



International Leibniz Research School for Microbial and Biomolecular Interactions

Program of Study

International Leibniz Research School (ILRS) for Microbial and Biomolecular Interactions

The following guidelines identify the academic goals necessary to complete a PhD degree in the international PhD program on “Microbial and Biomolecular Interactions”.

I. Course Requirements

Students of the ILRS are required to participate in courses (described below). At the end of a course the lecturer/course leader will document and sign the participation in the “Study Record Book”. This is a practice of the Friedrich Schiller University and also applies to the ILRS.

Participation in department and laboratory meetings is important but does not have to be documented. In addition, participation in public relations-issues and soft skill classes is required. Please inform the ILRS coordinator about these course activities.

The study record book will be the basis for the final certificate.

1. Courses

The ILRS faculty requires that PhD students:

- 1) complete at least three practical courses (exceeding the maximum number of courses has to be confirmed by the supervisor),
- 2) attend the ILRS group seminars and symposia,
- 3) complete at least two soft skill courses,
- 4) participate in the department and laboratory meetings and seminars, as well as the institute’s colloquia throughout each academic year.

Additional course requirements will be made at the discretion of the ILRS faculty members. These requirements will be based on the student’s area of interest, research focus and previous course work.

Practical courses

Every project leader offers a practical course to the ILRS students. The students will learn the most advanced methods and novel technologies of each project.

Group Seminars

(two per year) Students are required to attend all ILRS group seminars. The students can present their results to the faculty and will get advice for their practical work and for presenting scientific results.

Annual ILRS symposium

Students are required to attend all ILRS symposia. At each symposium the students will present their results in form of an oral presentation and/or a poster. In addition, the students are asked to suggest one external speaker for the symposia.

Public Relations

Excellence in science communication is an essential aspect for a career in academia. Thus, all students of the ILRS must participate in public relation activities at least twice. This can either be achieved by giving lay presentations to the public e.g. high school students, teachers, journalists or by publishing articles e.g. in newspapers, non-scientific journals or the institute's website.

Additional Elective Courses

It is highly recommended that students participate in the following courses that provide necessary skills and that will be beneficial for their professional development.

- 1) Language classes (German, English)
- 2) Soft skill courses (presentation, poster, scientific paper etc.)

In addition to the curriculum training, students will contribute to scientific excellence by presenting results at national and international meetings and symposia, by publishing their data in international journals and by presenting PhD thesis to one of the faculties of the Friedrich-Schiller University.

2. Laboratory rotations

It is recommended that ILRS PhD students complete a lab rotation during the first year of their studies. The objective of the rotation is to allow students and ILRS faculty members to get to know each other's research background and interests. Lab rotations are optional.

3. Supervision

PhD students funded by the ILRS must have two supervisors belonging to the ILRS Faculty.

II. Examinations

For the submission of the PhD thesis, the final exams and the rules for dissertation of the faculty of the Friedrich Schiller University for a PhD degree apply.