



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



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Master's degree



Master's in Mind and Brain

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin • Berlin

Overview

Degree	Mind track: Master of Arts (MA) Brain track: Master of Science (MSc)
In cooperation with	Charité Medical Faculty; Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience; Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English
Languages	English (100%)
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	31 May every year for the following winter semester (begins 1 October). Applications can be submitted only once a year: 2 to 31 May.
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No

Description/content

Mind and Brain is an interdisciplinary cognitive neuroscience programme that addresses the intersection between cognitive and clinical neuroscience, cognition research, psychology, computer science and philosophy. Our primary focus is on research questions that benefit considerably from comparing the viewpoints and approaches of different theoretical and empirical fields.

Mind and Brain has two study tracks. The Brain Track is targeted towards students with an empirical background in neuroscience, psychology, cognitive science or medicine who are interested in complementing their empirical work with more theoretical and philosophical approaches in order to provide a more enriched understanding of the human mind. The Mind Track is for students with a theoretical or philosophical background who would like to complement their approaches with an understanding of empirical research on the link between mind and brain. This will help clarify how empirical research can augment their theoretical approaches and also allow them to judge the robustness and validity of empirical research. Students from the Brain Track and the Mind Track will take many classes together.

This interdisciplinary training will provide students from both tracks with deeper insights into

several important topics that lie at the heart of cognitive neuroscience: this includes the body-mind-problem, consciousness, emotions, decision making, intelligence and free will.

As a research-oriented Master's programme Mind and Brain prepares students for a career both in research and academia and also in application fields such as data science. Please note that neither of the two Mind and Brain tracks is a classical psychology programme. Clinical neuroscience is only a small part of the curriculum and the programme does not prepare students who aim to work in psychotherapy.

Course Details

Course organisation

Course Details

The core of the Mind and Brain Master's programme is made up of nine core modules (neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, cognitive neuroscience, research methods, empirical research training, ethics, philosophy of mind, language and the brain, clinical neuroscience, and neuroimaging) that are taken in the first and second semesters. Each module consists of a lecture and a more in-depth seminar. Students have to select seven out of these nine core modules.

The focus themes (module 10) and the research consolidations (modules 11 and 12) follow the core courses and further build on them. Every semester, the Master's programme offers a selection of elective courses / seminars from which students can choose classes for these modules according to their own interest.

The voluntary semester abroad is to be taken in the third semester. The courses taken during this semester are devised and agreed upon together with the international partners involved.

First Semester Modules

- 1 Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology (5 ECTS, four hours per week)
- 2 Cognitive Neuroscience (5 ECTS, four hours per week)
- 3 Research Methods (5 ECTS, four hours per week)
- 4 Ethics and Neuroscience (5 ECTS, four hours per week)
- 5 Clinical Neuroscience (5 ECTS, four hours per week)
- Individual Studies (5 ECTS, two hours per week)

Second Semester Modules

- 6 Philosophy of Mind (5 ECTS, 4 hours/week)
- 7 Language and the Brain (5 ECTS, 4 hours/week)
- 8 Empirical Research Training (5 ECTS, 4 hours/week)
- 9 Neuroimaging (5 ECTS, 4 hours/week)
- 10 Focus Theme Mind/Brain I + II (10 ECTS, 4 hours/week)
- 13/1 Lab Rotation / Research Project I (10 ECTS)

Third Semester Modules (The third semester may be spent abroad.)

- 11 Research Consolidation Mind (10 ECTS, 4 hours/week) or
- 12 Research Consolidation Brain (10 ECTS, 4 hours/week)
- 13/2 Lab Rotation / Research Project II (10 ECTS)
- Individual Studies (5 ECTS, 2 hours/week)
- Individual Studies (5 ECTS, 2 hours/week)

Fourth Semester

- Master's thesis (30 ECTS)

A Diploma supplement will be issued

Yes

International elements

- International guest lecturers
- Specialist literature in other languages
- Courses are led with foreign partners

Integrated internships	Lab rotations (Brain Track only): Brain Track students spend 2 x 300 hours in neuroscience research labs.
Special promotion / funding of the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other (e.g. state level)
Course-specific, integrated German language courses	No
Course-specific, integrated English language courses	No

Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Semester contribution	Approx. 290 EUR administrative fee per semester (includes public transport ticket)
Costs of living	Generally, Berlin is not a particularly expensive city. However, Berlin is still very popular. Thus, prices are rising and housing has become much more costly and hard to come by over the past few years. Master's students should calculate at least 1,000 EUR per month for housing, subsistence, the university's administrative fees (payable once a semester, they include public transport; see above), and insurances.
Funding opportunities within the university	No

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements	<p>There are distinct application requirements for the two study tracks, the Mind Track and the Brain Track.</p> <p>MIND TRACK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 ECTS / 30 American credits in either philosophy or cognitive science <p>Please note, applicants with a background only in psychology, neuroscience, medicine, theoretical linguistics, or biology cannot apply for the Mind Track.</p> <p>Please see section I (a) for details: https://www.mind-and-brain.de/master/admission</p> <p>There are three options for Mind Track applicants to improve their GPA for admission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade improvement I:
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Applicants can improve their GPA by 20% when having studied either classes worth 10 ECTS (5 American credits) in Philosophy of Mind or 5 ECTS (2.5 American credits) Philosophy of Mind and 5 ECTS (2.5 American credits) recent Philosophy of Knowledge or Philosophy of Science.

