



WITTENER INSTITUT FÜR
FAMILIENUNTERNEHMEN
UNIVERSITÄT
WITTEN/HERDECKE

WIFU GRADUATE COLLEGE

Transdisciplinary family business research

Witten Institute for Family Business at Witten/Herdecke University (UW/H)

The Witten Institute for Family Business (WIFU) is part of the Faculty of Management and Economics at UW/H and conducts transdisciplinary research at the interfaces between business, psychology and law from the point of view of companies that are mostly family-owned. Within the framework of the WIFU Graduate College, the WIFU Foundation awards up to

15 PHD SCHOLARSHIPS IN FAMILY BUSINESS RESEARCH.

RESEARCH FIELD

The WIFU consists of five chairs, which currently include seven different disciplines (law, business administration, sociology, psychology, ethnology, history, business informatics). There are approximately 40 PhDs and habilitations with a specific reference to family business research that are currently being supervised. The WIFU is the oldest and largest German-language institute for family business research and unique in its transdisciplinary research approach. The WIFU Graduate College promotes young scholars, in particular doctoral candidates, as part of a partially structured doctoral program. Our goal is to prepare the doctoral students for a scientific career at home and abroad.

DOCTORATE

Scholarship-sponsored doctoral programs at the WIFU Graduate College explore and examine the specifics of family businesses and business families in all their facets, while transgressing the disciplinary boundaries. In accordance with the doctoral regulations of the Faculty of Management and Economics of the UW/H, the doctoral performance is based on a range of English-language research papers, which must be submitted in double-blind peer-reviewed journals. The supervision of the doctorate is carried out by WIFU-professors, possibly in cooperation with international visiting professors of the WIFU or with other (inter-)national doctorate-entitled scientists. Scholarship holders have a right of proposal with regard to their supervisors. The maximum funding period for a positive interim evaluation is three years. Exemplary research areas are:

- Strategic management and entrepreneurship in family businesses
- Governance of family businesses and business families
- Characteristics of business families and their relationship to the family business
- Crises and conflicts in family businesses and business families
- Succession and longevity of family businesses
- Digitalisation, technology and innovation in family businesses
- Social role of family businesses

Applications for other topics that are not mentioned above are expressly welcomed.

REQUIREMENTS

Members of the WIFU Graduate College become part of a closely cooperating research group. The success of the respective research projects strongly depends on the communication and cooperation within this research group. Regular on-site presence is therefore a requirement.

Our research is based on an intensive and direct exchange between leading business families and family businesses in Germany. Therefore, the ability to present oneself in a manner that is appropriate to the situation is as much a requirement as good communication skills in the German language (level B2/C1).

Publications in double-blind peer-reviewed journals are usually written in English. Therefore, proficiency in spoken and written English is equally essential.

Doctoral scholarships are awarded exclusively to empirical research projects. Basic knowledge of quantitative and/or qualitative research methods as well as first experiences in the application of such methods are desirable.

The Faculty of Management and Economics of the UW/H awards the title "Dr.rer.pol." after successful completion of the doctoral program. The admission to the doctoral program requires a degree with an overall grade of at least "good / B" (usually Master or Diploma), which also qualifies to take part in the doctoral program. This usually applies to graduates in economics as well as social sciences with a specific theoretical and empirical reference. The admission to the doctoral program is based on a case-by-case review by the doctoral committee. Please note, that the admission to this program is a requirement for the granting of a scholarship by the WIFU Foundation.

FINANCING

The doctoral scholarships granted as part of the WIFU Graduate College are donated by the WIFU Foundation. The amount of scholarships is competitive and based on the standard rates of large organisations for the promotion of gifted students. In addition, travel costs incurred during the project (e.g. conference visits) as well as necessary equipment can also be financially promoted. Moreover, there is the possibility of a paid sideline with a specific scientific reference. The sideline must however not exceed an average of ten hours per week.

APPLICATION

Please submit the following documents electronically as a PDF file:

1. Letter of motivation (1 page);
2. Curriculum vitae (max 2 pages);
3. Copy of the diploma;
4. Exposé of the research project (2 to 3 pages, incl. research question, key arguments, anchoring in literature, intended research design, expected results)
5. Work sample (e.g. Master's thesis, or other own research papers);
6. In addition, foreign students must provide proof of sufficient German language skills (level B2 / C1);
7. Optional: If you would like to propose a WIFU-external scholar with doctoral eligibility as a co-advisor: A signed commitment to supervise this student.

The application must be submitted electronically in English and/or German. Please send your application to: wifukolleg@uni-wh.de