Jena – City of Science

Jena is an old university town (population 100,000) in the German federal state of Thuringia. Every fifth citizen is a student. This mixture gives the city a youthful flair and a vibrant nightlife.

Jena has blossomed into an internationally significant center of learning, research and high-tech industries like SCHOTT Jena, ZEISS, Jenoptik and Jenapharm. In addition to Friedrich Schiller University, one Fraunhofer, two Leibniz and three Max Planck Institutes are located in Jena. The city also proudly recalls the grand tradition of Goethe, Schiller, Hegel and Fichte, all of whom left their mark on its intellectual life. Ernst Abbe, Carl Zeiss and Otto Schott laid the foundations for economic prosperity with the design and manufacture of superior microscopes and other precision optics.

Located among limestone hills, in the picturesque valley of the Saale River, Jena is a paradise for geologists and botanists, and home to many rare plant species.

The IMPRS is part of the Jena School for Microbial Communication (JSMC).
About us

In a joint initiative, the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, the Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research, and the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research in Gatersleben offer an international PhD program. The overarching research topic of this International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) in Jena is the use of molecular and chemical techniques to experimentally explore ecological interactions under natural conditions.

The IMPRS gives students the possibility to focus on their PhD in a structured program offering excellent research conditions in an interdisciplinary environment.

Students from all over the world interested in ecological interactions can apply for the program.

Key Features

• 3-year program
• excellent research conditions
• unique combination of chemistry, ecology and molecular biology
• structured curriculum
• international and interdisciplinary environment
• working language English
• no tuition fees

Research

Independent research by the students complements a PhD curriculum which offers monthly lectures and courses in cutting-edge methods. Regular symposia and seminars help students to present and discuss their results and enable extensive networking with colleagues. Additionally, a variety of generic skills courses is offered.

Application

Applicants must have or be about to obtain a Master's degree or a qualification equivalent to the German Diploma in molecular biology, ecology, microbiology, chemistry, biochemistry, entomology, neuroethology, bioinformatics or related fields. Application for fellowships is possible once a year (usually around June) through the online application system which is accessible at

http://imprs.ice.mpg.de

Applications are evaluated by the members of the IMPRS Faculty. Selection is based on academic qualifications, personal references, research experience, and interests. Short-listed candidates are invited to a joint recruitment including several personal interviews with potential supervisors.

Financial Support

Successful candidates receive an IMPRS stipend. Students who obtain funding from other sources are also strongly encouraged to apply for admission to the program. No tuition fees are charged except for a nominal enrollment fee at Friedrich Schiller University.