

Facts and Figures

Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science

Why choose the Max Planck Society?

- Encounter the latest discoveries in basic research
- Benefit from multidisciplinary doctoral training
- Collaborate with leading scientists from Germany and abroad
- Discover new concepts and ways of thinking
- Exchange and discuss ideas in an interdisciplinary and international environment
- Work together with highly motivated and talented students from different backgrounds and countries
- Take advantage of and have access to state-of-the-art research facilities

After graduation ...

... the Max Planck Society offers successful candidates the opportunity of taking up post-doc positions or of heading an Independent Junior Research Group. For post-doc positions, candidates must directly apply to the relevant institute. The positions as head of a Junior Research Group are advertised in international scientific journals and filled in accordance with comprehensive selection procedures.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.junior-research-groups.mpg.de>

The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science is one of Germany's largest, independent, non-profit research organisations. In our 78 institutes and research facilities 8,700 scientists conduct independent not-for-profit research of the highest calibre.

Max Planck scientists aim to continuously expand the horizons of human knowledge through cutting-edge scientific research. The institutes and research facilities of the Max Planck Society are free to establish their own research priorities and choice of projects. They conduct research in the areas of natural sciences, biosciences, social sciences, and the humanities for the common good. The goal of our scientists is to confirm an international reputation for elite performance in basic research by concentrating on specific and innovative focal points of research. New, multi-disciplinary research topics complement the scientific work of the universities in selected fields.

One of the Max Planck Society's primary goals is to support junior scientists. Close scientific co-operation with universities allows 800 doctoral students to complete their theses every year. Additionally, 3,000 young scientists per year take on a post-doc position.

MAX PLANCK SOCIETY

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September 2006

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DESIGN: WWW.HAAK-NAKAT.DE

The Max Planck Society in Germany

Earn your **doctoral degree** at a Max Planck Institute



The Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science is one of the world's leading research organisations. At its research institutes and affiliated International Max Planck Research Schools, the Max Planck Society offers a dynamic research environment in the natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences and the humanities. It is one of the top institutions for the training of junior scientists.

Max Planck scientists conduct cutting-edge basic research at the interfaces of classic research fields and claim no fewer than sixteen Nobel Prize Laureates among their ranks.

As a truly international institution, the Max Planck Society allows researchers from all over the world to seek answers to the most challenging and pioneering questions in science and to pursue top-grade research.

Are you

Are you a high-achieving student and passionate about research?

Are you ready to prove yourself in a multinational working environment with English as the working language?

Are you confident enough to work with some of the world's top scientists?

Interested?

Then join the Max Planck Society as a doctoral student at a Max Planck Institute!

Basic Information

What you need to know

- Max Planck Institutes offer an international research environment with English as the working language.
- To qualify for admission to a doctoral study programme you must have completed a degree from a recognised university at the Master's degree level or with a German "Diplom".
- You must apply directly to one of the Max Planck Institutes (MPI) or to one of the International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS).
- Each Max Planck Institute and International Max Planck Research School has its own admission regulations and competence-based selection procedures.
- For details concerning application procedures, please contact the respective Max Planck Institute or International Max Planck Research School directly or refer to the individual website.
- The research fields are generally published on the homepages of the individual Max Planck Institutes and International Max Planck Research Schools.
- The period of doctoral training and research is usually two years with the option of extension for one additional year.
- The academic title is awarded by a German or international university. This process is guided by official procedures between the Max Planck Institutes /International Max Planck Research Schools and the relevant university.
- Doctoral students receive a stipend or an employment contract ensuring sufficient financial support.
- There are no tuition fees charged in Germany. Some universities, however, require a registration fee.

Doctoral Training

Doctoral Training at Max Planck Institutes

The **Max Planck Institutes** – recognised as "centres of scientific excellence" – offer highly attractive working environments and excellent research facilities for junior scientists. They have a successful track record in supporting doctoral students from all over the world. For this purpose, the Max Planck Institutes are closely networked with universities: Max Planck scientists are involved in many joint research projects and provide their university partners

with access to the special research infrastructure of their institutes. The **International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS) Programme** in particular, serves to strengthen the collaboration between Max Planck Institutes and universities as well as international cooperation. These international doctoral programmes, which are jointly supported by the Max Planck Institutes and their partner universities, attract junior scientists from all over the world: at the more than 40 research schools about 60 percent of graduate students are foreign nationals. International Max Planck Research Schools cover a wide range of scientific disciplines and innovative topics.

In general, the **Max Planck Institutes** provide a high degree of flexibility in doctoral training:

- Research projects can be developed in consultation with a supervisor and tailored towards the student's own interests as well as the institute's main areas of research.
- Applications for admission may be submitted at any time throughout the year directly to the Max Planck Institute of choice.
- Each individual Max Planck Institute is responsible for selecting candidates. The Max Planck Society does not have a central procedure for admissions or for awarding stipends to doctoral candidates. Interested university graduates must contact the individual Max Planck Institutes in the area relevant to their academic profile.
- Doctoral positions at Max Planck Institutes are not always advertised in the press or on the Internet. Applicants must take the initiative and apply directly to a Max Planck Institute.
- Further details at www.institutes.mpg.de

The **International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS)** offer students the opportunity to earn their doctoral degrees in structured programmes with interdisciplinary curricula. Thesis committees mentor the students. The schools are jointly conducted by Max Planck Institutes and universities and form "educational centres of excellence" with vibrant, innovative and multinational research environments.

- Applications for admission must be submitted directly to the IMPRS of choice. As there may be application deadlines, students may need to apply at specific times during the year.
- Admission is highly competitive due to the high number of applicants.
- Each individual IMPRS selects its candidates.
- Some IMPRS occasionally admit exceptionally qualified students with a Bachelor's degree (B.Sc.) from a recognised university.
- Further details at www.imprs.mpg.de

