



International Doctorate Programme “Business and Human Rights: Governance Challenges in a Complex World”

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: DOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITIONS

The International Doctorate Programme “Business and Human Rights: Governance Challenges in a Complex World” (IDP B&HR_Governance) invites applications for 12 doctoral research positions (4-year contracts) in its second phase to start on 1 November 2025. The programme is integrated into and funded by the Elite Network of Bavaria.

The IDP B&HR_Governance establishes an inter- and transdisciplinary research forum for excellent doctoral projects addressing practically relevant problems and theoretically grounded questions in the field of business and human rights.

Application deadline: 1 June 2025

Thematic Focus, Curriculum and Supervision

The IDP’s research profile builds on law, management, and social sciences. Close cooperation with partners from businesses, civil society, and political actors will enable the doctoral researchers to develop their projects in a broader context to ensure practical relevance. The IDP’s curriculum aims at contributing to the professional development of independent and critical researchers through a variety of courses, research retreats, colloquia, and conferences as well as the possibility of practical projects.

The doctoral research projects will be supervised by and associated with professors from Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), the University of Bayreuth or the University of Würzburg. The doctoral researchers will benefit from a comprehensive supervision concept allowing them to work with and receive support from an international and interdisciplinary team.

Research projects

Applicants are free to choose their doctoral research focus in the field of B&HR_Governance. They could either focus on implementing the Business and Human Rights agenda in legal, socio-political and corporate practice or the

conceptual broadening of this agenda towards sustainability. Research projects could critically assess specific legal instruments and developments which have emerged in the last years as well as on the practices of specific companies and groups of stakeholders. Research projects could also approach the field more holistically and include environmental and climate change obligations, focus the field of organized sports or corporate responsibility in autocratic regimes and democracies under pressure.

Tasks and contract terms

Successful candidates will be employed by one of the participating universities and expected to reside at the seat of that university (Erlangen, Nürnberg, Bayreuth or Würzburg). The contract will be based on the Collective Agreement for the public service of the German States (TVL) and consist of a 66% position of Level 13 (approximately 3000 € before taxes and social security contributions). The contractual tasks consist of independent research on the PhD project and a teaching obligation of one course per semester.

Application and admission

To be admitted, applicants need an excellent university degree at master's level in a relevant discipline (law, management, social sciences) and very good knowledge of English. International, intercultural, and practical experiences will be an asset. Applicants are expected to take an active role in shaping the curriculum, both independently and as part of a team.

An application comprises the following documents:

- Research proposal (in English, max. 5000 words)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Letter of motivation (in English, max. 1000 words)
- Writing sample, e.g. published article, thesis, or seminar paper.
- Certificates of all university degrees and transcripts of records

Applications must be sent in a single PDF document by 1 June 2025 to humanrights-idp@fau.de.

Short-listed candidates will be interviewed through video calls in early July 2025.

Successful applicants will be matched with a supervisory team based *inter alia* on the research proposal and the relevant discipline.

Further information on the IDP B&HR_Governance can be found here:

<https://www.business-humanrights.fau.eu/>

