

## **Guideline Series**

### for PhD Schools in the GFA network

### **Purpose & Requirements**

Version of September 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

## **The GFA**

The German-French Academy for the Industry of the Future is a strategic vehicle to promote close collaboration between leading European research institutions and industrial companies. It was founded by the French Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT) and the German Technical University of Munich (TUM). Focused on joint research, education and innovation, the Academy's mission is to master the challenges accompanying the increasing digitalization of industry processes.

## **Aim of PhD Schools**

As joint education is a big part of our mission, the GFA organizes a variety of PhD Schools. PhD Schools allow researchers, PhD students, and industrials to share and foster technological discussions. Besides further education and life-long learning, PhD schools enable working together on issues of high strategic relevance such as technological challenges and timely use cases. Especially for students, it is a great opportunity to access state of the art research on industry 4.0 with all its facets.

## **Benefits of a PhD School**

### **Students**

- Apply theoretical knowledge to practical use-cases
- Learn from industry experts
- Intensive tuition
- Develop social skills
- Recreational activities and sightseeing
- Alternative to a semester abroad
- Networking (students, researchers, industry experts)
- Intercultural awareness
- Transferable skills
- Stronger CV

### **Universities**

- Fostering of technological discussions
- Cultivate industry contacts
- Work on specific use-cases
- Fostering of the research activities
- New project ideas
- Visibility in the research community

### **Industrial Companies**

- Access to new talents
- Networking
- Work on specific use-cases
- Visibility in the research community
- Engagement in and commitment to education

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### **Requirements and recommendations**

To make the GFA's PhD Schools stand out regarding quality, we encourage you to follow the guidelines below.

There are some criteria that are obligatory for GFA-supported PhD Schools:

- Frame
  - Involvement of minimum one of our funding members (IMT and/or TUM)
  - Involvement of industry partners in the PhD School
  - Positioning of the GFA logo on websites, slides, etc
  - School Series: the school should not be a single but a recurring event (annual or at least biennial)
- Format of the event
  - Length: 1 – 5 days
  - Hybrid format (on site and online)
  - On site in France and Germany or alternating in one of the two countries per year
  - Recording of the school or at least of the keynotes
- Didactical structuring
  - Keynotes and talks from partners of academia and industry
  - Active parts: challenges, hackathons, social and networking events
  - English language: as the event should foster the German-French collaboration as well as the international collaboration the content of the school should be in English to make it available to a broad audience

We also highly recommend to establish the following measures:

- Form an organizing committee (OC) and nominate chairs/co-chairs for parts of the organization/event: the work load will be shared and the chairs can add their role to their CV (e.g., chair for a theme/streak, chair for a challenge, web chair, communication chair, etc.)
- Establish a Brand Design for the School Series: logo, banner, hashtag, etc.
- Establish a website for the PhD School Series
- Live Streaming of the School: a good possibility to share the knowledge with much more students, researchers and professionals. It also helps the visibility of the school and their institutions.
- Sharing the videos on a YouTube channel afterwards (e.g., on the GFA YouTube Channel)
- Survey: as it is quite important for us to make the schools even better, we highly recommend to do a survey with the participants after the school

This guideline is a living document and will be updated from time to time. If you have corrections, additions or ideas please let me know.

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