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ALBERT-LUDWIGS-  
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

Research in  
Germany  
Land of Ideas

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How can I apply?

Application to the program is a two step online procedure: First you will be asked to register online. After successful registration you will receive a confirmation via email and then you must submit your full application. For further information please visit the "How to Apply" section on our website.

### Can I apply without a TOEFL?

TOEFL is not mandatory but it will enhance your application. We also accept IELTS and other English certificates. However, at the interviews you need to show that you are fluent in written and spoken English.

### Do I need my M.Sc. degree when I send my application?

You do not need your M.Sc. degree at the time of application. But you must have been awarded your M.Sc. degree before the start of your studies at IMPRS-MCB.

### Where can I get my visa?

Once you have been invited for an interview or the program, you will get an official invitation letter (in English) and a letter for the German embassy in the country where you are living in German from the coordination office. To obtain your visa you will need to make an appointment at the German Embassy or German consulate in the country where you are living. At the appointment you will need to show our letter and apply for the appropriate visa (health insurance proof required). Provided your visa application is complete, you will obtain your visa usually within 10 days. In case problems arise please inform the coordination office. Please check the webpages of the German Embassy for opening times and documentation required to apply for a visa.

### Can I apply for a tourist visa?

You can use a tourist visa only for the interview. For your doctoral studies you will have to apply for a specific visa that entitles you to conduct your doctoral studies in Germany.

### The German embassy told me that I don't need a visa.

That is correct for candidates coming from EU countries and from some other countries (e.g. U.S.A., Canada, Mexico). People from these countries can apply for a residence permit during the first three months of their stay in Germany.

### I missed the deadline. What can I do?

Registration and Application is only possible until the posted deadlines.

### How are students funded during the preparatory program?

Every student admitted to the preparatory program of IMPRS-MCB will either receive a scholarship (approx. 850 Euro, only foreigners) or a TVÖD contract (amounting to about 800 Euro, German nationals) covering all living expenses in the Freiburg area.

### How are students funded during their PhD?

Every student who has passed the qualifying examination will either receive a scholarship (approx. 1250 Euro) from the IMPRS program or will be paid from resources of the group he/she wants to join (TVÖD contract, third party funding, EU-funding, etc.) covering all living expenses in the Freiburg area.

### From where I will obtain my PhD degree?

Normally, the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg will award the PhD degree. International doctoral students may also choose to have their doctoral degree awarded by a university of their home country. Should you be interested in the latter option you will need to make those arrangements before you start your PhD studies at IMPRS-MCB.

### I would like to apply for a summer internship only

Please visit our Summer Internship section for details.

### Are the lectures in English or in German?

The program is conducted in English only!

### Where is Freiburg?

The city of Freiburg is the most southern metropolis of Germany in the state of Baden-Württemberg and has a population of around 220.000 residents. It is located in the center of Europe next to the beautiful Black Forest and close to the Switzerland, France and the Alps. Around 25.000 students are matriculated at the University of Freiburg.

### What are the estimated living costs in Freiburg?

The estimated costs of living in Freiburg are approx. 600 Euro minimum per month for a single person (living expenses and health insurance).

### How is the climate in Freiburg?

Freiburg is located in a moderate climatic zone and therefore has neither an extremely cold winter nor an extremely hot summer. However, Freiburg is the warmest and sunniest town in Germany.

### Who will help me to find accommodation?

As soon as you have got your visa please tell us the exact date of your arrival in Freiburg. For up

to three months we will arrange accommodation for you in our guesthouse. We will also assist you in finding suitable accommodation once you arrive in Freiburg.

**What do I need to bring?**

You need your visa, passport and all your original certificates. All other administrative issues can be dealt with once you've arrived in Freiburg.