

# The Uni, the Doctoral School and YOU

*A short information guide to the new Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies (SHCS) at the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies of the University of Vienna*

*Compiled by the student representatives for 2020-2022*

## What is the Doctoral School SHCS?

The Doctoral School SHCS is foremost an academic community of around 260 enrolled PhD candidates and 86 supervisors based at the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies. It was newly established by the Rector of the University in summer 2020 in order to enhance the profile of doctoral studies in Vienna and to support PhD candidates in the completion of their dissertations at a high international standard. Currently the rate of non-completion is 70%.

## What are the goals of SHCS?

As stated in its foundational document, the establishment of doctoral schools is viewed as an “important measure for the promotion of young scholars and their sustainable, long-term and internationally competitive education at the PhD level.” Thus, the aims of SHCS are “to bring together actively engaged PhD candidates and supervisors, to increase mutual commitment, [and] to strengthen the visibility of PhD studies at the University of Vienna.” This will be achieved through a variety of offerings tailored to the PhD candidates of SHCS.

## What can SHCS offer you?

The doctoral school seeks to expand upon the traditional *Doktorvater/-mutter* relationship and create a space for exchange with fellow PhD candidates and other supervisors in a collegial atmosphere. SHCS members belong to one (or more) of the seven thematic research clusters. Each cluster offers a new format of seminar, a “colloquium”, that is designed 1) to highlight the interdisciplinary character of each cluster and the doctoral school as a whole and 2) to promote community building and academic exchange. The colloquia will be complemented by several additional PhD-level seminars in summer semester 2021.

In addition, SHCS will offer workshops related to transferable skills, academic writing, preparation for the open faculty presentation (FÖP), well-being during your PhD, and a mentorship program. PhD members of SHCS are also eligible to apply for various funding options (and practice their grant-writing skills): these include travel and/or digitization grants, publication grants, event sponsorship, and a wrap-up scholarship. A limited number of paid, three-year PhD fellowships will be offered annually by SHCS.

## What do you have to offer the SHCS?

Continuing to work on your dissertation, active participation in the colloquia and adherence to the Code of Good Practice and Code of Conduct of the university are all that’s required. But the more you participate and network, the stronger and more productive this scientific community becomes. **In a reversal of the customary top-down way of doing business, initiatives from PhD candidates are welcome and encouraged.**

### **How do I join?**

If you enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of Vienna after 2018 and have completed the open faculty presentation (FÖP), there is a good chance that your supervisor already nominated you for SHCS. Please check the SHCS website under the respective research clusters (link below).

If you are not already a member, please contact your supervisor and/or email the administrator, Dr. Martina Steer at [shcs.hkw@univie.ac.at](mailto:shcs.hkw@univie.ac.at).

Currently, only PhD candidates whose supervisor is a member of SHCS are eligible to join. We are looking into options for both interested PhD candidates whose primary supervisor has not joined SHCS and prospective PhD students, and we will provide updates as we have them. If this applies to you or a colleague, please email us at [phdreps.shcs.hkw@univie.ac.at](mailto:phdreps.shcs.hkw@univie.ac.at) to stay directly informed.

### **How can I get involved?**

There are several ways to get involved. The doctoral school is in a formative phase and we need to hear from you: your input, ideas, concerns, and wishes. You can email these to us at any time.

Student representation in SHCS is not connected to the ÖH (Austrian National Union of Students); it is therefore independent and represents only the PhD members of SHCS in the decision-making board of the doctoral school. We are looking to expand student representation and increase opportunities for engagement by establishing a student committee that includes a representative of each research cluster, a social media team, representatives for non-financed PhD candidates, and (hopefully in future) a journal committee. If you are interested in contributing, please contact us!

**Any questions?** Email us at: [phdreps.shcs.hkw@univie.ac.at](mailto:phdreps.shcs.hkw@univie.ac.at)

Your PhD Reps,  
Sarah, Florence and Clemens

### **Links:**

SHCS Website: <https://shcs.univie.ac.at>

Research clusters: <https://shcs.univie.ac.at/en/research-cluster/>

Code of Good Practice: <https://shcs.univie.ac.at/en/about-us/code-of-conduct-code-of-good-practice/>

Current open positions: <https://shcs.univie.ac.at/en/open-positions/>