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# Doctorate



## DKFZ International PhD Programme in Cancer Research

German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) Heidelberg • Heidelberg

### Overview

Degree	PhD
Doctoral degree or degree awarded by	University of Heidelberg
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li></ul>
Languages	Working language: English
Programme duration	6 semesters
Beginning	Only for doctoral programmes: any time
Application deadline	Summer selection: 15 May Winter selection: 15 December
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No

#### Description/content

The [DKFZ International PhD Programme in Cancer Research](#) at the **German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)** in Heidelberg offers state-of-the-art research opportunities at the forefront of basic, computational, epidemiological, and translational cancer research. The majority of DKFZ PhD students receive a doctoral degree from the Biosciences, Medical, or Physics Faculty of the prestigious Heidelberg University, the oldest university in Germany.

The DKFZ is **Germany's largest biomedical research institute**. Around **500 PhD students** in over 100 divisions and research groups carry out research to unravel the causes and mechanisms of cancer development and to identify novel tools for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. In recent years, researchers at the DKFZ have been responsible for major advances both in basic research and in the development of novel methods for clinical application. Two researchers of the DKFZ have been awarded the **Nobel Prize**, namely Harald zur Hausen in 2008 and Stefan Hell in 2014. As part of the Helmholtz Association, the largest research organisation in Germany, the DKFZ has an international and dynamic work environment and provides its scientists with access to state-of-the-art research facilities.

**Research at the DKFZ is highly interdisciplinary**, which is reflected by the fact that PhD students have an academic background in **(molecular) biology, (bio-)chemistry, (bio-)physics, mathematics, computational biology, computer science, epidemiology/public health studies,**

**health economics and related fields.** Projects frequently cross traditional research boundaries and draw upon expertise from multiple scientific and clinical disciplines.

Based on a long tradition of scientific interaction between the DKFZ and the Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS) in Israel, the Graduate School has partnered with the Feinberg Graduate School of the WIS to establish the **German-Israeli Helmholtz Research School in Cancer Biology**.

For more information, have a look at our [website](#).

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## Course Details

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### Course organisation

The language of the PhD programme is English. Besides receiving **supervision** from a research group leader, each student has a personal **Thesis Advisory Committee**. This provides students with further support and advice during the entire duration of the PhD. In addition, PhD students are offered **scientific and professional skills courses**, lecture series on the current state of cancer research, and **career events**. Furthermore, they broaden their horizons at PhD retreats and **international conferences**.

The **DKFZ Career Service** supports PhD students in planning for a professional future and provides information on different career opportunities. PhD students themselves play a vital role in shaping the programme. They organise many different initiatives and events and are the driving force behind the scientific and social community.

The career prospects after obtaining a PhD from the DKFZ are outstanding. You will find **alumni in top positions** in academia, industry, and related fields.

### International elements

- International guest lecturers
- Language training provided
- Training in intercultural skills
- Study trips
- Projects with partners in Germany and abroad

### Special promotion / funding of the programme

- Helmholtz Graduate Schools

### Course-specific, integrated German language courses

No

### Course-specific, integrated English language courses

No

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## Costs / Funding

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### Tuition fees per semester in EUR

None

### Semester contribution

There is no tuition fee at the DKFZ, you will however be required to pay university fees of approx. 170 EUR per semester.

### Funding opportunities within the university

Yes

Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university

PhD students are fully funded for the duration of the PhD programme.

## Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements

Applicants from all countries who hold a Master's degree are invited to apply.

Visit our website for more details on [admission requirements](#).

Language requirements

A language test for English is requested for all applicants **except** those coming from German-speaking countries (Germany, Austria, Switzerland), as well as native English speakers from Australia, Canada, Ireland, UK and USA. If your studies were in English, then please upload a PDF document from your university (or Director of Studies) in which this is stated. The following proof of English is accepted:

- TOEFL test with a score of 95+ (internet-based), 240+ (computer-based) or 587+ (paper-based)
- IELTS certificate with a band score 7.0+
- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)

Application deadline

Summer selection: 15 May  
Winter selection: 15 December

Submit application to

<http://www.dkfz.de/en/phd-program/index.html?campaign=phd/daadprog>

## Services

Structured research and supervision

Yes

Research training / discussion

Yes

Specific specialist or non-specialist support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event
- Buddy programme
- Accompanying programme
- Visa matters
- Specialist counselling



## International PhD Programme at the DKFZ in Heidelberg

Have you ever considered a PhD in cancer research? Robin, Sri, Felix, and Calvin introduce the International PhD Programme at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg and share their experiences of what it is like to be part of the PhD community in the largest interdisciplinary PhD programme dedicated to cancer research in Europe.

» more:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG0tnXw-XgQ>

# — German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) — Heidelberg



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The **German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)** in Heidelberg is Germany's largest biomedical research institute. As part of the Helmholtz Association, the largest research organisation in Germany, the DKFZ has an international and dynamic work environment, providing scientists with access to state-of-the-art research facilities and exceptional resources. More than 3,000 employees in over 100 divisions and research groups carry out research to unravel the **causes and mechanisms of cancer development** and to identify **novel tools for**

**diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.** Harald zur Hausen (2008) and Stefan Hell (2014) are two researchers of the DKFZ who have been awarded the Nobel Prize. The DKFZ offers attractive prospects and training opportunities for international researchers at all stages of their career.



## Location

**Heidelberg** combines the best of many worlds. With its narrow lanes and ancient buildings, the historic old town immediately transports visitors back into the Middle Ages. Flanked by hills and lush forests, there is plenty to tempt nature-lovers. The gateway to Heidelberg's medieval core is the unmistakable Old Bridge with its two towers. This landmark's nine sandstone arches straddle the Neckar river, whose banks, or Neckarwiese, invite both locals and tourists alike to while away the time.

The city has much to offer the modern-day visitor, including an enviable cultural palette, ranging from **theatre and music to film festivals, and even its own beers**. Thanks to the presence of many international companies in the region and quality research faculties belonging to the University of Heidelberg, the city is a magnet for **cosmopolitan individuals from multicultural backgrounds**.

Heidelberg is very much a modern city that prides itself on being at the **cutting edge of scientific research**. The DKFZ is located in the Neuenheimer Feld, one of the largest biomedical campuses in Germany. This site also hosts the science faculties of Heidelberg University as well as the university hospital and other research departments. DKFZ PhD students may participate in the sports programmes at Heidelberg University.

## Contact

### German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) Heidelberg

DKFZ International PhD Program

Im Neuenheimer Feld 280  
69120 Heidelberg


 [higs@dkfz.de](mailto:higs@dkfz.de)

 Course website: <http://www.dkfz.de/en/phd-program/index.html?campaign=phd/daadprog>

 <https://www.facebook.com/DKFZde>

 <https://twitter.com/DKFZ>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/school/dkfz---german-cancer-research-center>

 <https://www.instagram.com/dkfzheidelberg>

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# International Programmes in Germany - Database

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## Editor

DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V.  
German Academic Exchange Service  
Section K23 – Information on Studying in Germany  
(responsible: Judith Lesch)  
Kennedyallee 50  
D-53175 Bonn  
[www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

## GATE-Germany

Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing  
[www.gate-germany.de](http://www.gate-germany.de)

## Disclaimer

The data used for this database was collected and analysed in good faith and with due diligence. The DAAD and the Content5 AG accept no liability for the correctness of the data contained in the "International Programmes in Germany" and "Language and Short Courses in Germany".

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