

Research Topic 1

Conscious and unconscious perception

Research Topic 2

Decision-making

Research Topic 3

Language

Research Topic 4

Brain plasticity and lifespan ontogeny

Research Topic 5

Brain disorders and mental dysfunction

All empirical research will be carried out in close connection with conceptual (philosophical) analysis of key terms such as 'decision', 'free will' and 'consciousness', and with an evaluation of the ethical and anthropological consequences of this research.



Berlin School of Mind and Brain
Humboldt Graduate School
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Deadline for applications
January 15th of each year. Applications of students who have secured funding already (scholarship, research post) will be reviewed on a continuous basis throughout the year.

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BERLIN
SCHOOL OF
MIND AND
BRAIN



The Berlin School of Mind and Brain offers a three-year doctoral program of ‘mind sciences’ and ‘brain sciences’

The Berlin School of Mind and Brain aims to establish an interdisciplinary platform to cultivate the multi-faceted and rapidly growing contact between the two scientific cultures of mind and brain research. Thus, the focus is on the interface of traditional humanities and behavioral sciences (philosophy, social sciences, linguistics, behavioral and cognitive psychology) with neurosciences (neurophysiology, psychiatry, computational neuroscience, neurobiology).

Research

Research at the Berlin School of Mind and Brain centers on three paradigmatic mental functions: ‘conscious and unconscious perception’, ‘decision-making’ and ‘language’, and on two key determinants of any mental function, namely individual development (‘brain plasticity and lifespan ontogeny’) and pathological alterations (‘brain disorders and mental dysfunction’). These five topics will be closely interrelated by joint projects (e.g., on language development, changes in decision-making in neurological disorders) and embedded in basic and clinical research.

Doctoral Program

The Berlin School of Mind and Brain offers a structured interdisciplinary doctoral program. Teaching covers all fields relevant to mind/brain-related research and includes neurophysiology, systems and cognitive neuroscience, philosophy and ethics, linguistics, neuroimaging, behavioral research methods and experimental design, computational neuroscience, logics and conceptual analysis, clinical neuroscience, and cognitive sciences. Each doctoral student is supervised by two professors, one from the ‘mind sciences’ and one from the ‘brain sciences’.

The school is a member program of Humboldt Graduate School and supported by its services. Students will be offered mentoring, career counseling and scientific soft skills courses such as scientific and grant-application writing, and high-performance presentation.

Funding

The Berlin School of Mind and Brain is funded by the German Government’s prestigious *Initiative for Excellence*. Successful applicants to the school can also apply for a three-year scholarship.

Academic Director

Professor Dr. Arno Villringer
Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Collaborating Institutions

- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Host University)
- Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Freie Universität Berlin
- Technische Universität Berlin
- Otto-von-Guericke-Universität, Magdeburg
- Universität Potsdam
- Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin
- Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig
- Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience, Berlin
- Berlin NeuroImaging Center
- Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities
- Center for General Linguistics, Typology and Universals Research (ZAS), Berlin
- Interdisciplinary Center for Meaning in Language, Berlin
- Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Architecture and Software Technology, Berlin
- Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin
- Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin
- Neuroscience Research Center at Charité, Berlin
- Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, Berlin