



# Quality in a heterogenous Institution

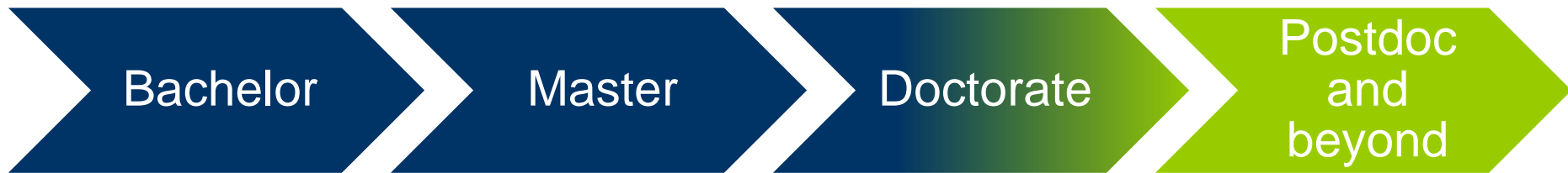
Quality assurance in doctoral education at the Freie Universität Berlin

Alexander Rindfleisch – 18.11.2011

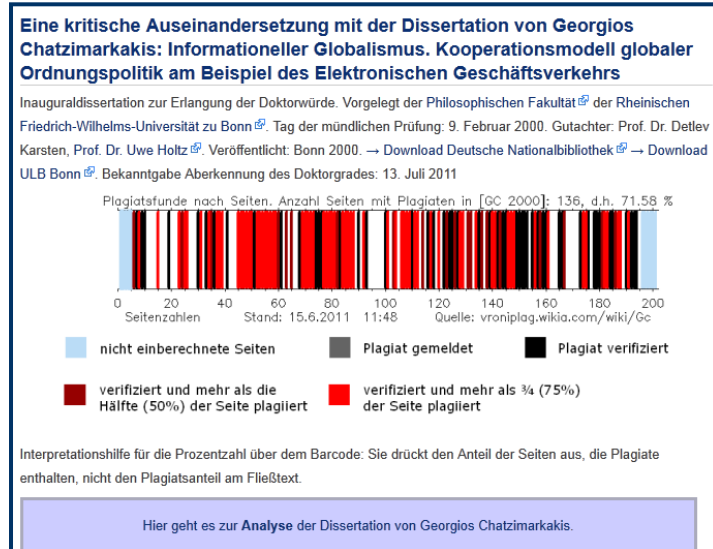
# Overview

- I. The Background
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- III. Our Quality Concept
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# The Background

