

# Election test questions of the doctoral candidates for the Bundestags-election

A JOINT SURVEY OF THE PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE  
BUNDESTAG BY DOCTORAL NETWORKS IN GERMANY



06.September 2021

Disclaimer: This is a translation of the original German document. For the answers of the parties, please refer to the original document.

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## *Joint initiative of the doctoral networks in Germany*

N<sup>2</sup> - Network of doctoral representatives

    Helmholtz Juniors

    Max Planck PhDnet

    Leibniz PhD Network

    IPP Mainz

TUM Graduate Council of the TU Munich

Promovierendenkonvent of the FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg

RdP TU Braunschweig

Forum of the doctoral representatives Baden-Württemberg

THESIS e.V.

    Interdisciplinary network for Doctoral students and graduates

DR.FSU

    Council of Doctoral Students of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena

ProRat Leipzig

    PhD Council of the University of Leipzig

# Questionnaire on the Bundestag election 2021

## About the 'Wahlprüfsteine' (Questionnaire)

Preparations are currently underway for the 2021 federal elections. These elections will also set the course for science policy, which is crucial for doctoral researchers. As representatives of doctoral researchers from university and non-university research, we have therefore joined forces and drawn up election touchstones on science policy with questions that are relevant to doctoral researchers.

In Germany, there are an estimated [200,000 doctoral candidates and approximately 300,000 scientists](#), up to the age of 45 below the professorship level at universities and research institutions. The interests of these doctoral researchers and postdocs are represented at local, regional and national level by, among others, the networks signed here.

As doctoral students at universities, universities of applied sciences, non-university research institutions and in business and industry, we are instrumental in the production of new knowledge, as well as in the dissemination of this knowledge through teaching and science communication. In this way, we make a major contribution to research in our society.

The basic prerequisites for this work are sufficient funding as well as good support and working conditions during our scientific qualification phase as PhD candidates, and in the subsequent career stages. As early career scientists, a future with predictable career paths, fair and transparent promotion mechanisms, and opportunities to balance work and family is a key concern for us. We also consider increasing diversity in science and maintaining mental health while working in science to be important current issues.

On the occasion of the 2021 federal election, we sent questionnaires with our election test questions to the parties currently represented in the Bundestag - CDU/CSU, SPD, AfD, FDP, Die Linke and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen. The questions are based on the following groups of topics:

- I. Science in Society and Politics
- II. General conditions of the doctorate
- III. Doctorate and career in Science
- IV. Diversity and Health
- V. Scientific exchange

Our aim is to provide the members of our networks, all other scientists and the public with a decision-making aid for the upcoming federal election on 26 September 2021.

Our election test questions were sent to all parties represented in the Bundestag at the beginning of July 2021. By the editorial deadline for our report on 23 August 2021, the CDU/CSU, Bündnis90/Die Grünen and Die Linke had responded in full. For the SPD, answers are only available for the questions on diversity and health. The AfD did not send any answers. The reason for the partial availability of the answers is that the doctoral students' associations, which jointly prepared this report, submitted their questions independently of each other. The report is thus a compilation of the answers to four questions. The positions of the parties are summarised below in a short tabular form. Following this is a written overall impression. The answers are listed in full in the appendix.



## Overview of the parties' positions

The following overview contains the positions of the parties in an abbreviated form. The answers in their wording can be found in the appendix.

<b>Science in society and politics</b>	<b>CDU</b>	<b>FDP</b>	<b>Die Linke</b>	<b>Die Grünen</b>
<i>Influence of doctoral students on science and higher education policy decisions</i>	Responsibility lies with the Federal States	More freedom for universities to determine for themselves how doctoral students are to be integrated	Universities should be democratised nationwide and all status groups should be represented with voting rights	All status groups should be able to voice their concerns, and decisions about them should be made at the national level
<i>Separate status group under higher education law &amp; comprehensive representation of the interests of doctoral candidates</i>	Responsibility lies with the Federal States	Voluntary membership in interest groups	Establishment of a promoters' status group is welcomed and the academic mid-level faculty is to be strengthened	Decision lies at state level, but support in principle for the extension of co-determination
<i>Governance of publicly funded research</i>	Concrete objectives oriented towards societal challenges, but a lot of freedom in science	Prioritisation of universities, establishment of a 'German Transfer Community' (DTG) to promote knowledge transfer	Thanks to adequate basic funding, science should be able to take place in an interest-driven manner and not be dependent on third-party funding	Sufficient basic funding as a basis and criticism of the distinction between scientific fields
<i>Right to award doctorates for universities of applied sciences and universities of applied sciences</i>	Developing new ways to facilitate doctoral degrees	Possibility of cooperation with universities in doctoral procedures	Promotion right is advocated	Fair access opportunities, e.g. through cooperative doctoral formats, should be made possible

<b>General conditions of the doctorate</b>	<b>CDU</b>	<b>FDP</b>	<b>Die Linke</b>	<b>Die Grünen</b>
<i>Improvement of specific funding and employment models for doctoral students in Germany</i>	No need for action	Use of the existing variety of financing options, no expansion	Aim for 100% permanent posts and permanent posts for permanent tasks	Adjustment of contract durations via the reform of the WissZeitVG
<i>Unequal payment of doctoral candidates depending on the doctoral subject</i>	Gradual adjustment of salaries	Uniform payment depending on work performance	salary adjustment	Improvement through university agreements
<i>Equal pay for doctoral candidates with scholarships and employment contracts</i>	No need for action	Adjustment of the health insurance situation for students	Reduction in the use of scholarships through more posts on higher core funding	No need for action
<i>Appropriate duration of fellowships or employment contracts</i>	No need for action	Adjustment of contract duration to project duration	Minimum duration and increase in full time posts through increased core funding	Adjustment of the duration of the contract to the volume of tasks and, if necessary, the family/care situation

<b>Doctorate and career in science</b>	<b>CDU</b>	<b>FDP</b>	<b>Die Linke</b>	<b>Die Grünen</b>
<i>Job expansion and the ability to plan a scientific career</i>	Funding of 1000 new positions as tenure-track professorships from the federal government and an additional 1000 positions from the states	development of Tenure-track professorships and better work-life balance	Increase in the number of permanent posts below of the professorship and abolition of the special fixed-term contract law according to WissZeitVG	Substantial increase in the proportion of permanent positions and expansion of the tenure-track programme
<i>Relationship between fixed-term and permanent tasks</i>	Time limits for qualification phase appropriate	Fundamental coupling of permanent tasks to permanent positions. It is not the existence of fixed-term contracts that is the problem, but their often short duration	Linking of permanent tasks to permanent positions	Linking of permanent tasks to permanent positions
<i>Corona-related contract extensions</i>	Retention of the double extension the fixed term according to WissZeitVG by 6 months in each case	Use of the existing financial cushion of the universities and, if necessary, adjustment in the next budget	Possibility of additional funding for pandemic-related Contract extensions at universities through federal budget	Creation of legal room for manoeuvre for further pandemic-related contract extensions
<i>New academic job profiles (besides e.g. professors and academic councillors)</i>	No plans to make any more Create job profiles	No plans to make any more Create job profiles	Contribution to job profiles at universities through the expansion of the academic mid-level faculty	Creation of alternative career paths besides professorships and additional permanent teaching positions

<b>Diversity and health</b>	<b>CDU</b>	<b>SPD</b>	<b>FDP</b>	<b>Die Linke</b>	<b>Die Grünen</b>
<i>Promotion of women in science</i>	Continuation of the programme for female professors; promotion of reconciliation of career and family life	Strengthening of the female professors' programme; reduction of fixed-term contracts and offer of tenure-track after one year of postdoc with quota-based allocation; individualised support through departmental structures	Promote reconciliation of career and family; improve childcare at universities; enable & normalize shared leadership positions; collect additional data on situation	Expansion of the programme for female professors; 50 % women's quota at all career levels; reduction of fixed-term contracts, enabling shared management positions; cultural change towards female leadership; use of intelligent databases to overcome the citation gap	Expansion of the programme for female professors; 40 % women's quota at all career levels; additional data collection on the situation
<i>Promoting diversity beyond gender</i>	Highlighting role models, longer contract periods for people with disabilities	Better support through graduate schools; extension of BAföG	Stronger approach of educational up-and-comers on the part of scholarship organisations & sensitisation of selection committees	Quota for people with a migration background; binding definition of racism; recognition of gender diversity; fundamentally intersectional approach	Convert BAföG into a basic student allowance; develop funding formats for diversity; introduce contact persons for anti-discrimination, diversity and LGBTI issues
<i>Support for doctoral candidates without an academic background</i>	Use of mentoring programmes & alumni networks; approach to (early) childhood education	Better support through graduate schools, use of mentoring programmes, reduction of social selectivity	Use of mentoring programs & consulting services	Use of the right to award doctorates at FH/HAW; reduction of uncertainties in career planning in academia	Convert BAföG to basic student support, targeted support at universities



<p><i>Reconciliation of family and work &amp; illness-related restrictions</i></p>	<p>Introduction of family time accounts, use of mobile workplaces, expansion of childcare at universities</p>	<p>Extension of contract duration in the case of care work or longer illness, expansion of childcare at universities</p>	<p>Time sovereignty for parents with teaching obligations, expansion of childcare at universities, linking contract duration to project duration, reform of WissZeitVG, approval of examination aids for people with disabilities</p>	<p>Abolition of special fixed-term contracts in the WissZeitVG, flexibility in care work, expansion of infrastructure for people with disabilities, enabling shared management positions, expansion of childcare at universities</p>	<p>Restriction of special fixed-term contracts in the WissZeitVG, flexibility in care work, more scope for international dual-career couples</p>
<p><i>Need for action in the field of "Mental Health" in the scientific community</i></p>	<p>Expansion of advisory services, additional research</p>	<p>Expansion of advisory services, development of more reliable career paths, methodological exchange at graduate schools</p>	<p>Expansion of counselling services, development of more reliable career paths</p>	<p>Expansion of counselling services, dismantling of power structures through departmental structures</p>	<p>Expansion of counselling services, development of more reliable career paths</p>

