



RESEARCH IS CALLING!  
WE PROMOTE PIONEERS  
IN SCIENCE



# Come and join us

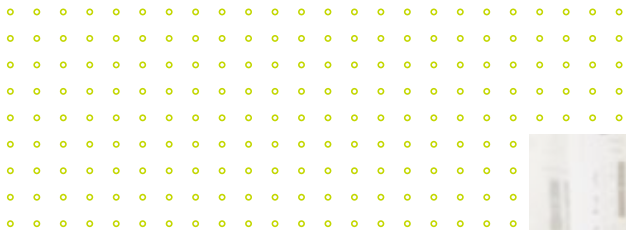
- Are you creative, curious, focussed, and enthusiastic about basic research?
- Have you successfully completed a university degree or completed your doctorate and want to continue carving out a career in the sciences?
- Would you like to work in Germany and experience an inspiring cultural setting?
- Are you excited about conducting research in an international environment?

If your answer to these questions is yes, the Max Planck Society is one of the best places you could be! The Society enjoys international renown, and surveys reveal that it is the preferred employer for many students in the sciences. We welcome applications from individuals of all genders.

In our 86 Max Planck Institutes, cutting-edge scientists conduct interdisciplinary research in areas like physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, computer science, law, the social sciences, art and education.

## GETTING IN TOUCH WITH OTHERS

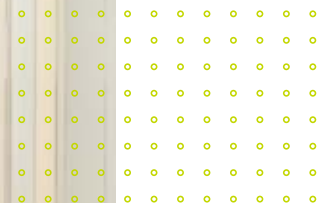
- **Collaborate with leading scientists from Germany and abroad.**
- **Encounter the latest discoveries in basic research.**
- **Get to know new concepts and ways of thinking.**
- **Exchange and discuss ideas in an interdisciplinary and international environment.**
- **Benefit from multi-disciplinary research training.**
- **Take advantage of state-of-the-art research facilities.**

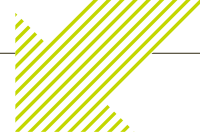


*Research*  
*Creativity*  
*Inspiring Culture*  
*Discovery*



*Diversity*  
*Mentoring*





## Earn a doctorate

Max Planck Institutes have a successful track record in supporting doctoral students from all over the world. They offer **individual doctorates** and are closely networked with universities that officially confer doctoral degrees at the end of the period of study.

### How to apply:

There is no central procedure for admissions. Please contact the Max Planck Institute of your choice directly throughout the year and check the websites for application deadlines.

Next, there are **International Max Planck Research Schools** (IMPRS), graduate schools at Max Planck Institutes, which partner usually with local universities, sometimes with further research facilities. They offer structured programs with interdisciplinary curricula. Thesis committees mentor the students.

### How to apply:

Please contact the Max Planck Institute of your choice directly throughout the year and check the websites for application deadlines. Admission is given after a multi-stage selection process, which varies from IMPRS to IMPRS.

**Max Planck Schools** target ambitious Bachelor's and Master's graduates. Renowned scientists from German universities and research organizations collaborate across disciplines and institutions to provide an exceptional graduate training. Three Schools are in the pilot phase: Matter to Life, Cognition, and Photonics. This program is sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

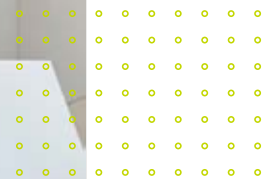
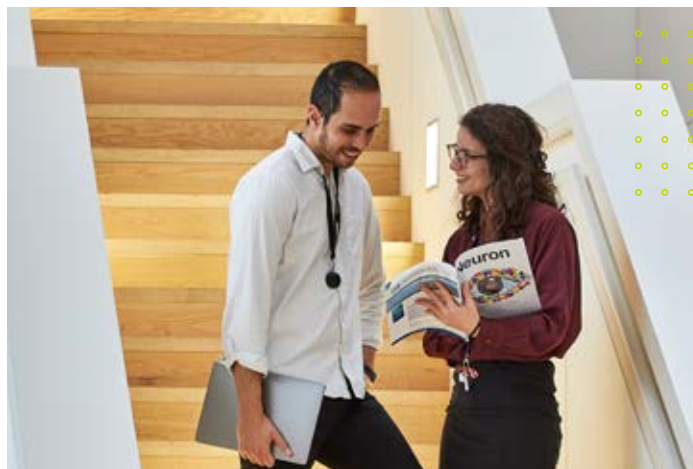
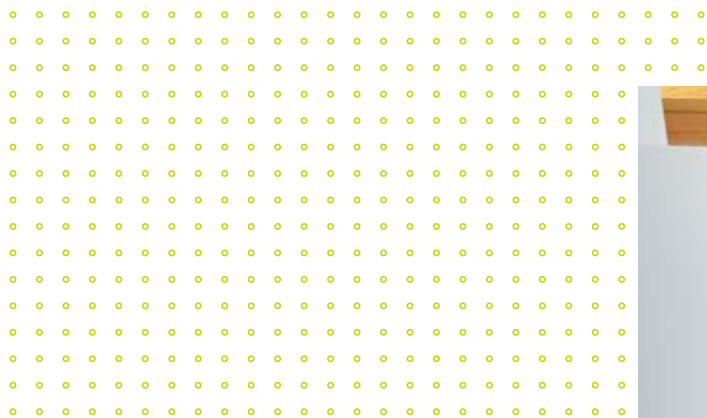
### How to apply:

