

Application Information

1. Doctoral Research Positions

Within the framework of the International Max Planck Research School for Comparative Criminal Law, doctoral research positions will be awarded for research topics in the areas of criminal law and criminology, with the ultimate goal of earning a doctorate in law (Dr. jur). The selection of candidates will be carried out by the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Law in Freiburg/Germany in cooperation with the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg as well as according to the conditions of the Max Planck Society for the support of junior scientists and subject to the appropriation of budgetary funds.

2. Research Location

The doctoral students will pursue all of their research in Freiburg. They will participate in the training program of the International Max Planck Research School for Comparative Criminal Law and be granted full use of the facilities and infrastructure at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Law. The training program will generally be conducted in German. Scientific supervision will be supplied by the Max Planck Institute and the University of Freiburg. It is a requirement that the research school candidates be on site in Freiburg.

3. Dissertation Topics

The dissertation topics will focus on previously specified comparative/normative or comparative/normative-empirical issues. The research questions are to be outlined in a research proposal including (1.) research subject (2.) research objectives, (3.) research methodology, and (4.) study design, including study plan (timeline). Candidates are free to modify the topics, or develop alternate questions for other areas, or even propose an alternate topic within the context of the research program of the Research School. All proposals must include more than one legal system in their scope. The selection of legal systems and/or countries is at the discretion of the candidate. The scientific value of the selection of individual legal systems and/or countries must, however, be intrinsically linked to the issues investigated.

4. Application Procedure

Acceptance to the Research School is based the number of doctoral research positions filled at any one time. Once an IMPRS doctoral student has successfully completed his doctorate, a new doctoral student can be admitted to the program. Since the time needed to earn each degree may vary, it is not possible to give an estimate about the exact number of positions available at any one time, i.e., there is no application deadline in the strict sense. For this reason, we kindly ask all interested candidates to refrain from contacting us to inquire about such deadlines. The calls for doctoral research positions will be published on the IMPRS-CC homepage as soon as each open position becomes generally known. As a general rule, applications are welcome for approx. 2 months after publication on the homepage.

The IMPRS-CC strives to achieve a 50 % enrolment of foreign doctoral students with an academic degree from abroad. Foreign candidates with academic degrees from abroad are encouraged to submit their applications. As the Max Planck Society and the University of Freiburg aim to increase the percentage of physically challenged persons employed, these

potential candidates are also expressly encouraged to apply. In addition, the Max Planck Society and University of Freiburg seek to increase the proportion of women in areas in which they are underrepresented. Women are therefore also strongly encouraged to apply.

5. Application Requirements

- (1) Completion of a law degree at a German university or completion at an equivalent university abroad.
- (2) First or Second German State Law Exam with a minimum overall grade of "*vollbefriedigend*" (according to the examination regulations "*JAPrO*" of the State of Baden-Württemberg) or an equivalent law degree with an equivalent grade ("with distinction") from abroad. The equivalence of your degree will be determined according to the criteria of the Central Office for Foreign Education of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (*Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen im Sekretariat der Ständigen Konferenz der Kultusminister der Länder*) and verified by the doctoral candidate admissions board of the Law Faculty of the University of Freiburg.
- (3) Submission of a comprehensive proposal for a dissertation topic according to the specifications of No. 3 above; individual topics may also be submitted if they are in accordance with a comparative/normative or comparative/normative-empirical approach. An application without a concrete proposal is possible in exceptional cases. Proposals linked to the thematic framework of the IMPRS-CC will be considered with priority.
- (4) Solid proficiency in the German language as well as all official languages of the legal systems included in the dissertation's comparative legal analysis. If the dissertation will be written in English, the candidate must have a sound command of English. A willingness on the part of all candidates to improve their German language skills is also a requirement.

6. Application documents

- (1) Cover sheet addressed to the International Max Planck Research School for Comparative Criminal Law at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Law in Freiburg/Germany.
- (2) European style curriculum vitae (<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/>) in German or English. It should include relevant information on all previous research activities.
- (3) Copy of secondary education certificate with a graded list of examination subjects. A translation of the documents into German and a copy of the originals must be supplied.
- (4) Copy of certificates relating to the First and, where applicable, Second German State Law Exam(s). From foreign graduates, copies of all university transcripts with a list of all grades, including the overall grade, the average grade, proof of the number of semesters/terms studied and the university certificate of graduation. A translation of the documents into German and a copy of the originals must be supplied. A grading scale specifying the different levels of accomplishment should be provided.

- (5) Comprehensive proposal for a research project (3-5 pages) in German or English, structured according to (1.) research subject (2.) research objectives, (3.) research methodology, and (4.) study design, including study plan. The timeline of the research project should be designed in such a way as to ensure completion within three years.
- (6) Two letters of recommendation from two senior scientists (in German or English) familiar with the applicant's previous research experience and including an assessment of his/her ability to undertake doctoral studies at the Research School.
- (7) If the graduation certificates listed in (3) and (4) are not in German or English, if neither German nor English is the applicant's native language, and if the necessary language skills cannot be proven by other means, language proficiency examination certificates will be required. The following are recognized in particular: *Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber* (minimum DSH-Level 2), *Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache* (minimum TestDaF-Level 4 in all four subsections), the *International English Language Testing System* (IELTS) with at least 6.0 bands, or *TOEFL* (at least 560 points, computer: 220 points). Basic knowledge of German may be demonstrated with the *Zertifikat Deutsch* (ZD).
- (8) Upon admission to the program, officially authenticated copies of the original documents required in No. 3 and No. 4 will become necessary.

7. Application Deadlines

Please submit your application and any supporting documentation by the end of the recommended closing date for applications (approx. 2 months after publication on the IMPRS-CC homepage). The application should be sent to applications-imprs-cc@mpicc.de (maximum: 5 MB per e-mail). Please refrain from forwarding applications by post.

Interviews will be conducted in the form of telephone interviews, video conferences, or on the basis of an invitation to a personal interview in Freiburg. The applicants will be informed in writing of their acceptance/rejection. An absolute right to financial support does not exist.

8. Financial Support

Financial support is provided in the form of a doctoral grant in accordance with the guidelines of the Max Planck Society. The amount of financial support for a doctoral scholarship is currently 1365,- EUR/month. Financial support will be granted for a period of three years.