

As part of the project »MEDAS 21 – Global Media Assistance: Applied Research, Improved Practice in the 21 Century«, sponsored by Volkswagen Foundation, the universities in Dortmund, Bochum and Duisburg-Essen (University Alliance Ruhr) award:

7 PhD scholarships

Project period: 07/2018 – 06/2022 | Remuneration: TV-L 13 (65 %)

The graduate school MEDAS 21 is successful participant in the program »Science and Professional Practice in Graduate Education« launched by the Volkswagen Foundation. An integral part of the program is the close connection of scientific dissertation projects with specific problems of practitioners, especially in the field of media development assistance (MDA). Future project partners will be Deutsche Welle Academy, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, African Media Initiative (AMI), Catholic Media Council (CAMECO), Media in Cooperation and Transition (MiCT) and Fondation Hirondelle. The cooperation includes a joint doctoral dissertation project and an up to one-year residence at the respective partner institution.

The following aspects can be used as a guide to analyze current media development co-operations and as a theoretical basis for your project proposals: a) fragmentation of actors, instruments, aims etc., b) state fragility, c) securitization, d) public diplomacy, e) digital transformation, f) political economy of communication, g) paradigm rivalry/conceptual ambiguity, h) evaluation and methodology challenges, i) communication for social/political change, j) constructive/peace journalism, and k) impact skepticism/legitimacy of MDA. Project ideas shall be located within the above-mentioned framework. A comprehensive project proposal will be jointly developed afterwards with the respective partner institution.

With its structured PhD program, an intense mentoring component and its practice-oriented network MEDAS 21 offers all prospective Phd fellows a challenging and creative scientific research environment, numerous opportunities for professional learning and individual development as well as far-reaching insights into the professional field of media development cooperation and beyond.

Qualifications and profile: Excellent university degree in Communication or Media Studies, Journalism or related subjects (e.g. Political Science); interest in inter-/transnational and inter-/transcultural communication, and social development related issues in the context of media and communication; excellent knowledge of English, good knowledge of German is advantageous, French or Spanish proficiency is welcome depending on the project.

Please send all relevant documents (cover letter, CV, credentials, MA thesis, exposé (5 to 10 pages)) as PDF (max. three files) via email stating the reference „Application MEDAS 21“ until April 4, 2018 to Dr. Dirk-Claas Ulrich (Email: dirk-claas.ulrich@tu-dortmund.de).

The interviews are scheduled for mid-April 2018. The call will remain open until all positions are filled. The selection committee will include the professors involved in the project: Prof. Susanne Fengler (TU Dortmund), Prof. Barbara Thomaß (Ruhr University Bochum) und Prof. Jens Loenhoff (University Duisburg-Essen) as well a representative of the Volkswagen Foundation. Afterwards there will be a second interview with the respective partner institution.

The graduate school is committed to the general principles of diversity and equality. Qualified female junior scientists are strongly encouraged to apply. In addition, applications from candidates with proven disability are warmly welcome.

In case of any questions related to the research framework or selection process, please do not hesitate to contact the project manager Dr. Dirk-C. Ulrich. Additional information will be also available here: <https://brost.ifj.tu-dortmund.de>