Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology / IMPRS-IDI - International Max Planck Research School for Infectious Diseases and Immunology

The IMPRS-IDI is a vibrant international doctoral program. We offer outstanding training and support in an excellent scientific network. Our faculty members are affiliated with internationally renowned research institutes in Berlin as well as the Berlin universities. Our mission is to support students to develop into creative and critical, responsible and self-confident young researchers. We strive to provide excellent training to our students. The outstanding research projects analyzing the genetic, biochemical and organismal basis of infections and immune reactions in our graduate school program are supported by a flexible curriculum structure, including training courses and lectures on scientific topics as well as technical and complementary skills.

5 PhD positions in immunology, infection biology and parasitology

The International Max Planck Research School for Infectious Diseases and Immunology (IMPRS-IDI) invites applications for up to 5 fully funded PhD positions starting in 2027.

City: Berlin; Starting date (earliest): 01/05/27; Duration: 3-4 years; Remuneration: TVöD Bund / E13; Closing date: 18/12/26

Tasks

We welcome highly motivated candidates to join our international and interdisciplinary research community and pursue exciting research projects in infection biology and immunology. Successful applicants will conduct their doctoral research at leading Berlin research institutions, including the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, German Rheumatology Research Center (DRFZ) and Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

The following 5 PhD projects are available in 2027:

- Immune–Metabolic Adaptation in Pregnancy: Implications for Offspring Health (Diefenbach lab)
- Molecular mechanisms of innate immune recognition (Hornung lab)
- How P. falciparum diversity shapes mosquito colonization strategies of malaria parasites and efficacy of transmission-blocking interventions (Levashina lab)
- Dissecting the Molecular Pathways of NK Cell Clonality (Romagnani lab)
- Epigenetic heterogeneity as a determinant of macrophage potential (Weiss lab)

The IMPRS-IDI is an established international doctoral program with approximately 65 doctoral researchers from more than 25 different countries. Our mission is to support doctoral researchers in becoming creative, critical, responsible and self-confident scientists.

Requirements

We are looking for:

- Creative, highly motivated candidates of all nationalities with a strong commitment to research
- Applicants with a strong background in molecular biology, biochemistry, immunology or related disciplines, and practical research experience relevant to their chosen project. Some projects also seek candidates with strong quantitative skillset, please check the individual project descriptions.
- Candidates with a strong academic record and a relevant Master's degree (M.Sc. or equivalent). Applicants who have not yet graduated may apply, provided they complete their degree before starting their PhD.
- Applicants with good written and spoken English skills, German proficiency is not required.

What we offer

We offer:

- cutting-edge research opportunities and access to state-of-the-art facilities
- an excellent scientific network of internationally recognized researchers
- a structured doctoral program with individual supervision, a project-adapted curriculum and training in scientific, technical and transferable skills
- opportunities to attend conferences and present your research internationally
- a supportive, international PhD community and a stimulating, multi-disciplinary research environment in Berlin

Application

Interested in joining us?
Submit your application through our online application platform by 18 December 2026, 23:59 CET.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to online panel interviews in March, followed by individual interviews in Berlin. Successful candidates are expected to start their doctoral research between May and December 2027.

For more information on available projects, eligibility criteria and the application process, please visit the IMPRS-IDI website.

Closing date: 18/12/26
Contact person: IMPRS-IDI Office

By internet: https://imprs-app.mpiib-berlin.mpg.de/site/index.php

More information at https://stellenticket.de/208745/UP/
Offer visible until 17/12/26