*Inclusion in science*

Introduction of a disadvantage compensation for scholarship applications	Better support through graduate schools	Expansion of infrastructure for people with disabilities, research institutions as role models for employment	Expansion of infrastructure for people with disabilities with federal funds; introduction of disability commissioners with competencies of the equality commissioners, sensitization at universities	Expansion of infrastructure for people with disabilities, lifting of integration aids for students and doctoral candidates
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<b>Scientific exchange</b>	<b>CDU</b>	<b>FDP</b>	<b>Die Linke</b>	<b>Die Grünen</b>
<i>Position on Open Access and exploitation rights</i>	Aim of gradually making Open Access the standard of scientific publishing with the help of guidelines	Open Access for government-funded research under data protection & security; licensing system conceivable for commercial use	Demand for an open access funding strategy; commitment to modern copyright law; long-term transformation of the publication system	Open Access as a standard; modernisation of copyright
<i>Strengthening science communication</i>	Strengthening the communication of knowledge via further education offers; promotion of citizen research	Time & financial support for science communication in the allocation of third-party funds; expansion of research on science communication	Establishment of science communication as a separate service in addition to research and teaching; promotion of citizen research	Strengthening the communication of knowledge via further education offers; promotion of citizen research
<i>The influence of scientific findings on political decisions</i>	Increased incorporation of scientific, evidence-based expertise into policy, while respecting shades of grey in public discourse	Scientific findings as the basis for democratic enlightenment, but rejection of technocracy; broadcasting of expert hearings and "Joint Fact Finding"	Science for advice and factual basis in politics subject to decision-making by politics	The need for institutionalised involvement of science in political processes and the early integration of scientific expertise

<p><i>Further development of the European Research Area and the European Higher Education Area</i></p>	<p><b>Support for basic research under the Horizon Europe programme for Europe-wide networking; doubling of funding for Erasmus+</b></p>	<p><b>Increased networking within the EU; establishment of a European Digital University; digital exchange via the "Horizon Europe" programme</b></p>	<p><b>Stronger interlinking and stronger civil society participation in the EU research framework programme; focus on societal problems &amp; innovations</b></p>	<p><b>Strengthen networking within the EU; increase Erasmus+; continue lively exchange with UK</b></p>
<p><i>Global collaborations in research and higher education</i></p>	<p>Strengthening scientific freedom in international cooperation; increased networking with African countries</p>	<p>Introduction of basic research initiative and research funding in the fields of pharmaceuticals, medical technology and digitalisation</p>	<p>Global collaboration for public good research</p>	<p>Strengthening exchange partnerships; using "brain circulation" to solve societal challenges</p>

## Our overall impression of the responses

In some areas, the parties have a great deal in common, namely their attitude to the role of science in the political debate, the doctoral system at universities of applied sciences (FH/HAW), the fundamental importance of Open Access in the future, and the welcome for further European cooperation in research. However, they differ in the methods used to achieve the latter three goals. There are strong differences between the parties, particularly with regard to the research points to be prioritised, namely improving the working conditions of doctoral researchers and researchers, promoting women, and ways to improve science communication.

### Science in Society and Politics

In the first block of questions, "Science in Society and Politics", it is noticeable that all parties are in favour of opening up a way for universities of applied sciences (FH/HAW) to award doctorates, albeit in different ways. While the CDU/CSU points to the Federal States as responsible, the FDP and Bündnis90/Die Grünen propose cooperation with universities. Die Linke is in favour of an independent right to award doctorates. With regard to the constitution of doctoral students as a separate status group, Bündnis90/Die Grünen and Die Linke are in favour. Die Linke would like to see a further democratisation of university committees through this, while CDU/CSU and FDP do not make a clear statement on this.

There are greater differences when it comes to the question of research control: The CDU/CSU refers per se to identifying important future fields at an early stage and promoting them accordingly, without addressing specific fields. The FDP is particularly in favour of practical, usable research as worthy of funding and wants to set up a German Transfer Association for this purpose. Die Linke and Bündnis90/Die Grünen, on the other hand, advocate increased funding for the humanities and social sciences as well as basic research, supplemented by climate research in the case of Bündnis90/Die Grünen.

### General conditions in the doctorate

A polarised picture emerges with regard to the "framework conditions for doctoral studies". In the remuneration system for doctoral researchers, the CDU/CSU emphasises the individual responsibility of doctoral researchers to deal with the challenges of employment and scholarships in advance, and explicitly sees no need for action. The CDU/CSU parties only want to support a development to adapt the duration of contracts to the realistic duration of doctoral projects. The other parties share this aspect, but clearly advocate a direct and general adjustment. The FDP, Bündnis90/Die Grünen and Die Linke also take a more critical view of the employment situation: the FDP and Die Grünen see the problem of social security for scholarship holders and want to compensate for this disadvantage. The FDP also wants to raise the additional earnings limits and provide for more possibilities to combine a contract and a scholarship, while Die Grünen as well as Die Linke advocate an adjustment of pay between the subject groups and want to promote more full-time positions. Die Grünen also want to restrict fixed-term reasons and Die Linke want to reduce the use of scholarships overall.

### Doctorate and career in science

In the third questionnaire block, "Doctorates and careers in science", the CDU/CSU on the one hand and the FDP, Bündnis90/Die Grünen and Die Linke on the other hand are also quite clearly opposed. With regard to further contract extensions in connection with the coronal pandemic, the latter show themselves open to further monitoring the situation and, if necessary, taking action, while the CDU/CSU consider the existing rules to be sufficient, under which contracts concluded up to March 2021 are granted extension options.

With regard to the expansion of the academic mid-level faculty, the CDU/CSU refers to 1,000 tenure-track positions already created and the efforts of the Federal States, but does not hold out the prospect of further expansion. The other parties advocate an expansion of tenure-track positions and the linking of permanent tasks to permanent positions. Bündnis90/Die Grünen also call for the expansion of career paths alongside professorships, for which Die Linke sees the universities as responsible and for which the CDU/CSU parties and the FDP see no explicit need. The FDP, however, sees a need for improvement in the re-entry into science from the business world as well as in the self-determination of parents about the teaching workload to be completed and would like to make dual doctorates easier. For Die Linke, it also makes sense to enable part-time management and a general increase in the number of positions through the federal government's involvement in university funding.

### Diversity and Health

In the area of "Diversity and Health" there are additional answers from the SPD. The toolbox from which the parties draw is becoming more diverse. Like Bündnis90/Die Grünen and Die Linke, the SPD advocate the expansion of the programme for female professors, which the CDU/CSU merely want to continue. In addition, the CDU/CSU would like to set an example with positive examples of female careers, introduce family time accounts and, like the SPD and FDP, expand childcare services to enable parents to switch more flexibly between work and childcare phases. The SPD wants to promote women through more reliable career planning options by offering the prospect of a tenure-track position after one year of postdoc work. Die Grünen and Die Linke would also like to see 40% and 50% quotas for women in professorships and management positions below that. In addition, Die Linke refers to a necessary change in the management culture, which should become gender-equitable, and the need to overcome the "citation gap", which puts women at a disadvantage in applications, with intelligent databases. Die Grünen, SPD and CDU/CSU want to take family times into account in the fixed-term regulations in the WissZeitVG.

With regard to other forms of diversity, Die Linke is the only party to refer to the aspect of multiple discrimination (intersectionality) and calls for a quota for people with a migration background in research. For people with disabilities, it wants to introduce disability commissioners equivalent to equal opportunity commissioners, Die Grünen contact persons for anti-discrimination. The CDU/CSU would like to see disadvantage compensation in scholarship applications for people with disabilities. Die Grünen and the FDP see the need to more comprehensively record and report on the status of anti-discrimination efforts and want to better adapt infrastructures to the needs of people with disabilities. In order to promote educational advancement, the CDU/CSU would like to focus on mentoring programs during doctoral studies, but actually sees the responsibility earlier in school and pre-school education. The FDP and SPD are also focusing on lowering socio-cultural hurdles for working-class children in research and expanding BAföG, while Bündnis90/Die Grünen want to replace BAföG with a basic student allowance. Die Grünen sees the doctoral system at the FH and HAW as an opportunity to further promote educational advancement.

On the topic of mental health, all parties call for an expansion of support services. The SPD agrees with Die Linke and Die Grünen on the demand to replace the chair structure with a [department structure in order](#) to reduce power structures and pressure from supervisors, as well as to make more individual development possible. The SPD also wants doctoral students to be able to systematically exchange their experiences of stress at graduate schools. The FDP wants to reduce pressure on doctoral researchers by making career paths easier to plan.

