

**Under the sponsorship of the Volkswagen Foundation (Germany) and a partnership with University of Tuebingen (Germany), the law faculty of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University offers "German - Georgian - Armenian doctoral workshop" for the academic year of 2017 to the Ph. D. Students, who are enrolled in doctoral level studies and currently are working on their Ph. D. thesis.**

**Brief description of the project:**

The program is open to doctoral students of the law field, wishing to develop their academic writing skills as well as any other skill or a technique, required for a successful accomplishment of their Ph. D. thesis. At the same time, as far as the program bears trilateral character (Germany, Georgia, Armenia), it establishes an invaluable opportunity for the Ph.D. Students from eligible countries to acquire a knowledge in the field of comparative legal studies and related research methods, and to gain insight into another legal systems. We invite you to become part of a lively and creative multinational academic community with the tight academic interaction between the law professors and Ph.D. students during the sessions, which will be conducted under the form of a "Workshop". The program offers 7 positions for eligible Ph.D. students from the law faculty of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

The project is headed by the prominent German Prof. Dr. Bernd Heinrich, Professor of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Copyright Law at the Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany. The Georgian and Armenian side is represented by the project coordinators Prof. Dr. Irine Kherkheulidze and Ph.D. John Hayrapetyan, who are also involved in the project as the leading instructor-scientists.

**Main idea and goal of the project:**

**"German-Georgian-Armenian workshop for doctoral candidates"** is a two-part workshop with the participation of German and Georgian / Armenian Ph.D. students, who either have begun their doctoral studies or are about to start obtaining the doctoral degree. The workshop is aimed at a total number of 20 doctoral students (ten from Germany, seven from Georgia and three from Armenia) who are familiar with the scientific work techniques, but wish to enhance related knowledge and respective researching skills exceeding the scope of their own dissertation and are willing to gain insight into another country's legal system too.

In the first part of the project, which is scheduled to be carried out in Germany, at the law faculty of the University of Tuebingen, selected participants should furthermore examine current criminal challenges and critically scrutinize legal problems. In addition to learning basic principles of scientific research based on a topic detached from the respective doctoral thesis, a comparison of two different legal systems should open new perspectives and motivate for a deeper comparative legal analysis within their own dissertation project.

In the second part, to be held in Tbilisi with 3 to 6 month interval since introducing the project in Germany, the participants should reflect on their own dissertation project in a form of a classical doctoral seminar with the mandatory application of the knowledge and scientific researching skills acquired during the workshop sessions, arranged in the University of Tuebingen, Germany. Accomplishment of the second part of the project is scheduled in Georgia, at TSU, where the participants will be asked to present as well as to discuss the important points of their Ph.D. study. The first part of the workshop should take place in Tuebingen in March/April 2017, the second part - in Tbilisi in October/November 2017.

To infer, the project aims to facilitate Ph.D. students in the field of law from the different countries in broadening their professional scope and enhancing their academic level and achievements by examining most up-to-date research methodology from the perspective of comparative legal studies, especially considering the trilateral composition of the scientific team – both professors and doctoral candidates.

**Selection Criteria:**

"German - Georgian - Armenian doctoral workshop" fellows are selected on the bases of a merit, which is measured by his/her academic and practical excellence in a corresponding law filed documented in their CV, motivation letter, ability to think critically and fluency in English language, certified by an authorized institution.

The call is ***mainly aimed*** at criminal lawyers, who are working on their Ph.D. thesis at TSU, however, it is not limited only to this particular law filed and thus ***the Ph.D. candidates from the law fields other than criminal law are also eligible*** in case the applicants from the distinct law filed aspire and are able to elaborate on particular criminal law topic clearly elucidating correlations between the law filed, they ascribe themselves and a criminal law, or to analyze some of criminal law issues from the perspective and within their own field of study.

Considering all stated above, **the call is open to the Ph.D. candidates from all law fields** with the requirement to address the issues of criminal matter in their academic presentations and written assignments. In each relation candidates are obliged to focus on a criminal law topic proposed by the program in a mandatory list of prospective presentations.