- Grade Improvement II:

Applicants can improve their GPA by 10% when they have published a first author paper in an international peer-reviewed journal in the fields of philosophy or neuroscience.

- Grade improvement III:

Applicants can improve their GPA by 10% when they have work experience or on the job training either in academic management or science journalism in the fields of philosophy or neuroscience.

Please see the s. Grade Improvement page for details: <https://www.mind-and-brain.de/master/grade-improvement>

BRAIN TRACK:

- 50 ECTS / 25 American credits in psychology, cognitive science, neuroscience, medicine, theoretical (!!) linguistics

Applicants with a background only in philosophy cannot apply for the Brain Track.

- 10 ECTS / 5 American credits in statistics

All Brain Track applicants have to provide proof of basic knowledge in statistics.

Please see section I (a) for details: <https://www.mind-and-brain.de/master/admission>

There are two options for Brain Track applicants to improve their GPA for admission:

- Grade improvement I:

Applicants can improve their GPA by 10% when they have published a first author paper in an international peer-reviewed journal in the fields of psychology or neuroscience.

- Grade improvement II:

Applicants can improve their GPA by 10% when they have work experience or on the job training in a neuro-cognitive or psychological research lab of at least 900 hours.

Please see the s. Grade Improvement page for details: <https://www.mind-and-brain.de/master/grade-improvement>

Admission requirements may be subject to change! Therefore, the following websites should be read carefully before applying:
<http://www.mind-and-brain.de/master/admission/>.

Language requirements

Proficiency in English (C 1 level)

The Mind and Brain Master's programme is conducted entirely in English. Proficiency in English must be proven with a recognised language certificate. (Please read FAQs on website.)

The dated certificate must state the testing facility and achieved level as well as the date of the last exam.

- IELTS – International English Language Testing System: 7.0
- TOEFL – (Internet-based) Test of English as a Foreign Language: 95
- TOEIC – Test of English for International Communication:
 - Speaking and Writing: 360 in combination with
 - Listening and Reading: 945
- UNICert® II-Zertifikat: 1.3
- UNICert® III-Zertifikat: 3.0

- UNICert® IV-Zertifikat
- DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Language Certificate
 - a minimum of B in all skills or
 - ***** (five stars) in all skills
- Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)
- Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE): A
- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)
- Cambridge English: Business Higher (BEC H)
- ICFE – International Certificate in Financial English
- ILEC – International Legal English Certificate
- BULATS – Business Language Testing Service: 75
- Linguaskill: C1 in all skills
- LCCI (London Chamber of Commerce and Industry) English for Business (EFB): Level 3 with Distinction
- Graded language certificates of university language courses showing an English proficiency of C1 and a minimum grade of 2.3 (good).

Further certificates are listed here: <http://www.mind-and-brain.de/master/admission/>
Proficiency in German is not required.

Application deadline 31 May every year for the following winter semester (begins 1 October).
Applications can be submitted only once a year: 2 to 31 May.

Submit application to International applicants apply online via uni-assist:
<https://www.uni-assist.de/en/how-to-apply/apply-online/>

Required documents and further information:
<http://www.mind-and-brain.de/master/admission/>

Services

Possibility of finding part-time employment Although it is a demanding Master's programme, it is possible to work one day each week.

Accommodation Berlin has a large market of apartments for rent. Apartments, or single rooms in shared accommodation, have recently become much more expensive and difficult to find. Prices for a room in a shared flat or for a one-room studio range from 500 to 750 EUR, depending on the district in Berlin and the amenities provided.

StudierendenWerk Berlin offers single rooms or apartments for students in dormitories. These apartments are very sought-after.

<https://www.stw.berlin/en/wohnen/>

Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event
- Buddy programme
- Specialist counselling

Supervisor-student ratio Approx. 30 lecturers and two administrators : approx. 140 students at any one time

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is one of Germany's Universities of Excellence. In an international comparison, Humboldt-Universität ranks among the top ten German universities. Scientists at Humboldt-Universität research socially relevant topics and challenges of the future and communicate these with the public. Humboldt-Universität invests all of its energy into being a place of excellent research and teaching. Its aim is to promote young talent and to positively influence society and the economy outside of the university framework. Every year, around 6,000 young people decide to embark on their studies at Humboldt-Universität in the heart of Berlin. There is hardly any other place where students can choose from the same variety of degree courses. Among these degree courses are several international Master's programmes featuring lectures and seminars held in English.

As a first-rate university, international exchange for both research and study programmes is a matter of course. Humboldt-Universität boasts academic partnerships with more than 400 Erasmus partners in Europe and with over 150 university partners worldwide. Every year, about 800 academics from abroad spend time at Berlin's oldest university. Additionally, researchers from Humboldt-Universität are welcomed at various international universities, where they conduct projects or field studies and teach as guest lecturers. Humboldt-Universität helps students prepare to study abroad, providing consultation to international students and academics regarding all questions relating to their stay in Berlin. Through the creation of international networks, Humboldt-Universität plays an active role in furthering intercultural research and teaching.



University location

<https://www.berlin.de/en/>

Contact

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🌐 Course website: <http://www.mind-and-brain.de/master/>

📘 <https://www.facebook.com/BerlinSchoolofMindandBrain/>

🐦 <https://twitter.com/MindaBrain>

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www.daad.de/international-programmes
www.daad.de/sommerkurse

Editor

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Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing
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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