### Scientific exchange

In the area of 'scientific exchange', all parties take the position that science has an important role as a factual, neutral contribution to debate on which political decisions should be based,

albeit subject to a political balancing of interests. In addition, all parties support the concept of 'Open Access'. Bündnis90/Die Grünen and the CDU/CSU want to make it the standard, the Union parties gradually. The FDP and Die Linke would like to see Open Access promoted at various levels. The FDP would like to establish science communication efforts as an award criterion for third-party funded projects, while Die Linke would like to incorporate science communication as an achievement in its own right with an incentive effect in academic careers. Die Grünen and the CDU/CSU want to improve the ability of scientists to carry out science communication by means of further training and want to promote European exchange by expanding 'ErasmusPlus'. The Union also wants to intensify cooperation with African partner countries. The CDU/CSU, the FDP and Die Linke want to expand the 'Horizon Europe' project. The FDP also plans to establish a 'European Digital University'. CDU/CSU, Bündnis90/Die Grünen and Die Linke want to expand 'Citizen Science'.

## Annex - The parties' replies

### Question block 1: Science in society and politics

<b>In what ways should doctoral researchers be able to influence science and higher education policy decisions?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	The Federal States are responsible for higher education. Accordingly, the state legislatures determine in their respective higher education acts which status groups under higher education law are admitted to higher education institutions.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats welcome the involvement of doctoral candidates. As a matter of principle, they should have the opportunity to influence decisions on science and higher education policy, as should all actors in higher education policy. We want to give universities far-reaching freedom to determine their own internal order, and thus also to shape different forms of involvement of doctoral researchers. We are convinced that the universities that are most successful academically are those in which the voices of doctoral researchers are heard.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE is fighting nationwide for a democratisation of universities. University committees must have equal representation, so that all status groups, including students and doctoral candidates, are equally represented with voting rights. Wherever possible, they should meet in public. Instead of unilaterally strengthening the university management, we need to strengthen the university committees that are democratically elected by all university members. Committees that are similar to supervisory boards - such as university councils - should be abolished. We want to strengthen the democratic exchange between the university and civil society actors, trade unions, citizens' initiatives and social associations.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	Institutional safeguards such as the constituted student body and committees with equal representation at universities are of great value to us Greens. All status groups should be able to bring their concerns into the democratic self-administration processes of the universities. How exactly this is to be done is a decision at the state level as a question of the university constitution.

<b>Should doctoral students become a separate status group under higher education law throughout Germany? Do you support the promotion of a nationwide representation of doctoral students' interests?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	The Federal States are responsible for higher education institutions. Accordingly, the state legislators determine in their respective higher education acts which status groups under higher education law are admitted to higher education institutions.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats are open to a nationwide representation of the interests of doctoral candidates, provided that membership is voluntary.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE welcomes the demand for the establishment of a doctoral status group at universities and non-university research institutions. In principle, it is important to strengthen the academic middle class: More democratic co-determination and representation of specific needs of PhD students are to be strived for. In addition, we want to cooperate more closely with trade union interest groups, such as the GEW, and doctoral student networks and support them on a broad scale. For questions regarding collective agreements, we would like to fall back on the existing trade union structures.



<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	The state level decides whether doctoral researchers are given their own status. Baden-Württemberg, for example, took a sensible path in 2018 and established a separate status group for doctoral students in the state higher education law. We GREENS want to expand the opportunities for students and their representatives to have a say in higher education and science policy issues at the federal level, for example. To this end, we want to support the introduction of a representation of all students from the federal level. It should be completely self-administered by students and act independently of other institutions.
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<b>How should publicly funded research be prioritized and managed? Should scientific fields and topics be differentiated in terms of financial resources?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	In the interest of the common good, public research funding must be reviewed regularly. In view of the major challenges facing society, it is important to identify new research and innovation topics at an early stage, to take them up and to provide them with concrete objectives in the direction of science. In this context, the CDU and CSU attach great importance to the freedom of research and teaching.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats demand a primarily science-driven distribution of financial resources for research. The prioritisation of research should therefore basically be carried out by the universities themselves. We defend the freedom of research and teaching enshrined in the Basic Law (German constitution) in the knowledge that scientists themselves are best placed to formulate relevant research questions. The establishment of a German Transfer Association (DTG), analogous to the German Research Foundation (DFG), is intended to place a greater focus on application-oriented research and to facilitate a stronger transfer of research results to society and industry. To this end, the parliamentary group of the Free Democrats in the House of Representatives has introduced an initiative (cf. BT-Drs.-19/6265).
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE stands for research funding that serves the common good of society and the socio-ecological transformation. Narrowing research funding to specific topics or scientific fields is therefore not expedient. In addition to technical ideas and innovations, we also want to explicitly promote social innovations. In this context, we also want to support the implementation of concepts such as open innovation, which involves civil society in the development of innovations. In increasingly knowledge-based societies like ours, the development and dissemination of new knowledge and methods is becoming a key issue for future viability. The Grand Coalition has expanded funding for science and research, but has invested primarily in market-oriented disciplines and technologies. An increase in third-party funding and contract research contrasts with stagnating or even declining basic budgets of universities and scientific institutions. Therefore, DIE LINKE fundamentally strives for a rethinking of the current system of university funding. Thanks to adequate basic funding, science should be able to take place in an interest-driven manner and not be dependent on third-party funding.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	The most important prerequisite for good, free science is adequate basic funding. Together with the Federal States, we Greens want to make the 'Zukunftsvertrag Studium und Lehre' and the PFI more permanent and improve their quality. Third-party funding can set certain priorities in public research funding. The great challenges of our time, such as the climate crisis or pandemics, can only be overcome by means of innovative solutions. In solving these tasks, the state must make research policy mission-oriented and support cooperation between

	universities, companies and civil society. The social sciences and other fields of research, such as gender studies, make an indispensable contribution to a better tomorrow. We take a critical view of a fundamental differentiation according to scientific fields. Sufficient financial freedom must continue to be guaranteed in all areas, including curiosity-driven basic research.
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<b>What is your position on the right to award doctorates to universities of applied sciences and universities of applied sciences?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	The CDU and CSU want to strengthen teaching and research at universities of applied sciences (FH/HaW). Therefore, new ways should be developed so that graduates of the FH or HaW can do a doctorate.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats demand the possibility for universities to conduct doctoral studies in cooperation with universities of applied sciences. Due to their practical orientation, universities of applied sciences offer studies that can act as a source of growth for the economic power of regions. We demand that the universities of applied sciences, which focus on research and provide their students with a broad knowledge of the techniques of scientific work, be given a separate right to award doctorates in the respective state university laws.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE supports the right to award doctorates to universities of applied sciences (FHs/HAWs). We want to strengthen the mid-level faculty at FHs and HAWs and retain young talent at these universities with the right to award doctorates.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	We Greens are committed to opening up fair access to doctoral studies for graduates of universities of applied sciences, e.g. through cooperative doctoral formats. The right to award doctorates lies at the Federal State level. However, the federal government can and should improve and consolidate the research strength of the FHs/HAWs.

## Question block 2: General conditions of the doctorate

<p><b>There are various ways in which doctoral researchers finance their livelihood. Currently, more than 10% of doctoral researchers live below the poverty line. What deficits and opportunities do you see in specific financing and employment models for doctoral researchers in Germany? How do you intend to improve the situation?</b></p>	
<p><b>CDU/CSU</b></p>	<p>Anyone who has completed a university degree should consider the advantages and disadvantages of a doctorate. A doctorate often opens up easier access to management positions and the starting salary for doctoral graduates is also higher in most industries than is the case for other university graduates. Those who choose this path can secure their livelihood in various ways, for example as an employee at a university or a non-university research institution. In addition, there is the possibility of doing a doctorate at a graduate college, where funding is included. In addition, it is possible to do a doctorate while working, apply for a scholarship or take out a bank loan (e.g. KfW). The CDU and CSU are in favor of contract periods that allow the desired qualification to be achieved. In the case of project positions, the contract period must correspond to the duration of the project. Since not all universities observe this, we amended the 'Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz' in March 2016. For example, if you are writing a doctoral thesis for three years, you should also be employed at the university for this period. The situation is similar for externally funded projects: Doctoral students who conduct research in such projects should be able to conclude an employment contract for the entire duration of the funding. In the course of amending the law, an evaluation of the law was also anchored. The results of the evaluation are expected to be presented in 2022. In addition, the future contract "Zukunftsvertrag Studium und Lehre" has been in force since January 2021. With this, the Federal States have committed themselves to hiring more permanent university staff involved in study and teaching.</p>
<p><b>FDP</b></p>	<p>We Free Democrats fundamentally view the diversity of different forms of funding for doctoral students as positive. Graduate schools, positions in research and teaching, and "external" doctorates via fellowships and positions in industry offer very different paths, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. Several of these forms of funding can be combined, increasing the number of options even further. As a rule, active involvement in a research project or in teaching must be weighed against the greater independence but lower remuneration of a fellowship. A combination of both seems optimal. In the interest of doctoral researchers, we want to maintain and expand this flexibility. However, the often very short time limits on university employment contracts during the doctoral phase also mean a high level of stress and planning uncertainty for those concerned. In view of the innovative strength of our country and the international competition for the best scientists and scholars, excellent framework conditions, planning security and development prospects in the German science system are essential. We are therefore committed to improving the framework conditions for doctoral researchers, for example by expanding scholarship programmes or increasing the possibility of employment subject to social security contributions. It is also worth considering an increase in the additional earnings limits for scholarships. We also want to create better and more family-friendly conditions at universities for academic careers. As a rule, fixed-term employment contracts should cover at least the duration of a doctorate, part-time models should be expanded and it should be possible to acquire a scientific reputation without having to change residence several times. The evaluation of the Act on Temporary Academic Contracts must now finally be presented.</p>
<p><b>Die Linke</b></p>	<p>DIE LINKE stands for secure and well-paid doctoral positions. For us, this includes that qualification positions are remunerated at 100% and that permanent tasks are</p>

	fulfilled by permanent positions. The unequal payment across disciplines and the special fixed-term right in the scientific field must come to an end. We want to increase the fees for lectureships; they must also cover preparation and follow-up work. In addition, we want to reduce the dependence of doctoral students on individual chairs and therefore propose a departmental model of employment in the respective department. With the increases in basic funding that we are calling for, more positions should be created in the academic mid-level staff, so that fewer doctoral researchers are dependent on scholarships or non-academic paid work.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	PhD students often finance their doctorate either as a research assistant at a university/research institution or through scholarships. There are hardly any predictable and secure career paths for doctoral researchers, especially at universities. Fixed-term contracts are regulated by the Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz (WissZeitVG). Contract periods are often very short. They vary between a few months and three years. Since the WissZeitVG is regulated at a federal level, the federal government can take action here and amend the law in favour of better contract terms. Unlike in an employment relationship, doctoral fellows have no official obligations; they can devote themselves fully to their doctoral project. Insurance contributions must be paid out of the allowances, unless scholarship holders take up a 25% WiMi position parallel to the scholarship. Problem: These positions are becoming less and less available.

