teaching Professionals” program involves seven compulsory workshops (dates given in the announcement), the planning and teaching of one course for students, mutual teaching observations and a written reflection on the learning process during the program. From today’s perspective, I hereby confirm my participation in all parts of the program as described above.

(Applicant’s signature)