Please check the websites of the Max Planck School of your choice for application deadlines. Admission is given after a multi-stage selection process, which varies from School to School.

**Max Planck Graduate Centers** bring together leading faculty at several Max Planck Institutes and their partner institutions to provide outstanding doctoral research programs in a set of topical research areas. The following Graduate Centers started in autumn 2019: for Computer and Information Science, for Quantum Materials, Max Planck Law.

### How to apply:

Please check the websites of the Max Planck Graduate Center of your choice for application deadlines. Admission is highly selective, either via a special selection procedure or through admission by one of the Institutes involved.





# Move ahead

Postdocs

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- To qualify for admission, you must have a Master's degree (MSc.); an increasing number of IMPRS and Max Planck Schools also offer programs for graduate students with a Bachelor's degree.
- Doctoral students receive an employment contract for initially three years ensuring sufficient financial support. Regardless of the type of doctorate, there are binding regulations in the Max Planck Society in order to offer early career researchers reliable, transparent structures for their training and career.
- Research projects can be developed in consultation with a supervisor and tailored towards the student's own interests, as well as in the Institute's main areas of research.

[www.mpg.de/en](http://www.mpg.de/en) ↗ Career  
[www.imprs.mpg.de/en](http://www.imprs.mpg.de/en) ↗  
[www.institutes.mpg.de](http://www.institutes.mpg.de) ↗

[www.maxplanckschools.de/en](http://www.maxplanckschools.de/en) ↗  
[www.mpg.de/graduate-center](http://www.mpg.de/graduate-center)

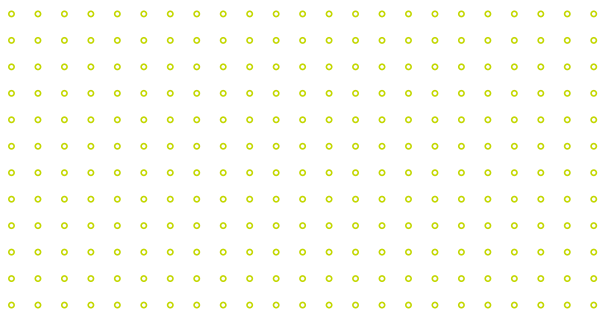
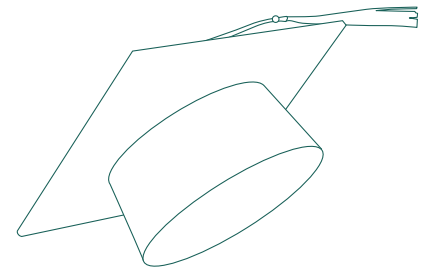
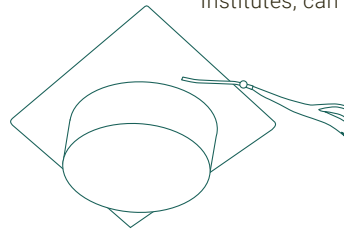
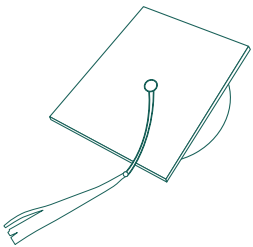
After completing a PhD, early career researchers have the opportunity to conduct a research project of their own at a Max Planck Institute and to develop their scientific profile. The postdoc phase serves to develop the ability to conduct independent research.

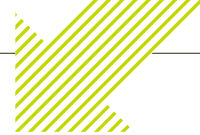
## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- **Postdocs receive a fixed term employment contract of between two and six years or bring a grant with them. If researchers come from abroad to an MPI for research stay of less than two years, a MPG fellowship can be awarded.**
- **Guidelines provide transparency and reliability during that career phase; they include status reviews developing and supporting the way forward.**
- **As a postdoc you will be part of the department of a Director at the Max Planck Institute.**
- **The central training catalogue contains seminars especially for postdocs; they convey soft skills and advice for career development and assist in applying for funds.**

## How to apply:

The positions are advertised in journals (both German and international), on the Institute websites, and on the Max Planck Society's online jobboard. Those interested in a specific research topic pursued by one of the Max Planck Institutes, can also contact the Institute directly.