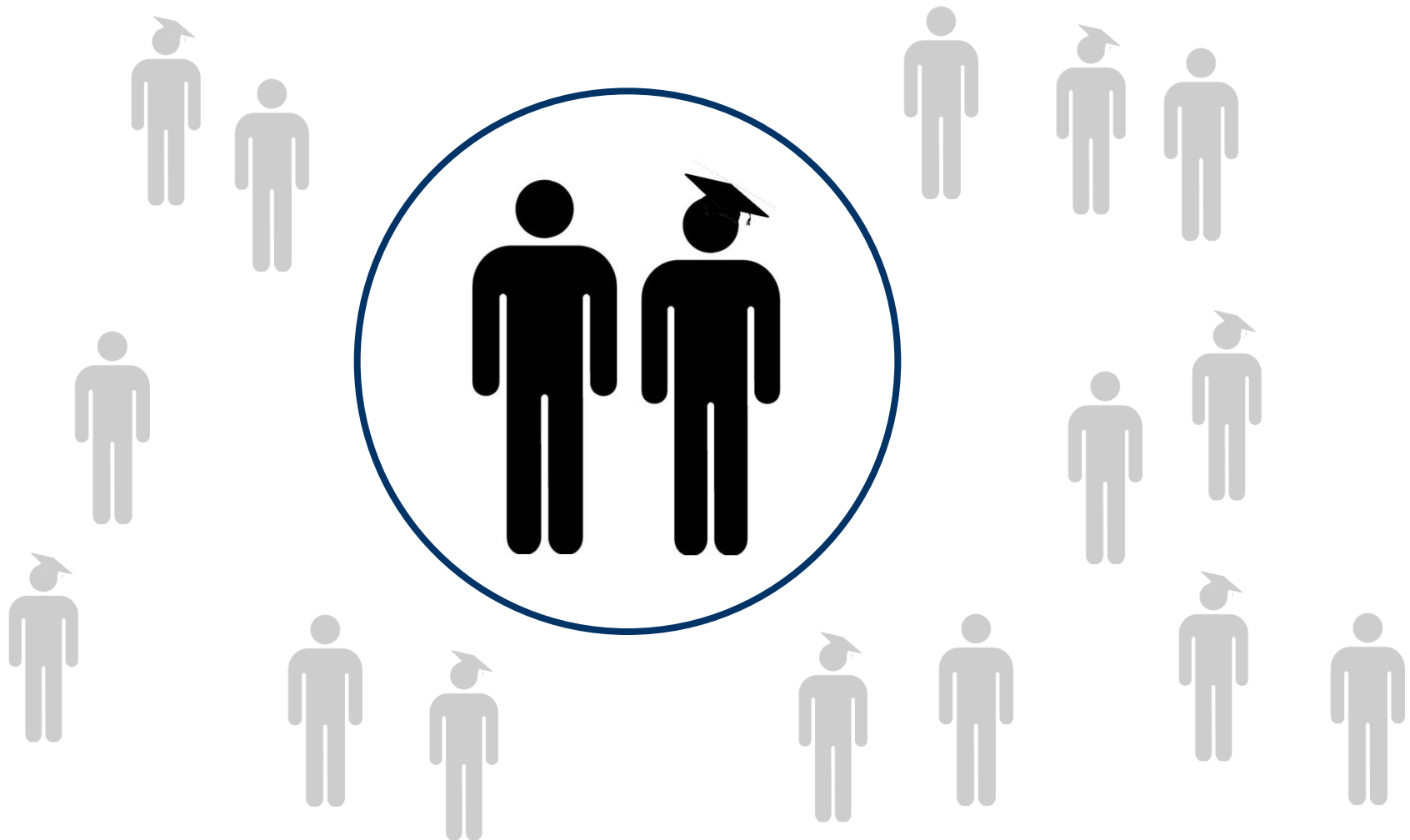


# The Background



Guttenberg, Koch-Mehrin, Chatzimarkakis, Sensburg, Brinkmann, Präfrock  
and much more ...