<b>What is your position on the unequal payment of doctoral researchers depending on the doctoral subject, as set out in the DFG's guidelines on the remuneration of doctoral researchers?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	In principle, it is desirable to remunerate every doctoral position equally. After all, all scientific disciplines are of equal value. Nevertheless, it is a fact that chairs in the humanities are often less well funded than those in engineering, for example. For this reason, the CDU and CSU are in favour of finding solutions in university committees to gradually reduce the unequal pay of doctoral students. It must be our common goal to attract the best brains for an academic career.
<b>FDP</b>	Payment should be based on the work that is contributed to the progress of the project, even beyond the individual's own doctoral work. With considerable increases in federal research funding, politics is making an important contribution to enabling the science system to provide appropriate remuneration. The scientific community should make use of this opportunity within the framework of its self-government. We also want to secure doctorates from the outset over their entire expected duration, link contract durations to project durations and support partnership initiatives for cross-sectoral personnel development in science, industry and administration.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE rejects the unequal payment of doctoral candidates depending on their doctoral subject. We are critical of the accompanying devaluation of the humanities and want to distance ourselves from the focus on the economic exploitation of science. Our credo is: equal money for equal work.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	We Greens want to further develop the Act on Temporary Academic Contracts and substantially increase the proportion of permanent staff positions, especially in the mid-level faculty. Permanent tasks should also be secured with permanent positions. We want to clearly define qualification within the framework of fixed-term contracts and make the family policy component binding. The pay freeze should be abolished.

<b>On the situation of doctoral candidates with Scholarship: Will you work to ensure that scholarship holders are paid the same as non-scholarship holders and have the same social security, especially in terms of health, unemployment and pension insurance? How do you intend to achieve this?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	A scholarship is not an employment relationship subject to social security contributions, but a financial allowance that - unlike BAföG - does not have to be repaid. A scholarship enables the doctoral candidate to concentrate fully on the doctorate in order to complete the work within the planned time frame. In contrast, doctoral researchers with a doctoral position are expected to take on additional tasks, such as teaching courses. There are two different ways of obtaining a doctorate. The CDU and CSU therefore see no need for action.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats demand fairness in health insurance contributions for doctoral students. A doctoral scholarship does not constitute earned income. Unlike income from employment contracts at universities, it is therefore tax-free. However, it should not be treated as such in health insurance either. Doctoral students must no longer be disadvantaged in health insurance compared to students. In this way, we will ensure fairness and performance equity.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE is critical of funding via scholarships due to the lack of social contributions. The normal case should be a doctorate with simultaneous employment at a university. We want to contribute to this with better basic funding for universities. For existing scholarships, funding bodies in cooperation with universities or research institutions should adapt the scholarships to the circumstances of doctoral candidates with employment contracts, for example with so-called 'top-up' contracts, or convert the scholarships into contracts.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	Doctoral scholarships are an integral part of the German academic landscape. However, they cannot and should not replace jobs in academia that are subject to social security contributions. The everyday work of doctoral researchers with scholarships should not be determined by tasks unrelated to the doctorate. Rather, permanent tasks at the university should also be secured with permanent positions. In this way, fellowships and employment contracts at universities and research institutions fulfil fundamentally different functions. A fellowship offers freedom to organise doctoral work and the opportunity to complete a doctorate quickly; employment requires other university-relevant tasks in addition to one's own doctoral work, which, however, can be particularly meaningful with regard to an intended academic career.

<b>According to various surveys, doctoral researchers generally need about four years to complete their doctorate, while contracts and scholarships are only issued for three years. This means considerable uncertainty for the perspective of doctoral researchers. How can appropriate durations for fellowships or employment contracts be made possible?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	Some foundations and universities offer pure final grants, which provide financial support for the usually very work-intensive last six to nine months of a dissertation. In addition, funding can often be interrupted for up to one year for health or family reasons without this counting towards the maximum funding period. Furthermore, it is possible to apply for a KfW student loan to finance the final phase of the doctorate. No one is forced to abandon their doctoral project because of financial bottlenecks, especially since the opportunities on the job market for doctoral graduates are generally very good.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats will work to ensure that the duration of contracts and scholarships is based on a realistic length of doctoral studies. To this end, we want to provide universities with more funds so that they can employ their staff for longer. With regard to the time between the submission of the dissertation and the

	defence, it should also be examined to what extent this period can be shortened at universities. Currently, it often takes more than half a year, which cannot be in the interest of doctoral researchers.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE wants to abolish the chains of fixed-term contracts in the academic middle class. Currently, doctoral candidates have an average of 3.4 contracts until graduation, because the average contract length is only 22 months. Employment contracts in the doctoral phase must correspond to the usual periods of the qualification phase. To this end, we want to establish guaranteed minimum terms for employment contracts during the doctoral phase in an amendment to the 'Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz'. In order to finance the longer contracts, we want to improve the basic funding of universities. Science should not be dependent on third-party funding, but should be able to carry out interest-driven research. Only adequate basic funding can guarantee long-term employment and thus improve the situation of doctoral researchers.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	We know that average doctoral periods can vary considerably. An important lever for combating the fixed-term mania at universities is the clear definition of qualification. Employment contracts as WiMi must be adapted to the volume of tasks in addition to the doctorate and to the reality of life of the scientists. In the case of doctorates financed by third-party funds, we GREENS want public third-party funds to last longer than the usual three years, so that doctoral candidates can also benefit from them. The average duration on which the projections of doctoral periods are based also depends on what other commitments (professional employment, family, honorary office, etc.) the doctoral student pursues or has to pursue during the qualification phase. In the case of fellowships, the three-year funding periods can be extended to four years for parents, carers or the chronically ill.

### Question block 3: Doctorate and career in science

<p><b>The number of doctoral students continues to be at record levels, without an equal number of permanent positions or professorships being created, even though many doctoral students aspire to an academic career. How do you plan to deal with this discrepancy? What possibilities do you see for improving the ability to plan an academic career in Germany?</b></p>	
<p><b>CDU/CSU</b></p>	<p>The Federal-Länder Programme for the Promotion of Young Academics established the tenure-track professorship broadly at universities in Germany for the first time. For many young scientists, this makes the path to a professorship much more transparent and easier to plan, because the tenure-track professorship is aimed specifically at young researchers in the early stages of their careers and provides for an immediate transition to a lifetime professorship after a successful probationary phase. The Union-led Federal Government is funding 1,000 tenure-track professorships, which are repeatedly advertised. The Federal States will maintain these professorships in the long term. At the same time, the Federal States will increase the number of tenured professorships by 1,000 in order to improve the career opportunities of young scientists overall. The Act on Temporary Scientific Contracts is currently being evaluated. The results are expected to be presented to the public in spring 2022.</p>
<p><b>FDP</b></p>	<p>We Free Democrats want to create better framework conditions at universities for academic careers. In this context, the compatibility of family and career is a central concern for us - for example, through better childcare at universities and the possibility for fathers and mothers to determine their teaching obligations and research periods more independently. We also support the expansion of tenure-track professorships in order to make it easier to plan academic careers and improve the compatibility of family and academia. For doctoral graduates who have worked in industry, the re-entry into science should be promoted more strongly and the criteria for this should be defined individually by the universities.</p>
<p><b>Die Linke</b></p>	<p>DIE LINKE wants to strengthen the academic middle class and increase the number of permanent positions below the professorship. In order to improve the planning of academic careers, we want to abolish the special fixed-term contract law in the 'Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz' and create the basis for new positions by increasing the basic funding of universities. In addition, it should also be possible to perform management tasks on a part-time basis, which would open up additional career prospects, especially for women who take on care work.</p>
<p><b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b></p>	<p>Secure working conditions and equal career opportunities for all are the prerequisites for a lively and innovative scientific landscape that is also attractive for scientists from abroad. At universities in particular, however, there are hardly any predictable and secure career paths. This endangers the spirit of research and squanders potential in terms of innovation, performance and quality. And it is an imposition for those concerned. We Greens want to further develop the Act on Temporary Scientific Contracts and substantially increase the proportion of permanent staff positions. Permanent tasks should be secured with permanent positions. This includes permanent career paths alongside professorships. We want to clearly define qualification within the framework of fixed-term contracts and make the family policy component binding. The pay scale block should be abolished. We want to further develop the tenure-track programme so that secure career paths are created early on after the doctorate.</p>

**How do you see the relationship between temporary positions in science and the frequent combination of these positions with permanent tasks (e.g. teaching, administrative and supervisory tasks)? Should permanent tasks be coupled with permanent positions?**