# Be a research group leader

The Max Planck Society is keen to identify exceptional early career researchers and postdocs from all over the world to lead their Research Groups. Research Group Leaders are responsible for a small number of employees and have their own budget, which guarantees them independence – the ideal starting point for their further scientific career. There are different types of such leading positions:

## (1) MAX PLANCK RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS

Max Planck Research Groups offer postdocs – selected at the end of a rigorous competitive procedure – the opportunity to build a successful profile in the scientific community. All Max Planck Research Group Leaders have complete freedom in how they conduct their research.

There are

- **Institute-specific Max Planck Research Group Leaders,**

located at a specific Institute and usually thematically linked to the Institute concerned; although suggestions for individual research projects can be submitted individually.

- **Free Floating Max Planck Research Group Leaders,**

who can choose the Max Planck Institute they want to work for. These positions are not subject to any thematic restrictions but open-topic.

**All Max Planck Research Group Leaders receive a five-year W2 contract which can be extended twice by two years in the event of positive evaluation.**

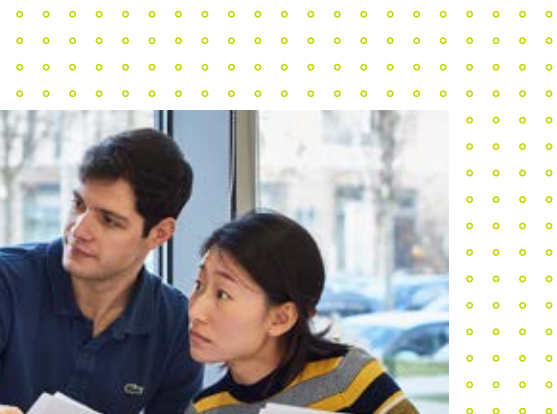
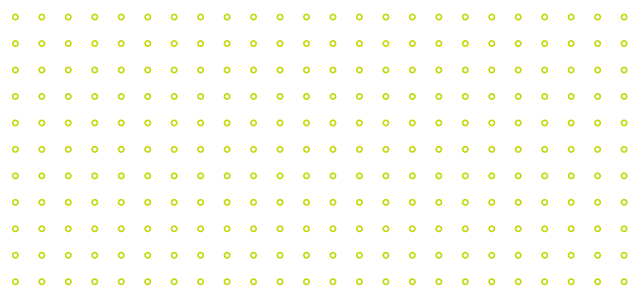
They are independent of the Board of Directors and will be evaluated by the Institute’s Scientific Advisory Board. Despite their scientific autonomy, Group Leaders take an active and supportive part in the Institute’s life.

### How to apply:

Once a year (usually in autumn), there is a central call for applications in international journals as well on the Max Planck Society’s website for **Free Floating** Max Planck Research Groups. **Institute-specific** Max Planck Research Groups are announced in journals and on the Institutes’ websites whenever there is an open position. These positions are financed centrally by the Max Planck Society.

### Collaboration with TU Munich

**Once a scientist has been confirmed as leader of an open-topic Max Planck Research Group, they can take the entrance evaluation for the TUM’s tenure track procedure and apply for a Tenure Track Assistant Professor at TUM.**





## (2) LISE MEITNER GROUP LEADERS

To recruit and promote exceptionally qualified female scientists the Max Planck Society has set up the *Lise Meitner Excellence Program* which includes up to ten groups each year. This program offers outstanding female talents transparent and attractive internal career perspectives.

- **Lise Meitner Groups are furnished with their own resources for their entire duration of five years.**
- **Each researcher in the program receives the offer to take part in the tenure track process, which – following a positive decision by the tenure committee – will lead to a permanent W2 post with group equipment.**
- **Asserting oneself in this procedure means to enter the pool of candidates who have the opportunity to become director at a Max Planck Institute.**

### How to apply:

A call for applications will be published in spring. A competitive multistage selection process will follow, closely aligned with the Max Planck Institutes interested in hosting Lise Meitner scientists.

## (3) RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS

- **are located at a specific Max Planck Institute and appointed by its Board of Directors**
- **usually get a fixed term contract following the TVöD (Collective Wage Agreement for the Civil Service). Each Institute decides itself upon budget and appointments.**

### How to apply:

Each Max Planck Institute selects its own candidates. Please contact an Institute of your choice at any time.

