

REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must hold an excellent recent university degree (Master or German Diploma) in either biology, biochemistry, chemistry, molecular medicine, pharmacy, biotechnology or a related field. Candidates about to obtain such a degree are welcome to apply. Applicants with a Bachelor (BSc Hon) may join after a qualification period.

For the MD/PhD program, medical students must have completed their pre-doctoral training during the clinical semesters.

Communication skills in English are essential. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and/or CPE (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English) are recommended for students whose first language is neither English nor German.

APPLICATION

Candidates apply online at www.sgbm.uni-freiburg.de. The application form must be filled out in English. Undergraduates who are about to obtain their degree may already apply; admission to the program cannot, however, be postponed due to a delay in obtaining the degree.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

Applications are screened by members of the school's Executive Board. Short-listed candidates are invited to an interview in Freiburg. Successful candidates are notified very rapidly and they can immediately join the program.

FREIBURG



Freiburg is located in one of the most attractive areas of Germany and is very close to France and Switzerland. The city is very international and offers a large variety of cultural events. The University of Freiburg was created in 1457 and the students have played an essential role in the life of the city ever since then. Young people enjoy the combination of active cultural life and multiple outdoor activities all year round thanks to the close proximity to the Black Forest.

CONTACT

Spemann Graduate School in Biology and Medicine

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ALBERT-LUDWIGS-
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

SGBM 
SPEMANN GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

INTERNATIONAL PhD PROGRAM



SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

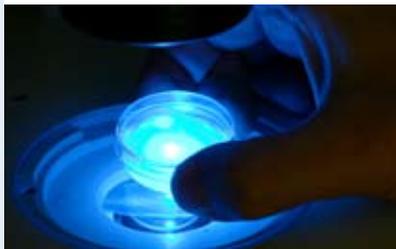
The Spemann Graduate School of Biology and Medicine (SGBM) at the University of Freiburg is funded by the Excellence Initiative of the German Research Foundation (DFG). This international school offers an innovative and multidisciplinary research and training program which relies on ten outstanding government-funded research/teaching centers as well as the Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience. Several faculty members are laureates of the Leibniz Prize, the most prestigious award of the German Research Foundation. Numerous research groups at the University and the University Hospital are involved in large collaborative programs which provide generous funding for research.

After 3 years of intensive work students are awarded a PhD degree (Dr. rer. nat.) from the University of Freiburg. Medical students can also join an MD/PhD program.

RESEARCH AREAS

The program covers a wide range of research disciplines:

- Protein Structure and Function
- Developmental Biology
- Neurosciences
- Immunology and Virology
- Molecular Medicine
- Molecular Plant Sciences



PHD PROGRAM

We apply a stringent selection (in which excellent grades, motivation, and individual interviews play a role) to recruit a limited number of students each year (max. 20).

Students receive generous financial support for 3 years and 3 months. Financial support includes travel expenses incurred by attending conferences in Germany and abroad. Students carry out their experimental work in the laboratory of one of the members of our school. Together with the school's management, students assemble their thesis committee which will provide efficient supervision and advice.

The school operates in English.

MAIN FEATURES

- Interdisciplinary education program connecting six research areas
- Clear-cut and efficient supervision
- Three 1-month rotations to start the program
- Soft-skill courses and practical modules
- Innovative MD/PhD program with pre-doctoral training in basic research
- Annual retreats
- Exchange program with 30 partner universities abroad and industrial firms in Germany
- Graduation prizes awarded at the annual graduation ceremony



COURSES

Students attend seminars, journal clubs, lectures and conferences. They learn to present their data to their peers, including those who work in an area unrelated to their own.

Students have a large choice of practical modules in novel technologies.

Soft-skill courses are an integral part of the program (scientific writing, presentation skills, time management, etc..)

If they wish, international students can attend German courses. The school provides financial support for this.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school provides help with settling down and managing daily life in Germany:

- housing
- residence permit
- health insurance
- bank account
- registration at university

Students meet in the Spemann House on the campus where they can organize extra-curricular activities.

