

Appendix 2

Information sheet for universities

Graduate development groups at BIBB

As a sectoral research institute, the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) plays a crucial role in enhancing the system of vocational education and training. As a national and international centre of excellence for vocational education and training, BIBB is obliged to pursue the concept of academia-politics-practice-communications. Research is firmly anchored in the German Vocational Education and Training Act (*Berufsbildungsgesetz*, BBiG) as a central task of BIBB. Research into vocational education and training forms the cornerstone for political and practical consulting. It provides the academic basis for the further development of vocational education and training and has a strongly inter-disciplinary character. This calls for a specific, multi-faceted approach in terms of both content and methodology.

BIBB is launching the implementation of the “Graduate support in vocational education and training research” programme in 2019. This programme is designed to qualify young academics for a career either within or outside of sectoral research. For this purpose, graduate development groups will be set up starting in 2019.

Universities as strategic partners

BIBB has a wide range of connections with universities and research institutes in Germany and abroad. These networks play an important role in the area of graduate support.

Graduate development groups are based at BIBB and cooperate closely with particular universities. This cooperation is designed to ensure that the graduate development group benefits from the specific expertise of both institutions, such as links with politics and practice, or qualifications and teaching. At the universities, group leaders should be given the opportunity to gain teaching experience (ideally two hours per semester week) and to acquire the aptitude to work as a university lecturer. BIBB would be delighted to be able to appoint the selected graduate development leaders as professors, together with the partner university. The cooperation is regulated in detail in a cooperation agreement.