

Research visit

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A PhD trajectory offers great opportunities to visit other institutions as a visiting PhD candidate. Such a visit can help to create a network of collaborators, and get to know fellow researchers in similar and different fields of research. In this note, we will describe how the GS can help you to arrange a visit at the institution of your choice.

How to choose an institution

The first question to answer for yourself is: which institution do you want to visit? There are different ways to find answers to this question, including

- Asking a senior scholar that you have met previously;
- Talking to your supervisors and asking them to activate their own network;
- Asking around among PhDs from FSS and other universities;
- Analyzing your own work (who do you cite?).

Always remember that most senior academics are happy to help and will do their best to support and host your visit. However, different institutions have, for example, different rules, admissions, or cost structures. This means that for hosts, it will sometimes be very difficult or even impossible to sponsor your visit. Because of this, it is a good idea to have different options and names that are interesting for you.

Duration of your visit

Once you have made a choice for an institution, you need to think about the duration of your stay. Please make sure you know what you want yourself before contacting the institution. Issues to take into account are your personal situation (for example, it can be more difficult to arrange a visit with kids); your financial situation; other obligations at FSS (field research, teaching, deadlines); and of course recently COVID measures. Please make sure that your supervisors are informed and agree with the duration of the visit.

Sponsor

A prospective sponsor is a senior academic at the host institution who can arrange administrative and practical issues. Sometimes, you can contact the graduate school at the host institution directly; however, it is common that you arrange access via a sponsor.

Make sure to discuss with the sponsor mutual expectations. For example, what does the institution expect from you? Do you have to present at a research seminar, to give a guest lecture, or to talk to other PhD candidates? Likewise, what do you expect from the sponsor or the institution? For example, do you expect the sponsor to give feedback or read your work? It is advisable to prepare this discussion with your supervisors.

Goal of the visit

Think about what you want to achieve with a research visit at a different institution. In addition to the beneficial points mentioned above, you could aim to finish a chapter/paper; analyze data; do desk research; gain experience or skills; or follow courses at the host institution to mention but few.

Finances

You can apply to the Graduate Fund to finance a part of the costs of your research visit. For details, please see the 'Guidelines Graduate Fund' on the website.