# Situation at Freie Universität Berlin



# Situation at Freie Universität Berlin

## Heterogenous Institution

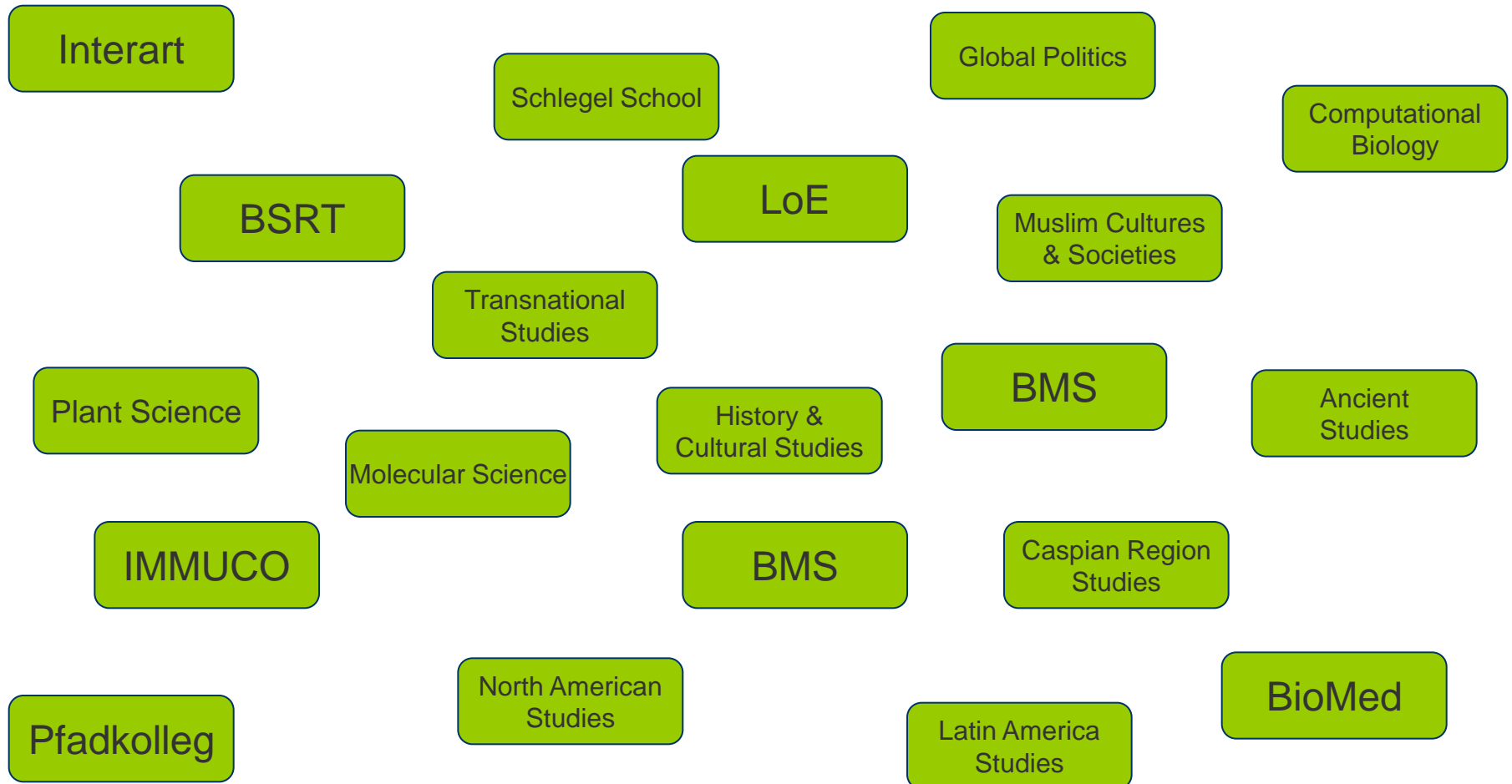
### 11 departments

- right to confer title
- examination and coordination office
- different regulations

### Autonomy of Professors

- acceptance of candidates
- supervision of candidates
- assessment of candidates

# Situation at Freie Universität Berlin



# Situation at Freie Universität Berlin

## DAHLEM RESEARCH SCHOOL Center for Junior Researchers

### School of Humanities & Social Sciences

#### *Humanities*

Schlegel School

Languages of Emotion

Ancient Studies

Notational Iconicity

Interart Studies

History & Cultural Studies

#### *Area Studies*

Muslim Cultures & Societies

North American Studies

Latin American Studies

Caspian Region Studies

#### *Social Sciences*

Global Politics

Pfadkolleg

Transnational Studies

### School of Natural Sciences

Mathematical School

Computational Biology

Molecular Science

Plant Science

### School of Life Sciences & Medicine

Biomedical Sciences

Regenerative Therapies

Chronic Inflammatory Diseases



# Situation at Freie Universität Berlin

## The Dahlem Research School – Facts and Figures

- 20 doctoral programs
- almost 40 sub-programs and projects
- more than 700 doctoral candidates
- 30 % international candidates



# Situation at Freie Universität Berlin

## The Dahlem Research School – Operational Tasks

- Qualification program
- Funding
- Career Development
- Providing Information for new / international candidates

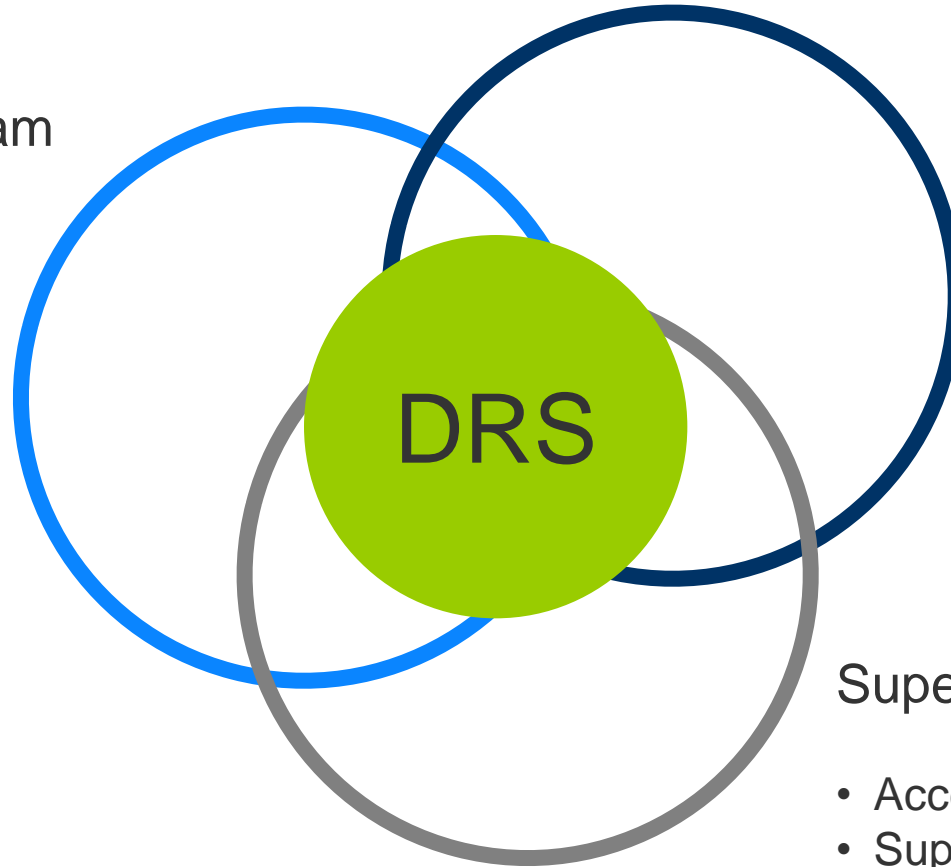
## The Dahlem Research School – Strategic Tasks

