



Landshut, 27. März 2024

Experience report on a cooperative doctorate

Doctoral candidate: Anna Hofer (M.A. Clinical Social Work)

Faculty: Social Work

Supervisors: Prof Dr Stefan Ehrlich (Dresden University of Technology), Prof Dr Eva Wunderer (Landshut University of Applied Sciences), Prof Dr Bettina Kühbeck (Landshut University of Applied Sciences)

Field of doctorate: "Psychosocial medicine and developmental neuroscience", specifically in the related field of "social work"

Doctoral degree sought: Doctor rerum medicinalium (Dr. rer. medic.)

"My doctorate is a very enriching experience. It gives me the opportunity to deal intensively with the topic of 'digital counseling for eating disorders' and to empirically develop quality criteria for professional online counseling. My cooperative dissertation project is interdisciplinary, which is reflected in the supervision by three professors from different disciplines (psychosocial medicine, psychological and legal aspects of social work). As a result, I receive feedback and support from different professional perspectives, not only on my theoretical considerations but also on my methodological approach, a mixed-methods design.

Thanks to my position as a research assistant at Landshut University of Applied Sciences and a doctoral scholarship (German National Academic Foundation), I am able to progress my dissertation step by step. I consider the exchange and networking at conferences and symposia, where I contribute my topic to the scientific discussion, particularly enriching. This journey is not only academically fulfilling, but also allows me to contribute to the improvement of counseling practice in social work in the digital age."