Doctoral Program

The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG) offers qualified graduate students an attractive research environment at the International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy (IMPRS-SPCE), a joint PhD program with the Department of Management, Economics and Social Sciences of the University of Cologne and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

As Germany’s first graduate program in economic sociology and political economy, the IMPRS-SPCE welcomes outstanding doctoral students of political science, sociology, and organization studies from Germany and abroad. The School’s research explores the social and political foundations of modern economies and examines the interrelation between economic and social action. It combines approaches from economic sociology, comparative and international political economy, and organizational sociology and has an international impact on the development of these fields of study.

International cooperation is a feature of the IMPRS-SPCE. The students, many international, benefit from the opportunity to contribute actively to the intellectual life of the MPIfG and its two partner universities in Germany and to spend time at IMPRS-SPCE partner institutions abroad, where they also meet leading scholars in their fields. With these opportunities and its unique curriculum of seminars, colloquia, and summer schools, the School offers students an environment in which they can build essential professional skills and make the best possible start to a research career.

Doctoral degrees in sociology or political science are usually awarded by the University of Cologne or the University of Duisburg-Essen. Students at the IMPRS-SPCE may also earn a French doctorate by entering the joint doctoral program (cotutelle de thèse) with Sciences Po in Paris.

Applicants must hold a master’s degree (or equivalent) in a discipline relevant to the School’s program (sociology, political science, economics, organization studies, or a related field). The IMPRS-SPCE aims to host a large share of international students.

The positions begin on October 1, 2020. Applications will be accepted from December 16, 2019, and must be submitted by February 28, 2020. For program details and an online application form, please go to http://imprs.mpifg.de.