

Regulations of the Project “Your Start in a PhD”

§1 General Provisions

1. The project “Your Start in a PhD!” (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”) is an initiative supporting candidates applying to the SGGW Doctoral School.
2. The Project is organized by the Doctoral Students’ Council in cooperation with the SGGW Doctoral School.
3. The objectives of the Project are:
 - Supporting candidates applying to the SGGW Doctoral School in a given year during the recruitment process.
 - Developing interpersonal competencies of participants.
 - Integrating newly admitted doctoral students into the SGGW academic environment.
 - Building an academic community that supports young researchers.

§2 Scope of Activities

1. DoctorUS Together

- An open meeting promoting a PhD as a career path (free entry – event open to everyone, not only project participants).
- Presentation of recruitment rules and required documents.

2. Mentoring Program

- Peer-support for candidates provided by current doctoral students and young researchers.
- Assistance in finding a supervisor and preparing for recruitment.

3. Workshops

- Topics include:
 - self-presentation and stress management,
 - technical aspects and best practices of preparing a doctoral dissertation proposal,
 - workshops on preparing an academic CV and required recruitment documents.
- Implementation period: May–June.
- Workshops are held either in-person or online.
- Only project participants (hereinafter referred to as “Mentees”) may attend the workshops.

4. Brunch with a Supervisor

- An in-person event attended by candidates for the SGGW Doctoral School and prospective supervisors.
- Includes workshops on doctoral students’ rights and responsibilities and conflict resolution.

5. Team-building integration event

- For newly admitted doctoral students, mentors, and the Doctoral Students’ Council.
- Date: September–October.

§3 Participation Rules

1. Mentees can be people who are interested in applying to the SGGW Doctoral School.
2. Mentors can be current SGGW doctoral students and young researchers (up to 2 years after completing education at the SGGW Doctoral School) who:

- Have experience in academic activity.
- Posses interpersonal skills and a willingness to suport candidates.

§4 Recruitment Rules for the Mentoring Program

1. Recruitment of mentors takes place until March 31.
2. Recruitment of candidates for the mentoring program takes place until March 31.
3. Mentors are assigned based on participants' academic interests.
4. One mentor may supervise a maximum of 3 candidates.

§5 Mentor Competencies

1. Mentors participating in the Project should have the following competencies and qualities:
 - Ability to communicate, support, and motivate candidates.
 - Knowledge of recruitment rules for the SGGW Doctoral School and formal requirements.
 - Ability to support networking with potential supervisors.
 - Availability to assist candidates within an agreed timeframe.
2. Mentor responsibilities include:
 - Participating in a mandatory meeting for mentors before mentee recruitment begins.
 - Providing information about the recruitment process and its requirements.
 - Assisting in the formal preparation of required recruitment documents.
 - Encouraging active participation in the academic community.
 - Supporting candidates in establishing contact with potential supervisors.

§6 Mentee Responsibilities

1. Mentees participating in the Project are required to:
 - Regularly attend meetings with their mentor and workshops organized in the project.
 - Cooperate with the mentor in the formal preparation of required application documents.
 - Show initiative during the recruitment process and strive to achieve set goals.
 - Meet deadlines agreed upon with the mentor and Project organizer.
 - Provide feedback and suggestions regarding the Project after its completion.
2. Mentees are required to adhere to academic ethics and show respect toward mentors and other participants.

§7 Additional Provisions

1. Participation in the Project does not guarantee admission to the SGGW Doctoral School.
2. Participation does not grant additional points in the recruitment process nor affect the final recruitment outcome.
3. After completing a given edition of the Project, the mentor will receive an official certificate that may be submitted as an activity for annual and mid-term doctoral evaluations.
4. The Project aims to support and prepare candidates; however, the final decision on admission to the SGGW Doctoral School is made by the recruitment committee in accordance with applicable regulations.

§8 Final Provisions

1. Matters not regulated by these Regulations shall be decided by the Organizer in agreement with the authorities of the SGGW Doctoral School.
2. These Regulations enter into force on the date of announcement and remain valid until the completion of a given edition of the Project.
3. The Organizer reserves the right to introduce changes to the Regulations if necessary or due to changes in applicable laws. Participants will be informed of such changes without delay.