[www.mpg.de/en](http://www.mpg.de/en) ↗ *Career*

<https://www.mpg.de/lise-meitner-excellence-program> ↗

<https://www.mpg.de/max-planck-research-groups> ↗

<https://www.mpg.de/research-groups> ↗



# What we do for you

- *Help with the formalities of moving to Germany*
- *Career planning and career perspectives*
- *Childcare places in day-care centres*
- *Financial support for day-care facilities*
- *A family service for help in finding private care attendants*
- *Guidelines on “Maternity protection in the laboratory”*
- *Opportunities for part-time work and flexible working hours. Since 2006: Audit certificate for a family-friendly personnel policy*
- *Gender Equality Officers at the Max Planck Institutes*
- *For doctoral students: courses on soft skills*
- *For postdocs and research group leaders: seminars on leadership, communication techniques, and management skills*
- *Sign Up: A career building program for female postdocs*
- *Minerva-FemmeNet: A mentoring network for female scientists*
- *Regional Mentoring cooperations in Baden-Württemberg, Hessen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern*
- *Elisabeth Schiemann Kolleg: mentoring especially for female group leaders of Institutes belonging to the Chemistry, Physics & Technology Section*
- *Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard Foundation: funding for female doctoral students with children*
- *AcademiaNet: Max Planck Directors can nominate excellent female researchers to this platform*
- *Starting in 2020, the Planck Academy will bundle all personnel and career development offerings*
- *Health management*

## GETTING IN TOUCH WITH OTHERS

Internal networks at every career level:

The **PhDnet** represents the interests of the doctoral students and serves as a communication platform.

➤ [www.phdnet.mpg.de](http://www.phdnet.mpg.de)

### PostdocNet

The recently established PostdocNet enables scientific exchange and career development at postdoc level.

➤ [www.postdocnet.mpg.de](http://www.postdocnet.mpg.de)

**LeadNet** is bringing together senior scientists, research associates, project and group leaders.

➤ [www.leadnet.mpg.de](http://www.leadnet.mpg.de)

At various Max Planck Institutes, there are also local alliances of researchers at different career levels as well as alumni. Additionally, the Max Planck Alumni Association is a cross-disciplinary association facilitating its members to stay in contact with their former Institute, and be updated on the activities of the Society.

➤ [www.mpg-alumni.de](http://www.mpg-alumni.de)



# Where we are

## **BAD MÜNSTEREIFEL**

- Effelsberg Radio Observatory (branch of the MPI for Radio Astronomy, Bonn)

## **BAD NAUHEIM**

- MPI for Heart and Lung Research

## **BERLIN**

- MPI for Human Development
- Fritz Haber Institute of the MPS
- MPI for Molecular Genetics
- MPI for Infection Biology
- MPI for the History of Science
- MPU for the Science of Pathogens

## **BOCHUM**

- MPI for Cyber Security and Privacy

## **BONN**

- MPI for Research on Collective Goods
- MPI for Mathematics
- MPI for Radio Astronomy (for branch see Bad Münsteriefel)
- △ Caesar research center

## **BREMEN**

- MPI for Marine Microbiology

## **COLOGNE**

- MPI for Biology of Ageing
- MPI for the Study of Societies
- MPI for Plant Breeding Research
- MPI for Metabolism Research

## **CONSTANCE**

- MPI for Animal Behavior

## **DORTMUND**

- MPI for Molecular Physiology

## **DRESDEN**

- MPI for the Physics of Complex Systems
- MPI for the Chemical Physics of Solids
- MPI of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics

## **DÜSSELDORF**

- MPI for Iron Research GmbH

## **ERLANGEN**

- MPI for the Science of Light

## **FRANKFURT AM MAIN**

- MPI of Biophysics
- MPI for Brain Research
- MPI for empirical Aesthetics
- MPI for European Legal History
- △ Ernst Strüngmann Institute
- MPRU for Neurogenetics

## **FREIBURG**

- MPI for Immunobiology and Epigenetics
- MPI for Foreign and International Criminal Law

## **GARCHING**

- MPI for Astrophysics
- MPI for Extraterrestrial Physics
- MPI for Plasma Physics (see also Greifswald)
- MPI for Quantum Optics

## **GÖTTINGEN**

- MPI for Biophysical Chemistry
- MPI for Dynamics and Self-Organization
- MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity
- MPI for Experimental Medicine
- MPI for Solar System Research