- Structure of doctoral education at Freie Universität
- Advising new initiatives / programs
- Defining standards
- Quality Assurance

# Situation at Freie Universität Berlin

## Doctoral Program

- Selection of candidates
- Qualification
- Research
- Supervision



## Department

- Formal admission
- Conferring title
- Examination

## Supervisor

- Acceptance of candidates
- Supervision of candidates
- Assessment of candidates

# Quality Concept

## Product orientation?

- Dissertation
- Junior Researcher
- Scientific Output



## Process orientation?

- Optimal conditions for research
- Focus on programs

# Quality Concept

## Quality Standards I

- Standard duration of three years
  - Progress evaluation at least once a year
  - Documentation of supervision meetings
  - Supervision agreement
  - Joint supervision by supervisory team
  - Defined course program
- 
- Managing coordinator for each doctoral program
  - Funding for doctoral candidates

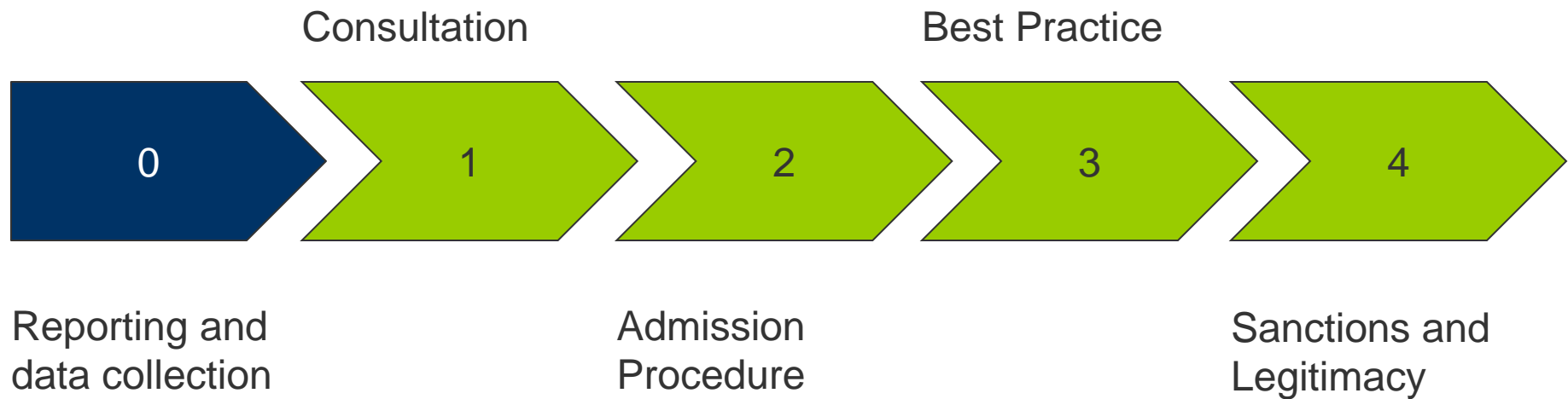
# Quality Concept

## Quality Standards II

- Communication culture
- Working Culture
- Standards in reality