<b>CDU/CSU</b>	Since the amendment to the law on 17.03.2016, the duration of the time limit for qualification must be calculated in such a way that it is appropriate to the qualification sought. In the case of a fixed-term contract due to third-party funding, it should correspond to the approved project period. For example, someone who is writing a doctoral thesis for three years should in principle also be employed at the university for this period. Similarly in the case of projects financed by third-party funds: Scientists conducting research in such projects should be able to conclude an employment contract for the entire duration of the funding award. In order to avoid abuse, non-scientific staff working on a project financed by third-party funding can no longer be employed on a fixed-term basis on the basis of the 'Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz' (German Act on Fixed-term Scientific Contracts).
<b>FDP</b>	The problem is not the existence of fixed-term employment contracts, but their often short duration. The sometimes semester-long search for follow-up funding robs time for scientific work and stands in the way of reconciling family and career. Thus, many young talents leave science for reasons that have nothing to do with their qualifications. This is also a quality problem. That is why we Free Democrats want to reform the Act on Temporary Scientific Contracts. At the same time, a commission of experts should develop practicable solutions based on the conflict of goals between predictable careers, generational justice and the necessary flexibility of scientific institutions. We want to secure doctorates from the outset for their entire expected duration, link contract durations to project durations and support partnership-based initiatives for cross-sectoral personnel development in science, industry and administration. As a rule, permanent positions that are not linked to the attainment of a scientific or artistic qualification should be linked to permanent positions. Furthermore, we call for an evaluation of the Act on Temporary Scientific Contracts every four years in order to be able to readjust its provisions, if necessary, in the conflict of goals between predictable careers, generational justice and the necessary flexibility of scientific institutions. The Federal States and higher education institutions are called upon to make use of the now more long-term financing perspective of the Federal Government in order to create reliable jobs.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE criticises the high proportion of temporary positions in academia. The fact that permanent tasks in particular are part of the scope of temporary qualification positions shows, in our view, the absurdity of the current employment practice at German universities. DIE LINKE is therefore clearly in favour of the principle of "permanent positions for permanent tasks".
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	Permanent tasks should also be secured with permanent positions. This includes permanent career paths alongside professorships in order to reduce hierarchies and strengthen cooperative working methods in science. We Greens want to clearly define qualification within the framework of fixed-term contracts. We want to further develop the tenure-track programme so that secure career paths are created early on after the doctorate. Particularly in teaching, many tasks continue to be covered by poorly paid teaching assignments. We want to increase the importance of teaching and create temporary positions for it.
<b>How will you ensure that sufficient funds are available at the research institutions for Corona-related contract extensions?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	The CDU/CSU-led Federal Government has mitigated the adverse effects of the pandemic on scientists, universities and research institutions. In order to support scientists in the qualification phase, the maximum fixed-term period for qualifications was extended by six months in the 'Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz' (WissZeitVG - German Act on Fixed-Term Scientific Contracts). This was followed in



	September 2020 by an extension of a further 6 months (WissZeitVG-Befristungsdauer-Verlängerungs-Verordnung). This extension applies both to employment relationships that exist between 1 March 2020 and 30 September 2020 and to employment relationships that are only newly established between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021.
<b>FDP</b>	The dynamic increase in funding in the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation already provides many research institutions with a financial cushion. It must be possible to take pandemic-related contract extensions into account, particularly in project funding. Findings on additional needs beyond this should be included in the next budget discussions.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE demands that the federal government should once again provide basic funding for university teaching and research. The resulting costs are to be borne by a wealth tax to be introduced, an increase in inheritance tax and higher taxation of high incomes. Pandemic-related contract extensions at universities and non-university research institutions can additionally be financed from the title "Global additional expenditure for costs in connection with the management of the COVID-19 pandemic" in the federal budget.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	With the bill on further support for science due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our Green parliamentary group wanted to create the necessary legal leeway for further, corona-bound contract extensions ( <a href="https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/271/1927188.pdf">https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/271/1927188.pdf</a> ). In order to provide science institutions - together with the federal states - with additional funds for contract extensions, for example, the fund for the large non-university research organisations to maintain and strengthen research collaborations could also be opened up to universities.

<b>What plans do you have to create new academic job profiles (besides e.g. professors and academic councillors) and thus career perspectives for doctoral students and doctoral graduates?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	Due to the diversity of their activities, there is no typical job description for postdocs. The most common position is as a research assistant at a university or non-university research institution. This may be followed by a junior professorship, a tenure-track professorship or a position as head of a junior research group.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats are committed to expanding existing models such as the tenure-track professorship in order to make career prospects in science more reliable. The states and universities are called upon to take advantage of the federal government's now more long-term funding perspective. More individualised focal points - for example in the balance of research and teaching activities - are desirable, but do not necessarily presuppose new job profiles.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE would like to offer universities the possibility to create additional permanent positions below the professorship. For example, central teaching tasks should be carried out by permanent positions. We do not want to prescribe concrete job profiles, but we want to achieve a fundamental financial and legal strengthening of the academic mid-level staff. On this basis, universities will be able to define new tasks and job profiles according to their needs and in an innovative way.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	We Greens want to further develop the tenure-track programme so that secure career paths are created early on after the doctorate. We also want to expand the programme for female professors. In addition, we want to create alternative career paths alongside professorships and establish permanent teaching positions.

#### Question block 4: Diversity and health

**The proportion of women in science decreases with advancing career stage, although the ratio is relatively balanced for doctoral students. Even in international comparison, there are very few**

**women in Germany who achieve a professorship (especially in the W3 grade) or comparable position. How would you like to achieve a more balanced ratio here?**

<p><b>CDU/CSU</b></p>	<p>An innovative, internationally competitive science system requires the creativity of the best women and men as well as the diversity of questions and research approaches. The CDU and CSU therefore continue to advocate equal opportunities and the compatibility of a career in science and family life. In federal-state agreements in the research and science sector that deal with personnel issues, we will make it obligatory to anchor the quality of concepts for professional personnel development and equal opportunities in science. We must address the continuing discrimination against women and give them the same opportunities as men. The CDU and CSU will continue the successful programme for female professors: The evaluations from 2012 and 2017 confirm the success of the programme and prove that it comprehensively achieves its main goals of increasing the proportion of female professors and strengthening gender equality effects.</p>
<p><b>SPD</b></p>	<p>We want to further strengthen the proportion of women in science. That is why we want to make it easier to plan careers in the post-doctoral phase, so that women can also choose this path with more certainty. In our proposal for a law on good work in science, the prospect of either a tenure track or a permanent position in the mid-level faculty should be opened up one year after the doctorate. In addition, we want to strengthen the programme for female professors by expanding it to include support at qualification levels before the professorship. In an expanded Pact for Young Academics, we want to ensure that tenure-track professorships are awarded on a quota basis. We want to enable more women to become professors. In our view, the best way to do this is through secure and predictable career paths. We want to enshrine this in our proposal for a law on good work in science, along with a significant reduction in fixed-term contracts in the science system. This includes the expansion of the tenure track. In addition, we want to promote structural modernisation at universities that are willing to do so and support them in their institutional realignment towards departmental structures. To this end, we are seeking federal funding and an agreement with the participating Federal States. This would mean that scientists would no longer be assigned according to the chair principle and that independent research and teaching would also be possible alongside professorships.</p>
<p><b>FDP</b></p>	<p>Unfortunately, the proportion of women, particularly in leadership positions and especially in STEM subjects, is still significantly too low. We Free Democrats would like to create better framework conditions at universities for scientific careers. In this context, the compatibility of family and career is also a central concern for us - for example, through better childcare at universities and the possibility for fathers and mothers to determine their teaching obligations or research times more self-determined. Work models such as shared leadership ("job sharing" and "top sharing") must become a matter of course. In addition, we advocate that employers should be more aware of the need to consider as many female as male employees for further training in the same functions. Transparency of diversity and talent management measures in equality reports increases public pressure for cultural change in companies, science and administration. Furthermore, we advocate a study on the situation of women in German science - following the example of MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in the late 1990s.</p>
<p><b>Die Linke</b></p>	<p>We want to enforce a 50 percent quota for women at every career level and further develop the female professors programme into a programme for the advancement of women at all career levels. Women are also particularly affected by the practice of fixed-term contracts. We want to push ahead with the de-funding of positions in the qualification phase in the academic sector and make it possible for women to</p>

	<p>take on management tasks on a part-time basis. High-quality childcare facilities that meet demand and are open to all children of all university members - including students - should be expanded. At the same time, we want to establish structures to reduce the citation gap, as publications remain one of the most important qualifiers in an academic career. Therefore, we advocate the promotion of intelligent databases to make marginalised groups more visible. In order to strengthen gender equality in the appointment processes in science, gender equality offices must be better funded and staffed. Equality in science must not be an honorary activity. DIE LINKE wants to further increase the proportion of women in science. To this end, we want to expand the programme for female professors and reduce competition within the programme. As a further instrument, we want to improve the tenure-track programme, which tends to be better accepted by women than by men. Targeted international recruitment also contributes to increasing the proportion of women. In other countries, there are significantly more women among postdocs who are open to a career in science, and they draw other female colleagues from their international networks. We therefore want to improve the international appointment of professors. In addition, DIE LINKE advocates a cultural change in the way female managers are treated. Professionally recognised female professors are more often removed from their positions by dismissal or public demotion in cases of conflict. The reasons for dismissals and demotions are rarely scientific misconduct, but rather different interpretations of leadership behaviour. What is praised as commanding and clear in men is judged as negative, bullying or abuse of power in women. The scientific community needs to be sensitized to such biases.</p>
<p><b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b></p>	<p>Only a quarter of all professorships in Germany are held by women. In addition, many young female scientists are only in temporary employment. We Greens want a share of women of at least 40 percent at all levels of science through the introduction of concrete target quotas and a binding cascade model. In all employment relationships in science, we want to enable flexible working time models that allow for care and family work. In addition, we want to expand the programme for female professors and launch a strategy for better reconciliation of family and career in the field of science.</p> <p>In addition to the above measures, the Federal Government should present a progress report on diversity in science to the Bundestag and the public once per legislative period. We Greens want to establish a separate funding focus on research into measures for the equality of women in science and academia. After all, in order to establish the best strategies that lead to sustainable changes in structures, we need more knowledge and expertise on whether and which approaches are effective. And last but not least, the further internationalisation of science and academia, which we expressly support, will help to support a change for more gender equality where existing structures and subject cultures currently still stand in the way.</p>

