

MAX
PLANCK
SCHOOLS



PASSION FOR SCIENCE

MAX PLANCK SCHOOLS — A Joint Graduate Program
of German Universities and Research Organizations



maxplanckschools.org

MAX PLANCK SCHOOL OF COGNITION

Cognition research covers topics from disciplines as diverse as artificial intelligence, (cognitive) neuroscience, genetics, linguistics, mathematics, neurobiology, neurology, philosophy, psychiatry, and psychology. Among others, research focuses on questions like, ‘Which cognitive processes are tied to language?’, ‘What are the genetic mechanisms that contribute to individual differences in cognition?’, and, ‘How are different forms of learning and decision-making organized in living beings, and how could they be realized in artificial intelligent systems?’

The **Max Planck School of Cognition** targets promising undergraduate students interested in answering some of these questions in their PhD research. Via a four-year and fully funded program, the School provides an excellent environment for research and an optimal setting for multi- and interdisciplinary graduate education with the contribution of an outstanding faculty. In close collaboration with our current 30 partner organizations, the program begins with a lab rotation year to equip the doctoral candidates with the necessary interdisciplinary knowledge and laboratory experiences, followed by a 3-year PhD phase.

MAX PLANCK SCHOOL MATTER TO LIFE

The interdisciplinary Master to PhD Direct Track Program at the **Max Planck School Matter to Life** aims to address fundamental questions like ‘What, exactly, is life?’ and ‘Can processes, functions and objects related to life be simulated and recreated in the laboratory?’ The program’s innovative curriculum and state-of-the art research focuses on combining principles of physics, chemistry, biology and engineering to better understand processes essential for living systems.

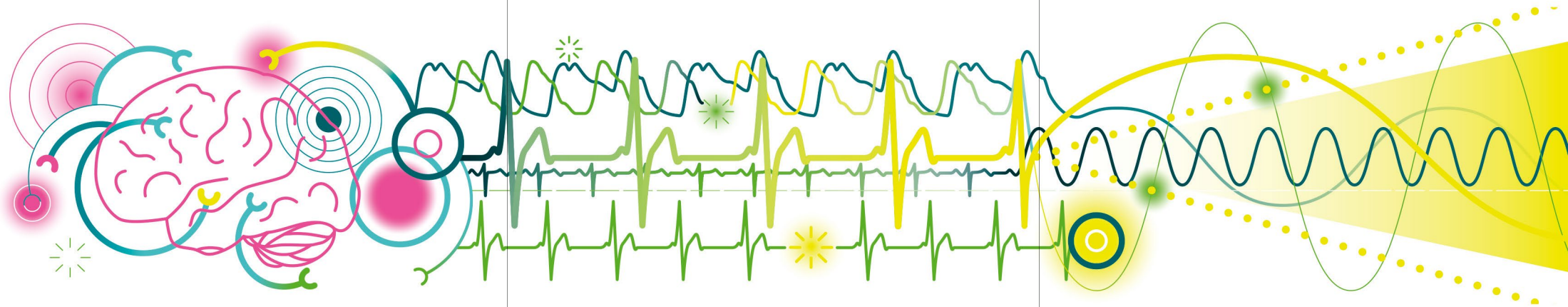
For the first two years (Master phase) students will study “Matter to Life” in a joint degree program at one of the teaching Universities in Göttingen or Heidelberg. They undergo their specialization in either Complex Systems and Biological Physics (University of Göttingen) or Molecular Systems Chemistry and Engineering (Heidelberg University). The following three years of research (PhD phase) can be completed at any of the Matter to Life Faculty laboratories at their respective location.

Students receive an excellent and fully funded education in Matter to Life through close collaboration with the MTL Faculty, which consists of 50 leading scientists from renowned research institutions across Germany.

MAX PLANCK SCHOOL OF PHOTONICS

The field of photonics is a dynamic scientific discipline that serves as a catalyst for various technological research areas as well as innovative branches of industry. The **Max Planck School of Photonics** is a unique, interdisciplinary PhD program that builds on a wide-ranging network of leading scientists from highly renowned research institutes and significant establishments within the photonics industry.

The School offers excellent students from all over the world two fully funded educational programs: The five-year program starts with foundational education in one of the well-established photonic study courses at the teaching universities of Jena, Karlsruhe, or Erlangen. Subsequently, students pursue their PhD research for three years under the supervision and mentorship of one of our highly-qualified Fellows at one of 16 partner institutions. Candidates with the necessary prerequisites can also directly enter this three-year research phase. During both program phases, lab visits, a complementary online curriculum and joint events stimulate intense professional exchange and cooperation between all locations.



»THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS«

This is the underlying principle of the **Max Planck Schools – A Joint Graduate Program of German Universities and Research Organizations**. We are pooling Germany's scientific excellence in three interdisciplinary research fields – **Cognition, Matter to Life**, and **Photonics** – to attract the most promising PhD candidates in the world and to train them in a way that allows them to contribute to a worthwhile future.

At the Max Planck Schools, PhD candidates engage in cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, while studying in the context of a unique scientific network, closely supervised by Germany's leading scientists. Both Bachelor and Master graduates can enter the Schools and benefit from early access to a first-class research infrastructure and innovative teaching formats in a fully funded PhD program.

Supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and with significant contributions from our partner institutions, the Max Planck Schools aim to structurally advance the German science system in a sustainable way and to strengthen its international visibility and competitiveness.

Key partners of the program are

Max Planck Society, DWI Aachen, Fraunhofer Society, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Heidelberg University, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Leipzig University, Technical University of Munich.

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