## **GREIFSWALD**

- Greifswald sub-institute of the MPI for Plasma Physics, Garching

## **HALLE AN DER SAALE**

- MPI for Social Anthropology
- MPI for Microstructure Physics

## **HAMBURG**

- MPI for Meteorology
- MPI for Comparative and International Private Law
- MPI for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter

## **HANOVER**

- Hanover sub-institute of the MPI for Gravitational Physics, Potsdam

## **HEIDELBERG**

- MPI for Astronomy
- MPI for Nuclear Physics
- MPI for Medical Research
- MPI for Comparative Public Law and International Law

## **JENA**

- MPI for Biogeochemistry
- MPI for Chemical Ecology
- MPI for the Science of Human History

## **KAISERSLAUTERN**

- Sub-institute of the MPI for Software Systems (see Saarbrücken)

## **LEIPZIG**

- MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology
- MPI for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences
- MPI for Mathematics in the Sciences

## **MAGDEBURG**

- MPI for the Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems

## **MAINZ**

- MPI for Chemistry (for branch see Manaus)
- MPI for Polymer Research

## **MARBURG**

- MPI for Terrestrial Microbiology

## **MARTINSRIED NR. MUNICH**

- MPI of Biochemistry
- MPI of Neurobiology

## **MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR**

- Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion
- MPI of Coal Research (independent foundation)

## **MUNICH**

- MPI for Innovation and Competition
- MPI for Physics
- MPI of Psychiatry
- MPI for Social Law and Social Policy
- MPI for Tax Law and Public Finance

## **MÜNSTER**

- MPI for Molecular Biomedicine

## **PLÖN**

- MPI of Evolutionary Biology

## **POTS DAM**

- MPI for Gravitational Physics (for sub-institute see Hanover)
- MPI of Colloids and Interfaces
- MPI for Molecular Plant Physiology

## **ROSTOCK**

- MPI for Demographic Research

## **SAARBRÜCKEN**

- MPI for Computer Science
- Sub-institute of the MPI for Software Systems (see Kaiserslautern)

## **SEEWIESEN**

- MPI for Ornithology

## **STUTT GART**

- MPI for Solid State Research
- MPI for Intelligent Systems

## **TÜBINGEN**

- MPI for Developmental Biology
- MPI for Intelligent Systems
- MPI for Biological Cybernetics
- Friedrich Miescher Laboratory of the Max Planck Society

## **SITES ABROAD**

### **JUPITER, FLORIDA / USA**

- Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience

### **FLORENCE, ITALY**

- Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – MPI

### **LUXEMBOURG (CITY), LUXEMBOURG**

- Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law

### **NIJMEGEN, NETHERLANDS**

- MPI for Psycholinguistics

### **ROME, ITALY**

- Bibliotheca Hertziana – MPI for Art History

- Institute / Research center
- Subinstitute / Branch
- Other Research Institution
- △ Associated Research Institute
- Biology & Medicine Section
- Chemistry, Physics & Technology Section
- Human Sciences Section



## Where we are



### SITES ABROAD

#### USA

● Florida

#### ITALY

● Florence

● Rome

#### LUXEMBOURG

● Luxembourg

#### NETHERLANDS

● Nijmegen

## The Max Planck Society

The Max Planck Society is an independent non-profit scientific organisation which operates **86 Max Planck Institutes**. For more than **70 years**, it has embodied knowledge-oriented basic research in the life sciences, the natural sciences, and the human sciences – and served as a byword for excellence: **18 Max Planck scientists** have been honoured with the **Nobel Prize** to date.

Around **23,800 people** altogether currently work and conduct research in the Max Planck Society. Each Max Planck Institute is headed by cutting-edge scientists. These top scientists work under the best of conditions; they choose their own topics and are given free rein in selecting their staff. Where our current knowledge of the world ends, that is where they search for answers – in fields that have yet to find a place in a university research setting, that require costly apparatus, large-scale equipment or specialist libraries, or that call for extensive interdisciplinary cooperation.

Furthermore, the Max Planck Society cherishes a working environment that is marked by diversity, equal opportunities and mutual respect.

The Max Planck Society's scientific workforce comprises more than **10,900 staff**, including scientists, doctoral and postdoctoral students with funding contracts and scholarship holders. To give young academics the help they need to get ahead is a key concern of the Max Planck Society. They are incorporated into the Institutes' research projects, which are driven forward in national and international cooperation with research facilities and universities. Besides being financed by the Max Planck Society, young scientists also receive third-party funding from sources like the German Research Foundation (DFG) and many others.

### MAX PLANCK SOCIETY

Administrative Headquarters

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You will find up-to-date information at any time under the Career section on our website: [www.mpg.de/en](http://www.mpg.de/en)