<p><b>What additional starting points do you see for increasing diversity beyond gender?</b></p>	
<p><b>CDU/CSU</b></p>	<p>Diversity and excellence should not be opposites; after all, science benefits from diversity of perspectives. For example, one can ask the question in every personnel decision: How do we succeed in creating an environment at universities in which diversity favours careers instead of hindering them? When it comes to concrete implementation, the CDU and CSU focus on incentives and positive examples.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, the 'Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz' (German Act on Temporary Academic Contracts) contains a special provision for academics with a disability or serious chronic illness. Section 2, paragraph 1, sentence 6 states that in the case of a disability or chronic illness, the time limit is two years longer than in the normal case. The decisive factor is that the extended time limit is applicable at the time of the contract extension.</p>
<b>SPD</b>	<p>According to the SPD's ideas, those who decide to pursue a career in science and who have the necessary performance requirements should be better supported on this path. With graduate schools, we also want to better reflect diversity in the doctoral phase by promoting individual support for doctoral studies and interdisciplinary exchange. At the same time, the prerequisite for diversity in science is diversity in studies. With our proposal for the comprehensive expansion of BAföG, we also want to promote diversity at universities as a whole.</p>
<b>FDP</b>	<p>Diversity has many dimensions. In addition to gender, many people also experience, for example, their migration background, their social origin, a disability or a less academic environment as a barrier to an academic career. There are some non-university research organizations that still prefer to pay the equalization levy instead of filling five percent of their jobs with people with disabilities. We Free Democrats want to change this and ensure more diversity in science, because research also thrives on a change of perspective.</p> <p>Together with the organisations for the promotion of the gifted, we want to develop a strategy for opening up scholarships to more up-and-comers. From a targeted approach to applicants to raising the awareness of the selection committees, there are already best practices that can be transferred to other funding agencies (cf. BT-Drs.-19/28439).</p>
<b>Die Linke</b>	<p>On the one hand, DIE LINKE demands the possibility of work and educational assistance for people with disabilities, in order to be able to pursue their studies and the subsequent career paths in a self-determined manner and with as little discrimination as possible. Furthermore, DIE LINKE demands that racist discrimination be consistently ended and advocates a participation law to better include people with experience of racism and to represent them more in society. This includes a quota to increase the proportion of people with a migration history in line with their share of the population. There is a need for a legally binding working definition of racism for legal claims and a stronger sensitisation of the administration for anti-racist action. At the same time, we also advocate a change in the law on personal status and support measures for trans people and non-binary people. For the Left, gender diversity means not only ending discrimination for cis-women, but recognizing a lived gender diversity. Accordingly, for us, a just university can only exist if discrimination is thought of intersectionally.</p>
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	<p>The academic landscape is still predominantly male, white, West German and dominated by people from academic homes, and thus does not adequately reflect the diversity of society. We Greens want to change this through the targeted promotion of diversity in the science system, funding formats for diversity and anti-discrimination policies and inclusion. Accessibility is central to both the modernisation of knowledge infrastructures and IT equipment. We also want to revamp BAföG and turn it into a basic benefit for all students, so that access to higher education no longer depends on the financial situation of parents. Effective measures to promote diversity must also be effective beyond the campus. Together with the Federal States, we want to support contact persons and educational programmes on anti-discrimination, diversity and LGBTI issues. We advocate an</p>

	inclusive society in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
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<b>How do you plan to better support doctoral students from families without an academic background?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	In science, it's not where you come from that counts, but excellence. Those who have made the educational climb to a doctorate have already proven their scientific qualifications. Nevertheless, there are ways to support the group addressed in the question: Networking and mentoring measures by alumni can serve as a door opener, a source of advice and ideas for their further career path. At the same time, if more young people from educationally disadvantaged families are to succeed in advancing their education, the starting point must be much earlier. Every child should be supported from the outset according to his or her potential, especially in socially difficult situations. This is the only way we can keep our promise of "advancement through education". For us, it is clear that people's origins must not determine their future. Germany needs a demand-oriented offer of all-day crèches, day-care centres and schools. Where a special need for language support is identified, language support must be made compulsory throughout. We will continue to promote the expansion of daycare facilities and the further development of quality beyond 2022. We will continue to develop early education facilities into high-quality places of education and make a central contribution to decoupling origin and educational success.
<b>SPD</b>	We want to strengthen the individual support of doctoral researchers in graduate schools. They should enable greater attention to be paid to the respective backgrounds of individuals. In addition, we want to launch a nationwide mentoring programme for doctorates, modelled on Arbeiterkind.de, in order to ensure non-discriminatory access to doctorates. For us, this also includes reducing social selectivity, so that more people from non-academic families have the confidence to pursue a doctorate.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats are committed to involving initiatives in the form of advancement sponsorships in order to help young people from educationally disadvantaged parental homes to follow their own path to vocational training qualifications or to university. By providing advice and support for their own life and career plans, young people from non-academic parental homes in particular can be helped to find their way to university.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE wants to better support first-time academics and give them a perspective in science. We see two fundamental problems for doctoral candidates from families without an academic background. Firstly, the working conditions and career opportunities in science are unsteady and therefore difficult to plan. With our reform of the Act on Temporary Academic Contracts, we want to end permanent fixed-term contracts and also establish permanent positions for permanent tasks. This should also provide career opportunities below the professorship level. Secondly, for many first-time academics, universities of applied sciences (FH/HAW) are the starting point of their academic training. The poorly developed mid-level faculty at UASs and HAWs leads to first-time academics either transferring to universities, doing their doctorates under worse conditions or going straight into professional life. DIE LINKE wants to expand the academic mid-level faculty at FHs and HAWs and grant FHs and HAWs the right to award doctorates. Furthermore, we want social background to be more strongly considered in studies and reports on the situation at universities. Only with a meaningful database can meaningful measures be (further) developed and established.

<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	Even the possibility of freely choosing a course of study or training still depends too much on the income and wealth situation of the parents and their educational biography. We Greens want to change this and therefore revise the BAföG and transform it into a basic support for all students and trainees. In a first step, it should consist of a guaranteed amount and a needs allowance that substantially increases the total amount compared to the current BAföG and benefits the majority of the eligible group of people. This will support prospective academics from families without an academic background at an early stage before they decide to pursue a doctorate. In addition, social background is one of the diversity aspects that we want to specifically promote at universities and research institutions.
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<b>In science, a high degree of flexibility and mobility is required, which is sometimes difficult to reconcile with family life and with a disability or chronic illness. What will your party do for the compatibility of family and career as well as the restriction due to an illness in science?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	The CDU and CSU want a working world that is family-friendly, not a family that is labour-market-friendly. It is important to us that parents can reduce their working hours in certain phases of their lives and devote all their energy to their careers at other times. We will therefore allow more time sovereignty throughout working life. For example, we want to make it easier for young families to combine family and career without financial disadvantages by allowing them to save up time in so-called family time accounts. We also want to continue to allow as many employees as possible to work on a mobile basis. The CDU and CSU support the cooperation of universities with municipal childcare facilities in order to attract more young people to an academic career. We are particularly in favour of flexible opening hours in the evenings and at weekends. In addition, we advocate family-friendly employment models, especially in the postdoc phase.
<b>SPD</b>	We want to improve the compatibility of a scientific career with family planning. Even the limitations of a chronic illness or disability should not be a deterrent to a career in science. In our proposal for a law on good work in science, we provide for an extra two years in the case of childcare, care for relatives, disability or illness during the doctorate. In this way, we want to expand the family policy component and the protective clauses in the Temporary Academic Contracts Act. In addition, we want federal programmes to expand daycare facilities to also benefit universities.
<b>FDP</b>	<p>We Free Democrats want to create better framework conditions at universities for academic careers. In this context, the compatibility of family and career is also a central concern for us - for example, through better childcare at universities and the possibility for fathers and mothers to determine their teaching obligations and research periods more independently.</p> <p>We want to reform the Act on Temporary Scientific Contracts. This is because an excessively high proportion of temporary positions in science places a burden on young researchers in particular. In parallel, a commission of experts should develop practicable solutions based on the conflict of goals between predictable careers, intergenerational justice and the necessary flexibility of scientific institutions. We want to secure doctorates from the outset for their entire expected duration, link contract periods to project durations and support partnership-based initiatives for cross-sectoral personnel development in science, industry and administration. Models such as tenure-track professorships should be expanded. The Federal States</p>