- Reporting

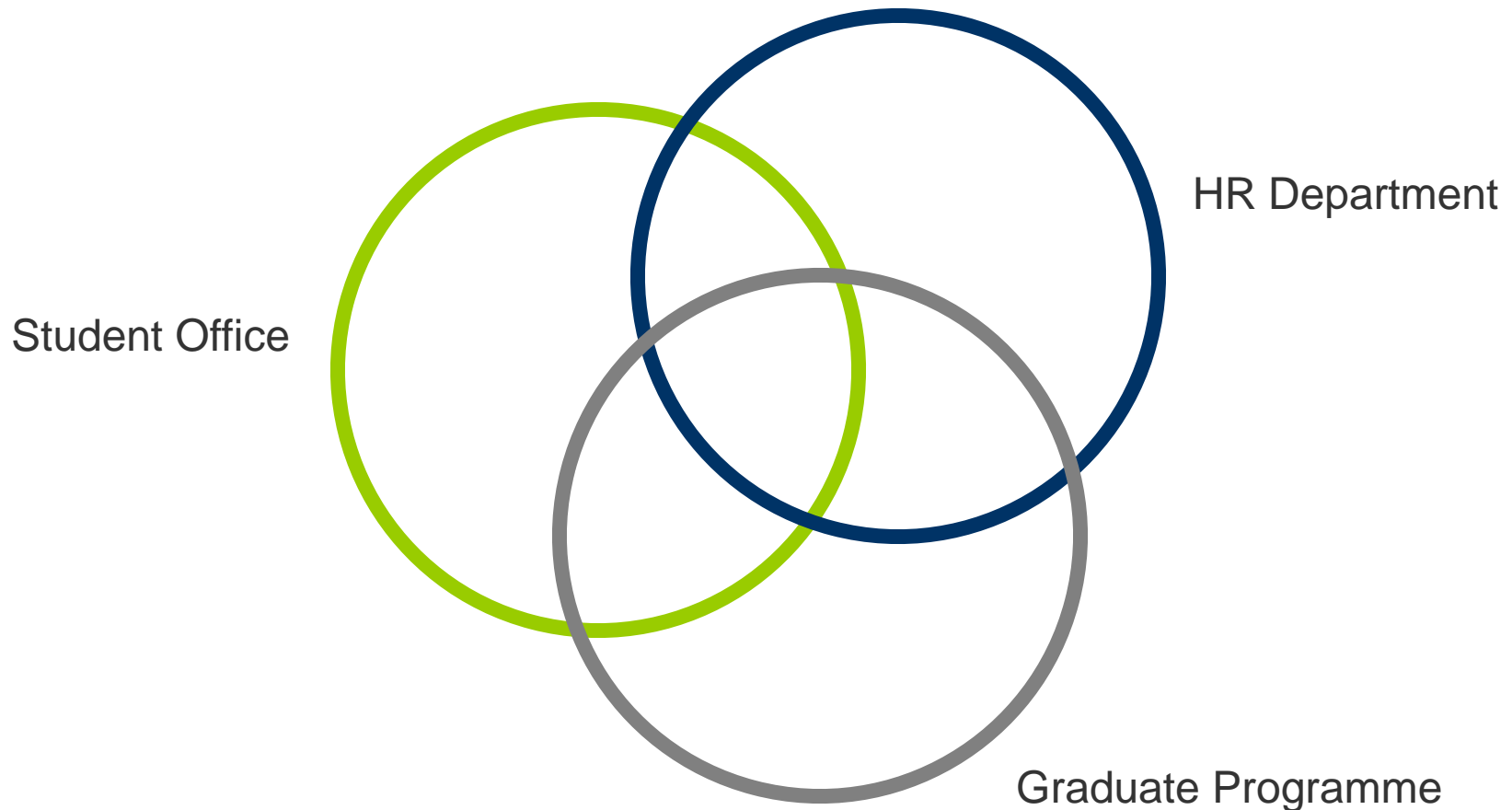


# Assessment and Intervention



# Assessment and Intervention

Stage 0: Reporting and data collection





# Assessment and Intervention

## Stage 1: Consultation

- Extensive consultation before admission of new program
- Stating requirements
- Explaining standards and QA procedures
- „Influencing“ the new program



# Assessment and Intervention

## Stage 2: Admission Procedure

- Formal regulations document
- Admission by Permanent Commission of DRS
- Admission for limited period
- Regular evaluation



# Assessment and Intervention

## Stage 3: Best Practice

- Wiki
- Best Practice Handbook
- Guidelines
- Feedback and Information Meetings



# Assessment and Intervention

## Stage 4: Sanctions and Legitimacy

- Steering Group of DRS
- Discussion of important questions
- Authority of „unpleasant“ decisions



# Outlook

- Overall positive experience
- Problems and Challenges
  - Introducing strict QA very late
  - University not used to QA
  - Coming from Quality Assurance to Quality Management
  - Cooperation with partners