

# Supplement



# The Berlin School of Mind and Brain

is an international graduate research school that offers a three-year doctoral degree program and a two-year research Master's program, both in English. The school was established in 2006 and is part of Germany's Excellence Initiative for universities.

The transinstitutional school is based at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. However, involved in the school's research, education and training program are scientists and doctoral candidates from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Charité Medical School, Freie Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, the universities of Leipzig, Magdeburg, and Potsdam, the Einstein Center for Neurosciences as well as the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience, both in Berlin.

## Research

The school has a faculty comprised of 60 distinguished researchers, including Max Planck directors, Leibniz Prize winners, and ERC advanced grant recipients. Together with associated research groups, they cover the gamut of research and education in the mind and brain sciences in the Berlin metropolitan area.

Research within the school concentrates on the six paradigmatic topics, each of which connect brain- and mind-related research : 'perception, attention and consciousness, 'decision-making', 'language', 'brain plasticity and lifespan ontogeny', 'mental disorders and brain dysfunction', and 'human sociality and the brain'. Research is also strongly embedded in the basic and

Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences and Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, both in Leipzig, and the nearby universities of Potsdam, Magdeburg, and Leipzig.

At our graduate school, we also host, educate and train members of the national Max Planck School of Cognition, the DFG Research Training Group 2386 Extrospection, the Excellence Cluster 2002 Science of Intelligence, and the Einstein Center for Neurosciences in Berlin. ●

clinical research conducted within the region allowing for synergistic research initiatives and opportunities. Together with more than 30 German neuroscience programs, the school runs the research and education network "German Graduate Schools of Neuroscience" which enhances the national exchange and collaboration between mind/brain and neuroscience faculty and students ([neuroschoools-germany.com](http://neuroschoools-germany.com)).

It is the Berlin School of Mind and Brain's mission to train outstanding young scientists to become experts in one of the relevant fields, to provide them with knowledge over the gamut of mind and brain research, and to give them the ability, and the opportunity, to cooperate with researchers from other disciplines.

## Admission

Each year the school accepts a limited number of doctoral candidates into its program. They are selected in a highly competitive and internationally open application procedure with an acceptance rate of about ten percent.

The admissions process consists of four steps :

( 1 ) Applicants use the online application tool and upload all relevant information and documents. Beforehand, they usually correspond with the admissions officer and faculty members to discuss their research ideas. ( 2 ) Each complete application is reviewed in writing by at least four faculty members. ( 3 ) The admissions committee considers and discusses all reviews,

ranks applications, and invites successful applicants for interview in Berlin. (4) During interviews, applicants present their projects to the admissions committee.

Doctoral candidates are full members of the school. At the same time, they are members of at least one of the cooperating and contributing universities and departments. Successful doctoral candidates will be awarded the doctoral title typically conferred by the department and university in which they are enrolled. Which departments candidates choose depends on their previous degrees, and on the academic affiliation of their supervisors. ●

## Doctoral Program

Doctoral candidates acquire a strong foundation for interdisciplinary work by attending eight one-week classes during the first half of their doctoral program. These courses cover topics in all fields relevant to mind / brain-related research, and allow students to explore research methods and topics to which they have not been previously exposed.

Candidates meet with leading international researchers via the school's own scientific meetings and international lecture series, and interact with senior visiting faculty. The school encourages and provides substantial financial assistance for candidates to attend national and international conferences and meetings during the course of their doctoral studies.

Candidates arrange their own journal and methods clubs and participate in academic retreats. Via Humboldt Graduate School, an umbrella organization for graduate studies at Humboldt-Universität, they have access to specialized scientific soft-skill courses such as scientific presentation, scientific writing, grant-application writing, a mentoring program, coaching.

Each doctoral candidate is assigned at least two professorial thesis advisors – usually one from the brain sciences, one from the mind sciences, in order to ensure the interdisciplinary impact and support for their work. ●



[www.mind-and-brain.de](http://www.mind-and-brain.de)

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