	<p>and higher education institutions are called upon to make use of the now more long-term funding perspective of the Federal Government in order to create reliable jobs.</p> <p>We Free Democrats want to guarantee people with disabilities equal access to education, including during examinations. For people with disabilities, examination or exam situations should be accessible without particular difficulty and, in principle, without outside assistance. Personal discussions to clarify open questions between the examinees and the examination office should be obligatory. Additional barriers, such as a dictating assistant for visually impaired examinees who has to be organised and financed by the examinees themselves, should be avoided. Conversely, the use of assistants in examination situations must not be classified as an advantage over non-disabled examinees. In this way, we ensure equality of opportunity.</p>
<b>Die Linke</b>	<p>DIE LINKE wants to improve the compatibility of family and academic career and lower the hurdles for people with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Building blocks for achieving this objective are the general improvement of working conditions and the abolition of the special fixed-term contract law in the 'Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz' (German Act on Fixed-Term Scientific Contracts), which causes major problems for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses. Insecure employment relationships are also a burden for families (planning). In order to prevent overwork and gaps in security for people with care work obligations, disabilities or chronic illnesses, more flexible study and working conditions and full-time and part-time management should be established, and science institutions should work together with their employees to advance career planning. Scientific institutions are encouraged to facilitate access to training and further education for people with care responsibilities, disabilities or chronic illnesses, and to take advantage of extension opportunities in the case of temporary employment and funding relationships. High-quality childcare facilities that are open to all children of all university members should also be expanded in line with demand.</p>
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	<p>In all employment relationships in science, we Greens want to enable flexible working time models that allow for care and family work. Among other things, we want to reform the Act on Fixed-Term Contracts in Science to clearly define the qualification within the framework of the fixed-term contract and to make the family policy component binding. In addition, we want to create more scope for international dual-career couples.</p>

<b>Emotional, psychological and social well-being are essential for a successful doctorate. What need for action do you see in the field of "mental health" in the scientific community?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	<p>It is one of the tasks of universities as employers to provide contact points and programmes to address the needs of employees and students in the area of "mental health". In addition, the Union-led Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) announced the establishment of a new German Centre for Mental Health in March 2021. Important issues concern, for example, research into cross-disease mechanisms and factors that influence mental health and the development and course of mental illness. The research results can contribute to improving the conditions for "mental health" in the scientific community as well.</p>
<b>SPD</b>	<p>We see a need in the area of "mental health" in the scientific community. The high workload, required flexibility and mobility demand a lot from scientists at universities, colleges and non-university research institutions. On one hand, we want to address this issue by providing access to counselling services. On the other hand, the expansion of graduate schools is linked to the expectation that there will</p>

	also be a methodical exchange about personal burdens and a good way of dealing with them.
<b>FDP</b>	Mental health must finally be taken as seriously as physical health. The social isolation in the lock-down has put a great strain on many students, teachers and researchers. We want to strengthen counselling services for mental health. More reliable career paths and working conditions in science can also contribute to mental health. The practice of limiting employment contracts to one or two semesters and the resulting search for follow-up funding takes time away from scientific work and puts young scientists under psychological pressure. As a result, many talented young researchers leave science for reasons that have nothing to do with their qualifications. We want to change this and reform the Act on Temporary Scientific Contracts.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE wants to improve psychological support for doctoral students. To this end, the psycho-social services at universities should be better equipped. The compression of working hours must also be addressed and reversed in science. Currently, doctoral candidates work about 40% more than their employment contract provides for. This means that they are not only working for free, but are also endangering their health in the long term. At the same time, we demand that positions be made permanent and that young scientists belong to departments. We want to promote the independence of doctoral candidates from their supervisors in order to better protect them from dependency, mobbing and sexualised violence.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	Mental stress should be given greater consideration in all areas of work. The doctoral period can be a particular burden on mental health. That is why it is essential to improve the framework conditions in science. We Greens want to counteract the burden of not being able to plan one's own career path due to short contract periods in science by further developing the Act on Temporary Scientific Contracts, reducing temporary positions and introducing alternative career paths to professorships. We want to clearly define the qualification within the framework of the fixed-term contract and make the family policy component binding. The pay scale block is to be abolished. We want to further develop the tenure-track programme so that secure career paths are created early on after the doctorate. People with a mental illness need fast and easily accessible help. We are committed to ensuring that outpatient and inpatient therapy as well as support and counselling services are available as needed.

<b>What is the party's position on inclusion in science (PhD)?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	Germany has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - and has thus committed itself to ensuring an inclusive education system at all levels. The aim is to support people with disabilities as well as possible across all stages of education - from early years, through school and vocational education, to further education and higher education. Since 1 January 2018, the benefits for participation in education have also included a master's degree and a doctorate. The selection criteria for the award of doctoral scholarships can be a barrier, especially for applicants with disabilities. The CDU/CSU-led BMBF has responded to this by offering compensation for disadvantages. The CDU and CSU support this approach.
<b>SPD</b>	The SPD is committed to ensuring that doctoral studies are also open to people with disabilities. The doctorate should focus solely on academic achievement. That is why we have enforced in the Federal Participation Act that benefits for participation in education also include the master's degree and the doctorate. With the increased introduction of graduate schools, we also want to create better framework



	conditions for people with disabilities to meet their individual needs when completing and supervising their doctorate.
<b>FDP</b>	We want to strengthen accessibility at universities and expand counselling services for mental health. Publicly funded research institutions have a special role model function to offer employment to more people with disabilities. For people with disabilities, we fundamentally want better counselling and job placement services. Preparation must begin at school. We want the budget for work to be made more practicable and active job placement and support to be more practical. We want to improve the chances of employees of a workshop for people with disabilities to find regular employment and promote their integration into the primary labour market.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE demands an amendment to the Basic Law that defines a joint task of education between the Federal Government and the Federal States. This will make it possible to invest in university construction in order to implement structural measures to increase accessibility. In addition, we want to expand the competencies of the disability commissioners at all universities and provide them with the personnel and financial resources they need. At the level of the institutes, we want to create positions for student disability officers. These representatives should be independent and should have the right to speak and make motions in all committees in the same way as the equal opportunities representatives. In order to initiate an inclusive cultural change at the universities, further education and qualification programmes should sensitise the members of the university community to the concerns of people with disabilities and impairments that make studying difficult and teach them how to deal with them in an inclusive manner. This also includes the demand-oriented expansion of offers of free language courses, especially for German, English and the sign languages. Literature, laboratory technology and other media for carrying out scientific activities must be immediately adapted to the requirements of barrier-free education and science in accordance with current law.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	See answer to question 3 and 4 [in this block of questions]. We Greens advocate an inclusive society in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and want targeted promotion of inclusion in the science system as well. Accessibility is central to both the modernisation of knowledge infrastructures and IT equipment. Furthermore, we want to lift the restrictions that exist for students and doctoral candidates in terms of integration assistance and find a solution for financing higher living costs due to disabilities.

## Question block 5: Scientific exchange

<b>Should publicly funded research generally be publicly accessible, e.g. through open access? How should copyright and exploitation rights be dealt with in open access?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	With the Open Access Strategy, the CDU and CSU have strengthened innovation in Germany. Our goal is to gradually make Open Access a standard of scientific publishing. To this end, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research has set out guiding principles in the Open Access Strategy and identified fields of action to strengthen Open Access. According to these principles, Open Access must be established as a standard of scientific publishing. In particular, publications from publicly funded research should be openly accessible to all. At the same time, we do not restrict academic freedom. Open Access is not an obligation to publish. The decision whether to publish is in the hands of the researchers.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats are committed to ensuring that the results of state-funded research are made publicly available as a matter of principle. Data protection and security must be guaranteed. A licensing system is conceivable for the provision of high-quality data for commercial use.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE supports the Open Access (OA) approach to science and research, calls for an Open Access funding strategy and has long advocated modern copyright law. This includes an indispensable right of secondary publication. Scientists must have the right to re-publish publications that have already appeared, even if their publisher wishes to prohibit this. However, the second publication right introduced in 2014 provides far too many restrictions for this and therefore urgently needs to be revised. In addition, we want to enforce the mandatory publication of research results that are predominantly financed with federal funds as OA publications. Moreover, OA publications should not be a minus point either in the awarding of funding or in appointment and tenure procedures. In the longer term, we want to support a transformation of the scientific publication system that overcomes dependence on profit-oriented companies.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	Access to research data should be facilitated. With regard to publications, we Greens want to declare Open Access to be the standard and promote it more strongly as a guiding scientific idea and advance it together with the scientific community. The resulting reform of the financing of scientific publications must not be at the expense of researchers or their institutions. We are committed to modernising copyright law to meet the needs of the digital world. For years, we have been urging the German government to remove the time limit on scientific and scholarly publications in order to provide institutions with the necessary planning security. In addition, we advocate ensuring the reproduction of text and data mining for the purposes of scientific research, permitting the transmission of copies within the educational institution and making the determination of the unavailability of works more flexible.

