



Admissions

The IMPRS admits up to seven students a year. They must have completed an M.A., a German university *Magister* or *Diplom*, or equivalent in a discipline relevant to the School's research focus and demonstrate a proven record of academic excellence. International students are particularly welcome. The ability to do scholarly work in English is a prerequisite for admission.

Admission into the second phase of the program is subject to approval by the faculty based on the student's first-year record. Students may submit their doctoral theses in English or German to the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of the University of Cologne, or to their home universities.

Applications can be submitted as of January 15. The deadline for applications is March 15. Notification is in June, and the program begins on October 1. See <http://imprs.mpifg.de> for more about all aspects of the program, including details on eligibility and access to the online application form.

Financial and Organizational Support

A scholarship covering living expenses for one year is provided; it is extended for two more years upon a student's acceptance into the second phase of the program. No tuition is charged; enrollment at the University of Cologne for a small fee is advised. Home universities' tuition fees are **not** covered. The School provides advice in practical matters such as visas, housing and health insurance. IMPRS students have a fully equipped shared office, full access to the libraries and research facilities of the MPIfG and the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of the University of Cologne, and research funds to conduct their projects.

Cologne

Located in the heart of Western Europe on the Rhine, Cologne is a major German city with a population of one million. Its relaxed lifestyle has a tremendous appeal to the 70,000 students it hosts from all over the world. Colonians are accommodating and open-minded – one third of the population has some kind of immigration background.

Cologne's skyline is dominated by the Gothic cathedral; its old city is dotted with Romanesque churches. Cologne is home to several outstanding museums, scores of art galleries, and numerous music venues to suit every taste. Visitors find a wide variety of department stores, shops, restaurants and pubs downtown. Sports spectators and outdoor enthusiasts go for the city's top-notch athletic facilities, spacious parks and car-free paths along the Rhine. The city is easy to navigate on foot, by bike or public transport. Travelers enjoy the excellent train connections and cheap flights all over Europe, as well as Cologne's proximity to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam.

Contact

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INTERNATIONAL MAX PLANCK RESEARCH SCHOOL ON THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONSTITUTION OF THE ECONOMY

PhD Program in Cologne
at the Max Planck Institute for the Study
of Societies and the University of Cologne





Focus of Research

The International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy (IMPRS-SPCE) is a newly established international PhD program offered jointly by the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG) and the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of the University of Cologne.

Aiming to combine and develop the approaches of new economic sociology, comparative political economy and organization studies, the School's research investigates the complex linkages between economic and social action. Just as politics and social life are affected by pressures for economic efficiency and by economic power, economic action is embedded in an infrastructure of social institutions, cultural frames, and political decisions. Thus, the economy as a system of action is both politically and socially constituted. In sociology, the study of the social embeddedness of economic action is the domain of the "New Economic Sociology," which focuses on the analysis of markets. While economic sociologists highlight the contribution of informal social structures to the facilitation and direction of economic action, political scientists working on "varieties of capitalism" examine how formal political institutions and collective decision-making contribute to economic governance.

Bringing together economic sociology and institutionalist political science, work at the School pursues an empirical-analytical rather than an efficiency-theoretical, prescriptive approach. It explores how economic institutions evolve in the real world, rather than determining how they should evolve, or would in an ideal world.

PhD Program

The three-year curriculum begins with a year focusing on expanding students' methodological skills and firming up their theoretical background in economic sociology and political economy. Seminars include *Foundations of Economic Sociology*, *Contemporary Economic Sociology*, *Sociological Theories of Institutions*, and *Logic and Design of Social Research*, especially *Comparative Research*. All doctoral students participate in a biweekly Research School Colloquium.

During the second and third year, students concentrate on researching and writing their thesis. With the faculty's approval, they can spend six months at one of the School's American or French partner universities or another foreign research institution. At the Max Planck Summer Conference on Economy and Society, they present their work in progress to peers and leading scholars in their fields.

The IMPRS-SPCE features ...

- a research-oriented curriculum for exceptionally talented graduate students
- excellent research facilities
- close collaboration with supervisors
- financial support for up to three years
- English as a working language
- an international learning and working experience in a major city in the heart of Western Europe

Faculty

The faculty is made up of professors from the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies and the Department of Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Cologne.

Jens Beckert

Professor of Sociology
MPI for the Study of Societies

Mark Ebers

Professor of Business Administration,
Corporate Development and Organization
University of Cologne

André Kaiser

Professor of Comparative Politics
University of Cologne

Jörg Rössel

Professor of Sociology
University of Cologne (as of April 2007)

Wolfgang Streeck

Professor of Sociology
MPI for the Study of Societies

Cooperation with International Partners

France

Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques
Centre de Recherches Politiques de Sciences Po and Centre
de Sociologie des Organisations

United States

Harvard University
Center for European Studies and Department of Sociology

Northwestern University

Departments of Political Science and Sociology