

The Graduate Program for Transcultural Studies (GPTS) at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS) at Heidelberg University welcomes applications for **up to two doctoral scholarships for international students** beginning in the winter semester 2026/27. The scholarships amount to 1.300 EUR per month for a period of three years.

In accordance with the research scheme of the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, the three-year graduate program focuses on the dynamics of cultural exchange processes between and within Asia and Europe, and challenges established notions of national, ethnic, and disciplinary categories. The GPTS offers an excellent, highly interdisciplinary, and international research environment combining the German model of individualized doctoral studies with a system of guided courses.

Applicants are expected to submit a doctoral project with a strong affinity to the research agenda of the HCTS. Prospective candidates must hold an M.A. or equivalent in a relevant discipline of the humanities or social sciences with an above-average grade and provide proof of advanced language skills in English.

Applications must be submitted in one PDF file that includes the completed application form, a letter of motivation, a CV, a project proposal, a schedule for the dissertation, language certificates, and transcripts of all university degrees, and two letters of recommendation.

The two scholarships are offered in cooperation with the DAAD Graduate School Scholarship Program (GSSP) and include further benefits. Only international (non-German) candidates are eligible to apply. In addition to fulfilling the criteria listed above, applicants must meet the criteria set by the DAAD. For more information, please visit the [DAAD website](#).

**The application deadline is February 13, 2026.**

**The starting date for the scholarships is October 1, 2026.**

For more information about the Graduate Program for Transcultural Studies and the application process, see [here](#). If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [application-gpts@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:application-gpts@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de).

We would be grateful if you circulate this email among prospective candidates.

Kind regards,  
Prof. Dr. Joachim Kurtz, Co-Director of the HCTS | Speaker of the GPTS  
Dr. Oliver Lamers, Administrative Manager

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The Heidelberg Center for Transcultural Studies (HCTS) is a central research institute of Heidelberg University founded in April 2013. It builds on the structures that have been established by the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context: The Dynamics of Transculturality" in its two funding periods (2007-12, 2012-17).

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