



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



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# Doctorate



## DKFZ International PhD Programme in Cancer Research

German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) Heidelberg • Heidelberg

### Overview

Degree	PhD-equivalent academic degree (Dr rer nat, Dr med, Dr sc hum, or Dr-Ing depending on background and project)
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
Full-time / part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>full-time</li></ul>
Programme duration	6 semesters
Beginning	Only for doctoral programmes: any time
Additional information on beginning, duration and mode of study	Doctoral researchers can join the programme anytime.
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. DKFZ PhD students receive a doctoral degree from the Biosciences, Medical, or Physics Faculty of the prestigious University of Heidelberg, 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, 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](#).

## Course Details

Course organisation	<p>The language of the PhD programme is English. Besides receiving <b>supervision</b> from a research group leader, each student has a personal <b>Thesis Advisory Committee</b>. This provides students with further support and advice during the entire duration of the PhD. In addition, PhD students are offered <b>scientific and professional skills courses</b>, lecture series on the current state of cancer research, and <b>career events</b>. Furthermore, they broaden their horizons at PhD retreats and <b>international conferences</b>.</p> <p>The <b>DKFZ Career Service</b> 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.</p> <p>The career prospects after obtaining a PhD from the DKFZ are outstanding. You will find <b>alumni in top positions</b> in academia, industry, and related fields.</p>
International elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International guest lecturers</li> <li>• Language training provided</li> <li>• Training in intercultural skills</li> <li>• Study trips</li> <li>• Projects with partners in Germany and abroad</li> </ul>
Special promotion / funding of the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helmholtz Graduate Schools</li> <li>• DAAD</li> </ul>
Name of DAAD funding programme	Graduate School Scholarship Programme (GSSP)
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	There is no tuition fee at the DKFZ, you will however be required to pay university fees of approx. 190 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	<p>Applicants from all countries who hold a Master's degree in a field related to cancer research are invited to apply.</p> <p>Visit our website for more details on <a href="#">admission requirements</a>.</p>
Language requirements	<p>A language test for English is requested for all applicants <b>except</b> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TOEFL test with a score of 95+ (internet-based), 240+ (computer-based) or 587+ (paper-based)</li><li>• IELTS certificate with a band score 7.0+</li><li>• Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)</li></ul>
Application deadline	<p>Summer selection: 15 May</p> <p>Winter selection: 15 December</p>
Submit application to	<p>Please apply via our online application system. The annual application deadlines are 15 May and 15 December.</p> <p><a href="https://www.dkfz.de/en/phd-program/index.html?campaign=phd/daadprog">https://www.dkfz.de/en/phd-program/index.html?campaign=phd/daadprog</a></p>

## Services

Structured research and supervision	Yes
Research training / discussion	Yes

#### Career advisory service

The DKFZ has a dedicated career service team, which aims to support all PhD students at the DKFZ in planning their professional future. The career service provides:

1. career-related workshops and conferences;
2. personal career guidance and advice; and
3. a career network with DKFZ alumni in academia, industry, and beyond.

#### Support for international students and doctoral candidates

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

#### General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates

The International Office of the DKFZ provides support for international employees before and after their arrival.



## 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

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International PhD Program (M070)

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🌐 Course website: <https://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

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)  
[www.daad.de/sommerkurse](http://www.daad.de/sommerkurse)

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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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