In general, during the global ranking procedures and for final selection of the applicants, Ph.D. students from criminal law field with the same abilities, achievements and professional background as of those from the other law fields, - will be given a priority.

### **Requirements and description of the task:**

Selected Ph.D. candidate fellows are expected to actively participate in an academic seminar, a workshop arranged and led in their behalf by experienced German, Georgian and Armenian professors as well as by the invited European experts of the field. Doctoral candidates are also expected to contribute to the activities of the project they are associated with by reflecting and elaborating profoundly on the particular criminal law topics assigned to them in advance by the professors (the list of proposed mandatory topics will be provided after the final selection), as well as on the general issues within broader dimension of criminal law in divergent law systems.

In total, selected participants will be kindly asked to give three presentations during the whole program – two of them in Germany, at the University of Tuebingen and the third – in Georgia, at TSU. During their two week stay in Germany, at the University of Tuebingen, they must deliver a public presentation on different issues.

**At the first stage, the students are required to provide 15-20 minutes length oral presentations related to the general structure of their national criminal law. For the second round, the students are tasked to draft a written assignment, followed by 20 minutes length oral presentation stemming from their paper. The oral presentation must be delivered in English language, whereas the written assignment can be performed either in English, or in a native language, in accordance with the wish of the participant. Written task and the respective presentation must address a special problem, an issue of a particular consideration envisaged under the proposed list of the topics designed in advance by the professors.**

The third presentation must be given at TSU, during the accomplishment of the second part of the program in Tbilisi, Georgia in autumn. Each participant will be expected to give approximately 30 minutes lecture about his or her Ph.D. thesis, highlighting some of the important findings of his/her Ph.D. study in order to show a big picture of the scientific work as an ongoing academic activity, or so called "work in progress", and not the main final results of the study.

### **Mandatory list of proposed topics:**

Mandatory list of the proposed topics will be available for the successful candidates after their final selection. The presentation should fit well with one of the research themes, suggested later on by the professors. Applicant will be given a choice to name the three main research themes of their interest from the list provided for them after the final selection.

### **Condition of awards:**

- **Duration:** The program consists of a two-fold workshop, to be carried out in Germany for two weeks and in Georgia for a one week. The interim between the sessions to be held in different countries varies from 3 up to 6 months.
- **Residence:** Fellows must live in a city of Tubingen for the duration of their program, so that they can take an active part in the academic activities. All the accommodation related living expenses are covered by the program.
- **Accomplishment:** After active participation in the workshops arranged in Germany, the participants should apply acquired knowledge as well as scientific and researching skills gained at workshops for the better accomplishment of their doctoral thesis and present their dissertation project in a form of a classical doctoral seminar during the second part of the project to be held in Georgia, at TSU.
- **Medical insurance:** Fellows must have adequate medical insurance cover during their stay at the University of Tuebingen. They are obliged to provide proof of their own insurance scheme from their country of residence.
- **Travel expenses:** Selected fellows are provided with fully funded round trip by air from Georgia to Germany.

**Eligibility:** The program is open to ten German and ten Georgian / Armenian doctoral candidates (seven Georgians), who either have begun their doctoral studies or are about to start obtaining the doctoral degree, strive

for getting familiar with the scientific methodology in the preparation of a dissertation and are willing to become insightful into another jurisdictions at the same time. **The call is open at first place for the Ph.D. candidates from criminal law field, but with no limitation to the other law fields.** However, the main focus is made on criminal law and accordingly the Ph.D. students from this law filed are given superiority.

**How to apply:** Please contact to the Georgian coordinator of the project Prof. Irine Kherkheulidze at the following e-mail address: irine.kherkheulidze@gmail. com providing your CV, letter of motivation and a proof of English language knowledge, more explicitly, document certifying excellence in English language. Semi-finalist candidates will be kindly asked for an oral academic interview.

**Deadline:** The deadline for applications is the **19<sup>th</sup> of January, 2017**