

## Affiliated PhD Candidates Requirements

Thank you for your interest in pursuing a PhD at our Chair. We are committed to critical, interdisciplinary, and thought-provoking research in the fields of African Legal Studies, public international law, human rights, and related areas.

Embarking on a PhD is an enriching and rewarding journey, yet it also demands exceptional academic skills, a demonstrated interest in our research areas, and a high level of discipline.

Undertaking a PhD at the Chair of African Legal Studies also means becoming part of the Faculty of Law and Economics at the University of Bayreuth.

For a successful application, you must meet both the Chair's substantive requirements as well as the Faculty's formal criteria.

### 1. Overview of PhD process

1.1. Duration: 4 years

1.2. Possible starting dates:

April and October (e.g. April 2027, October 2027)

1.3. Application deadlines for starting dates:

for April: End of January (e.g. end of January 2027)

for October: End of July (e.g. end of July 2027)

### 2. Eligibility

2.1. Formal Eligibility to write a PhD under the Faculty of Law and Economics' regulations

- See § 5 of the [Promotionsordnung Fak III](#).

2.2. Substantial eligibility:

2.2.1. A research project substantially connected to

- African legal studies.
- Public International Law
- Human Rights Law
- International Environmental Law

2.2.2. Willingness to contribute actively to the Chair's scholarly community



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### 3. Application requirements:

#### 3.1. Motivation letter

A statement explaining alignment with the Chair's research profile and expected mutual benefits (600-1000 words).

#### 3.2. Research proposal

A draft outline of your intended research project (1500-2000 words). The proposal length excludes the abstract and bibliography. The proposal should include:

- 3.2.1. A clear working title indicating the research scope and chosen approach.
- 3.2.2. A short abstract
- 3.2.3. An introduction summarizing the research area, main issue and intended contribution.
- 3.2.4. Core research questions demonstrating originality and knowledge gaps addressed.
- 3.2.5. A short overview of key literature, highlighting major debates and the applicant's intended contribution.
- 3.2.6. Description of methodology and justification of the chosen approach.
- 3.2.7. Feasible timeline, preliminary draft structure.
- 3.2.8. Indicative bibliography

#### 3.3. Curriculum vitae

#### 3.4. Certificates

- 3.4.1. Graduate diplomas
- 3.4.2. Language certificate: English proficiency at least C1 according to CEFR

#### 3.5. If successful: Invitation for interview including research idea presentation

### 4. Duration of the affiliation

After a successful application, the affiliation is granted for 12 months starting from either April or October. After 12 months, you submit your progress to the Chair. Your progress will be assessed. If no progress is visible, the affiliation is to be ended.

### 5. Rights and benefits of an Affiliated PhD candidate

- 5.1. Access to the ALS PhD Club: Chair seminars, workshops, colloquia, and research events.
- 5.2. Access to the Chair library to write the PhD.
- 5.3. Opportunity to present research for feedback.
- 5.4. Optional listing as "Affiliated researcher" on ALS website.
- 5.5. Networking within the Chair's academic environment as well as mentor pairing with experienced colleagues in the field.
- 5.6. Application to UBT Graduate School possible (access to networks, workshops, travel funding).



## 6. Obligations of Affiliated PhD Candidates

- 6.1. Independent financing (e.g. scholarship, external work, ...).
- 6.2. Publish four (4) blog pieces per year on the African Legal Studies blog.
- 6.3. Produce one (1) co-authored academic paper per year with the Chairholder Prof. Dr. Thoko Kaime.
- 6.4. Participate in the Chair of African Legal Studies' teaching to the extent possible. This can mean presence in Bayreuth between October and December as well as April to June each year – depending on individual researchers' situation.
- 6.5. Acknowledge the Chair in relevant publications.
- 6.6. Maintain high standards of academic integrity and confidentiality.

## 7. Termination of Affiliation

- 7.1. Inactivity for more than six months without justification.
- 7.2. Repeated failure to meet obligations.
- 7.3. Academic/personal misconduct.

