Admissions

Approximately 35 outstanding graduates will be part of the IMPRS. Eligible applicants will typically possess a university diploma or a master’s degree. As the IMPRS is rather liberal with respect to academic backgrounds, we will consider excellent candidates with training in Economics, Law, Psychology, informatics, physics, mathematics, etc. Successful applicants will initially be admitted to the program for the duration of one year. Funding may be extended for additional two years. Each graduate student will be allocated to one of the managing institutions. The working language of the Uncertainty School is English.

Financial and Organizational Support

Each participant will be awarded a scholarship to cover his/her living expenses. The IMPRS charges no tuition fees. Students are granted a fully equipped shared office, full access to the libraries and research facilities of the participating institutes and university departments, as well as research funds to conduct their projects.

The IMPRS Uncertain is a joint project of:

Prof. Uwe Cantner
Friedrich-Schiller University Jena
Chair of Microeconomics, Jena

Prof. Christoph Engel
Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn

Prof. Gerd Gigerenzer
Max Planck Institute for Human Development,
Adaptive Behavior and Cognition, Berlin

Prof. Werner Güth
Max Planck Institute of Economics,
Strategic Interaction Group, Jena

Prof. Oliver Kirchkamp
Friedrich-Schiller University Jena
Chair of Empirical and Experimental Economics, Jena

Prof. Luigi Mittone
University of Trento, CIFREM, Trento

Prof. Thomas Kessler
Friedrich-Schiller University Jena,
Chair of Social Psychology, Jena

Prof. Peter M. Todd
Indiana University Bloomington,
Cognitive Science and Informatics, Bloomington

Prof. Menahem E. Yaari
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
Center for the Study of Rationality, Jerusalem

Contact

IMPRS Uncertainty
Max Planck Institute of Economics
Kahlaische Strasse 10
07745 Jena
Germany

Mail: imprs@econ.mpg.de
http://www.imprs.econ.mpg.de
Phone +49 36 41 6 86-6 20
Fax +49 36 41 8 86-6 23

Chair
Professor Dr. Werner Güth
gueth@econ.mpg.de

Coordinators
Dr. Tobias Uske
uske@econ.mpg.de
Dr. Susanne Büchner
buechner@econ.mpg.de

“It can be very dangerous to see things from somebody else’s point of view without the proper training”
Douglas Adams
Research Focus: Decision Making under Fundamental Uncertainty

Explicitly or implicitly, most research on decision-making assumes a fairly certain world. Yet in reality, most decisions are made without knowledge of all the relevant facts. Moreover, even if all the needed information were available, having to process it would overwhelm the cognitive abilities of decision-makers. Furthermore, considerations become more complex in an interactive context, when decision-makers are boundedly rational.

The Uncertainty School spans three disciplines:

Local Frameworks and International Cooperation

At all three IMPRS’ locations, students will become members of the respective institutions, and have the opportunity to interact with scholars from other disciplines and to participate in the stimulating intellectual life at the organizations in Jena, Bonn or Berlin.

In Jena, economists, psychologists and sociologists are already collaborating in a research initiative on Human Behavior in Social and Economic Change. Moreover, students are encouraged to participate in the curriculum provided by the graduate programs The Economics of Innovative Change (in Economics) and Conflict and Cooperation between Social Groups (in Psychology).

In Berlin, graduates will be integrated into the Center for Adaptive Behavior and Cognition, which is an interdisciplinary research group, consisting of psychologists, computer scientists, economists, anthropologists, medical scientists and biologists.

In Bonn, PhD students will become members of the Institutional Design Unit, composed of legal scholars, economists and psychologists. For those interested in economics, there is a second unit at the institute specializing in economic modeling and econometrics.

Graduate students working in Jerusalem, Bloomington, and Trento will participate in the Summer Schools in Jena. Conversely, PhD students from Germany will have access to academic departments in Jerusalem, Bloomington, and Trento. The IMPRS encourages its graduates to spend a term at either of these institutions. The choice of destination and the duration of the research stay will naturally be guided by topical fit.

Curriculum

The IMPRS offers participants an outstanding interdisciplinary three year PhD program with courses in Economics, Law and Psychology.

All scholars participating will be trained in the essentials of all three disciplines to acquire an understanding of the perspectives of their counterparts. In accordance with their interests and the concrete topic of their thesis, the graduates will also deepen their disciplinary and cross-disciplinary knowledge and expertise.

The research school will provide both a natural framework for joint research projects and systematic interdisciplinary training. Moreover, all participants will be regularly exposed to the research agenda of their colleagues.

The IMPRS rests on three pillars:

The four week Summer Schools will take place during August in Jena. Students will be offered plenty of courses to choose from in Economics, Law and Psychology. Graduates are expected to participate in the summer schools for the first two years, and they are welcome to join in during their last year.

More specific and more continuous training will take place at the respective host institution. Here the focus will be on the specific research topic of the faculty or institute.

The last ingredient of the program is Thesis and Topic Workshops. The goal of the former is to give graduates the opportunity to present their dissertation projects to faculty members of the school at least once per year. The purpose of the latter is to deepen the knowledge of the graduates in a particular field.