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CONTACT LIVING IN MAINZ RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT
International PhD Programme
Institute of Molecular Biology gGmbH (IMB)
Ackermannweg 4, 55128 Mainz, Germany
Email: PhD@imb.de
Web: www.imb.de/PhD
ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL PHD PROGRAMME

Our International PhD Programme (IPP) gives talented and enthusiastic students the opportunity to undertake PhD research at the cutting edge of modern biology. Projects within the IPP address key questions relating to the overarching themes of gene regulation, epigenetics and genome stability.

Our groups cover a broad range of expertise in biochemistry, genetics, cell and developmental biology, bioinformatics and systems biology. The fields we study range from embryonic development, evolution, ageing and disease to RNA and chromatin biology, the analysis of high-throughput datasets in genomics and proteomics and modelling of regulatory gene networks.

This range of expertise and the open and vibrant atmosphere within the programme encourage multidisciplinary collaborations and innovative research. Moreover, a range of scientific and social events ensure high levels of exchange and collaboration between the participating groups.

The programme is coordinated by the Institute of Molecular Biology – a centre of excellence in the life sciences.

Participating groups are located at the:

- Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB)
- Johannes Gutenberg University (JGU)
- University Medical Centre (UMC)
- Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research (MPI-P)

In total, the IPP comprises over 40 research groups. For a full list, please see: www.imb.de/PhD
The IPP is designed to train you in both the scientific skills and the creative and critical thinking abilities that you will need for your research and personal development as a scientist. Your PhD research will be conducted within the lab of one of the participating groups. The group leader you will be working with will act as your mentor and provide advice and guidance.

In addition to the supervision by your group leader, you will meet regularly with your Thesis Advisory Committee. Your TAC will consist of leading scientists who will support and advise you on the progression of your research project. This provides an excellent opportunity to interact closely with a number of top scientists during the course of your study.

We ensure our PhD students receive up-to-date training in the techniques and skills they need to succeed. The IPP offers dedicated training courses on a variety of topics that will aid your research, including advanced microscopy, cytometry and cell sorting, genomics, proteomics, statistics and bioinformatics. There will also be many opportunities for you to learn the transferrable skills that will form the basis of your career, whatever you go on to do. We organise courses on scientific writing, project management as well as presentation and leadership skills. To help you with your postdoctoral prospects, we also hold career events with presentations on various professions and workshops on how to apply and interview for jobs. Taken together, these courses and events make sure your work is as successful as possible and help you effectively plan, manage and communicate your research.

All our PhD positions are fully funded.
THE PHD EXPERIENCE WITHIN THE IPP

The IPP and the participating institutions have a vibrant scientific atmosphere that includes regular presentations from leading international scientists and technology developers from industry. IMB also hosts a number of international conferences and workshops. These events give you the opportunity to hear about the latest research from around the world and to interact and form collaborations with those driving it.

As part of the IPP, we organise annual retreats and symposia where our PhD students present their work in an informal setting and have the opportunity to meet with fellow students and other researchers. There are also plenty of social events that will allow you to get to know your colleagues. We encourage our students to present their work at national and international conferences, giving them further opportunities to network with other researchers.

There are well over 100 PhD students from over 25 different countries enrolled in the IPP.
Application to the IPP is competitive. The first step is the online application via the programme’s webpage (www.imb.de/PhD). Shortlisted students will be invited to Mainz for several days of presentations, interviews and visits of the host labs. The basic criteria for eligibility in the IPP are:

- A Master’s degree or equivalent with outstanding grades (you can apply before you have received your degree)
- Strong communication skills in English, both written and spoken
- Prior experience in a lab or research environment

The IPP typically announces two calls for applications each year. Please check our website for the latest information on how to apply and current projects: www.imb.de/PhD

If you have any specific questions please get in touch with us at: PhD@imb.de
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