<b>Which forms of exchange between science and society should be emphasized, how can science communication be strengthened?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	The CDU and CSU will continue the strategic dialogue on the further development of science communication and strengthen science communication by offering more training opportunities. Above all, the Science Years provide a platform for numerous partners and communicating researchers. At the same time, they are an experimental field for innovative science communication formats. One form of participation with high innovation potential is citizen science. This leads the citizens involved in the projects not only to an examination of the research questions of

	science, but also of the scientific methods. The CDU and CSU will continue to promote citizen science.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats will work to ensure that science communication becomes a priority task for the members of the Alliance of the Sciences and Humanities and also for the universities in cooperation with the Federal States. The parliamentary group of the Free Democrats in the German House of Representatives has presented a concrete proposal (cf. "Genuine science communication - credible and participatory" BT-Drs.-19/17517). Anchoring sustainable structures for science communication means providing it with sufficient resources in the individual institutes. Additional know-how must be brought into universities and non-university research institutions and their management academies through cooperation between chairs and professional communication agencies, and science communication must be integrated into postgraduate courses and doctoral programmes, thus ensuring qualification opportunities. In calls for proposals for research projects, sufficient time and financial scope should be given to the conception of accompanying or subsequent science communication. We want to promote research on science communication and, together with the Federal States, develop research locations for science communication. From this - as well as from the evaluation results of current science communication formats - quality criteria for science communication are to be developed.
<b>Die Linke</b>	For DIE LINKE, the exchange between science and society is of great importance. We want to promote science communication and make it an integral part of scientific education and activity. To this end, we want to recognise science communication as a scientific achievement in its own right and integrate further training in science communication into studies from the doctoral phase onwards at the latest. In this way, we want to give scientists an incentive to become involved in public discourse. Currently, science communication is a service that scientists mostly provide voluntarily. Instead of giving every publicly funded project the task of carrying out public relations work and providing funds for this, we want to bundle science communication in an agency. Furthermore, DIE LINKE wants to further expand Citizen Science and make it an integral part of federal funding programmes. Without citizen participation, protein chains would not be decoded and planets would remain undiscovered. We do not want to do without this participation. Because we pursue a science policy oriented towards the common good and do not only value technical innovations, we want civil society to participate in research and development in open innovation processes. For us, cooperation and communication are confidence-building measures between society and science.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	Participatory science is a very important component of our science policy. We Greens want to expand and strengthen trans-disciplinary research, real-labs, experimental spaces and citizen science projects. In addition, we take the numerous constructive impulses from civil society seriously as an opportunity for science and also want to expand the opportunities for participation in science policy, for example by establishing a "Science Forum Civil Society" and regular exchange between the BMBF and civil society organizations. We want to set up funding programmes for science communication and promote the training and further education of scientists in this field.

<b>What influence should scientific findings have on political decisions, what role do scientists have in this?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	The CDU and CSU welcome the fact that researchers are contributing their expertise more strongly to political decision-making. However, all scientific findings are

	provisional, so researchers must point out the limited informative value of their statements, while, conversely, politicians should not expect science to provide concrete solutions with a one-hundred-percent guarantee of success. It is also crucial that scientific findings are strictly evidence-based and that researchers leave room for shades of grey, including in public discourse.
<b>FDP</b>	We Free Democrats strengthen the importance of the sciences for an objective formation of public opinion. We acknowledge the important contribution of science in democratic deliberative processes to enable fact-based, honest and reasonable decisions. In our learning democracy, scientific knowledge is an indispensable foundation, but never a substitute for political debate, decision-making, and political balancing of interests. Technocratic notions of expert rule are deeply undemocratic. We reject them. Rather, scientific contributions serve the democratic clarification of facts, options and scenarios. Progress comes precisely from contradiction, doubt and critical discussion. That is why we have to protect the sciences from being usurped and (self-)politicised. As a contribution to the objectification of public opinion-forming, we propose that expert hearings in parliaments be regularly broadcast in public. This also applies to hearings of commissions of enquiry. We want to put the diversity of advisory councils in federal politics to the test, so that they can be realigned in a new and meaningful way to criteria of objectivity, transparency and the priority of advising parliaments, not governments. In controversial issues, more joint fact-finding procedures should be carried out.
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE stands for a fruitful exchange between science and politics. However, science cannot and should not exercise a normative function. Scientists can and should advise political actors and provide up-to-date findings on political problems. How these findings are implemented in regulatory and political terms, however, remains the task of politics in close cooperation with society.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	Political decisions should be guided by scientific findings, but science cannot replace politics. Scientific advisory bodies should be institutionalised in crisis situations and in forward-looking crisis prevention. The pandemic in particular has shown that we need an institutionalised involvement of science in political processes. For this reason, our parliamentary group has been calling for the establishment of an interdisciplinary scientific pandemic council ( <a href="https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/205/1920565.pdf">https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/205/1920565.pdf</a> ) since June 2020. This council's task is to provide policy-makers with evidence-based but also dynamic advice. In the context of science-led policy, we Greens want to include scientific expertise earlier in policy development - for example, through "legislative laboratories". In various thematic areas, there is also a need for better data bases to support, accompany and evaluate political decisions.

<b>How important do you consider the further development of the European Research Area and the European Higher Education Area to be? What is your position on European exchange programmes for doctoral students and in what form do you intend to promote them?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	The CDU and CSU want to implement the framework programme for "Horizon Europe" together with the public and private sectors in such a way that the world's best and most innovative researchers can realise their projects in Europe. "Horizon Europe" is the largest and most ambitious research programme in European history. It has created the best conditions for supporting excellent basic research by the European Research Council, for further opening up Europe-wide career paths and for better networking research institutions across Europe. In addition to further

	strengthening the European Higher Education Area, particularly with regard to the European University Alliances, we want to double the funding for ErasmusPlus.
<b>FDP</b>	<p>We Free Democrats want to network the existing excellent research centres in the EU more closely. After all, scientific knowledge has no nationality, but promotes progress everywhere in our society and the world if we share it. In future, research should be a stronger funding priority in the EU budget. In addition, the EU should provide greater support for bilateral and multilateral cooperation between research centres. We also call for the establishment of a European Digital University (EDU). This umbrella organisation, with European sponsorship, should provide people throughout Europe with access to the best teaching opportunities, irrespective of their location, in primarily digital teaching formats.</p> <p>We want to create a Europe of scientific exchange. In the face of increasing international competition, the EU Member States can only be leaders in research and innovation if they work together. The exchange of scientists among themselves and with companies, research institutions and universities must be facilitated. The digital revolution is also creating new opportunities in science. On the basis of the European research framework programme "Horizon Europe", a digital exchange between scientists must be guaranteed at all times. This includes the decentralised provision of materials for open data and the digital feasibility of PhD or other research projects. In this digital European network for science and research, the protection of intellectual property must be preserved. At the same time, we want to make the availability of scientific results that have been funded more than 50 percent by European research funding the standard through Open Access. This does not affect the protection of intellectual property and the rights of use of researchers, institutes and the research-based economy. This will improve the severely limited availability, especially the too high threshold between science and economic innovation, and make European research funding an accelerator in international competition.</p>
<b>Die Linke</b>	<p>DIE LINKE welcomes the efforts of recent years to strengthen and more closely interlink the European research and higher education area. However, we also see fundamental misalignments in the already implemented programme phases of Horizon 2020 and the current Horizon Europe programme. In the new programme, the participation of civil society in the planning and implementation of the EU Research Framework Programme should be more firmly anchored. For DIE LINKE, it is important to determine and ensure the social benefit of funded innovations in a process involving society as a whole. Research funding should therefore also be fundamentally concentrated on solving the major societal challenges, such as the socio-ecological restructuring of society and global health, and not focus on the economic effects. The social sciences, humanities and cultural studies, as well as basic research, must benefit from more funding than hitherto from EU research funding, as we explicitly want to promote social innovation. Funding for excellence and elites must be restructured in favour of a broad-based European exchange of scientists, especially doctoral students, and people involved in the scientific process.</p>
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	<p>The further development of the European Research and Higher Education Area is an important concern for us. Scientific cooperation with European partners contributes significantly to the attractiveness of the German science system. That is why we Greens want to promote them more strongly. We want to think more strongly about education, research and innovation policy together in order to fill the European Research and Higher Education Area with life and to secure future prosperity. Safeguarding academic freedom is central and we will oppose attacks on it and advocate its sanctioning within the framework of the rule of law mechanism. We support the increase of funding programmes such as ERASMUS+ as well as the</p>

	strengthening of the intermediary organisations of foreign cultural and educational policy in order to support international exchange. We want to keep the exchange of students, researchers and in vocational training between the EU and the UK alive after Brexit.
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<b>What global collaborations in research and higher education do you consider worthy of support?</b>	
<b>CDU/CSU</b>	In addition to expanding the European Research and Higher Education Area, the CDU and CSU want above all to strengthen scientific freedom in international cooperation. Furthermore, scientific education and research cooperation with African countries must be intensified. In doing so, we will focus on the qualification of people in order to promote economic and social participation and to improve future prospects and sustainable development opportunities in Africa.
<b>FDP</b>	<p>We Free Democrats demand more efforts for innovations in pharmaceuticals, medical technology and digitalization, because that is what we need for a good life and for sustainable jobs. They must be a focus of research funding, with unbureaucratic allocation of funding, especially to start-ups.</p> <p>We see basic research as the basis for innovation. We therefore want to further expand it alongside applied research. To diversify our innovation structure, we need to launch a broad-based basic research initiative and build new competencies in cutting-edge technology.</p>
<b>Die Linke</b>	DIE LINKE stands for research that is oriented towards the common good and finds answers to the questions posed by the major challenges facing society. We therefore welcome any global cooperation on topics that help us meet these challenges and where international collaboration is essential. DIE LINKE would thus like to promote polar research, for example, in order to better understand the global climate crisis, or support research within the framework of the One Health approach, such as zoo-noses research.
<b>Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen</b>	Internationality has always been a reality in science. Academic relations forge new links between societies, open up fresh thinking spaces, and promote pluralism and the creative exchange of top researchers. We Greens welcome the fact that many German universities have established exchange partnerships with international universities or are developing and expanding international research collaborations. We particularly want to support scientific collaborations that deal with the solution of major societal challenges. We need brain circulation in both directions so that all societies involved benefit.