Carl von Ossietzky
Universität
Oldenburg

Adapting formats of support to the changed needs of doctoral candidates

Parallel Session II.B:
Innovative practices in doctoral education
June 6th, 2025
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About the University of Oldenburg and the Graduate Academy

15,000 Students

1,400 Doctoral Candidates
(partly in doctoral programmes)

300 Postdoctoral Researchers

Graduiertenakademie Universität Oldenburg

65 Workshops and Events in 2024

Central Counselling and Advice

Study and Career Counselling Service

2 Graduate Schools

- *(Natural) Sciences, Medicine, Technology*
- *Social Sciences and Humanities*

Current Challenges

- Saturation / Over-supply of information and offers
- Changed needs of the target group:
  - More severe time constraints for researchers
  - Increased demand for individualisation
  - Increased demand for flexibility
- Less commitment by participants: short-term cancellations and „no-shows“
  - Informing on consequences or sanctioning appears not effective
- Demand for individualisation vs. need for structured qualification

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Adapting our offer

2024	2025
65	36

- Reducing the number of (full) workshops
- Over-booking (12 → 14/15 participants)
- Introducing shorter, more flexible formats:
  - **Shorter** workshops (half to full days) and more workshops online
  - Online lunch time seminars
  - Online learning tools and **webcasts** as on-demand offers
  - Planned: Individual coaching offers for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers
  - Planned: Festival-like events
- Aim: Becoming more **agile** in responding to changing interests and needs
- Co-operation with other University(ies) to increase the target group

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Thank you for your attention!

We look forward to your comments,
experiences, and questions!

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