

Are you obligated to take part in a PHD-programm or courses?

How is a PhD programm structured?

When do you need to apply for it?

Can you take "left-over" key-competence credits from the Master to the PhD if you stay in Goettingen?

How is a PhD funded?

How are the opportunities for a scholarship?

How to find PhD offers?

How do I best proceed to find a topic that interests me?

What are fair/ appropriate conditions?

Any tips for preparing for a PhD interview?

What does a "good" application look like?

# (How to) do a PhD in biological sciences



What jobs did (your) former PhD students find with their PhD?  
Are the fields somewhat related?

What are some other options we have  
outside the PhD?

Must the PhD subject study be in the same field of research as the Master thesis subject ?

Is it still realistic to get into a PhD program after a (few) year(s) of working in a different sector?

How important is the reputation of the PHD-lab for future applications?

How do I recognize a good supervisor?

What aspects should we look for when choosing a PhD supervisor?

## Find a project & supervisor

- expand the project of your master thesis
- approach the professor whose work impressed you
- find a PhD advertisement

Stellenwerk (jobportal Uni Göttingen)  
bioblog  
jobvector  
discipline-specific societies and platforms



# Find funding

- provided by supervisor
- apply for a fellowship
  - e.g. Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes
  - Böhringer-Ingelheim Fond (basic biomedical research)
  - Animal Minds Project (behavior and cognition)
  - Stipendien- und Förderberatung <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/410591.html>
  - BMBF Stipendienlotse <https://www.stipendienlotse.de>

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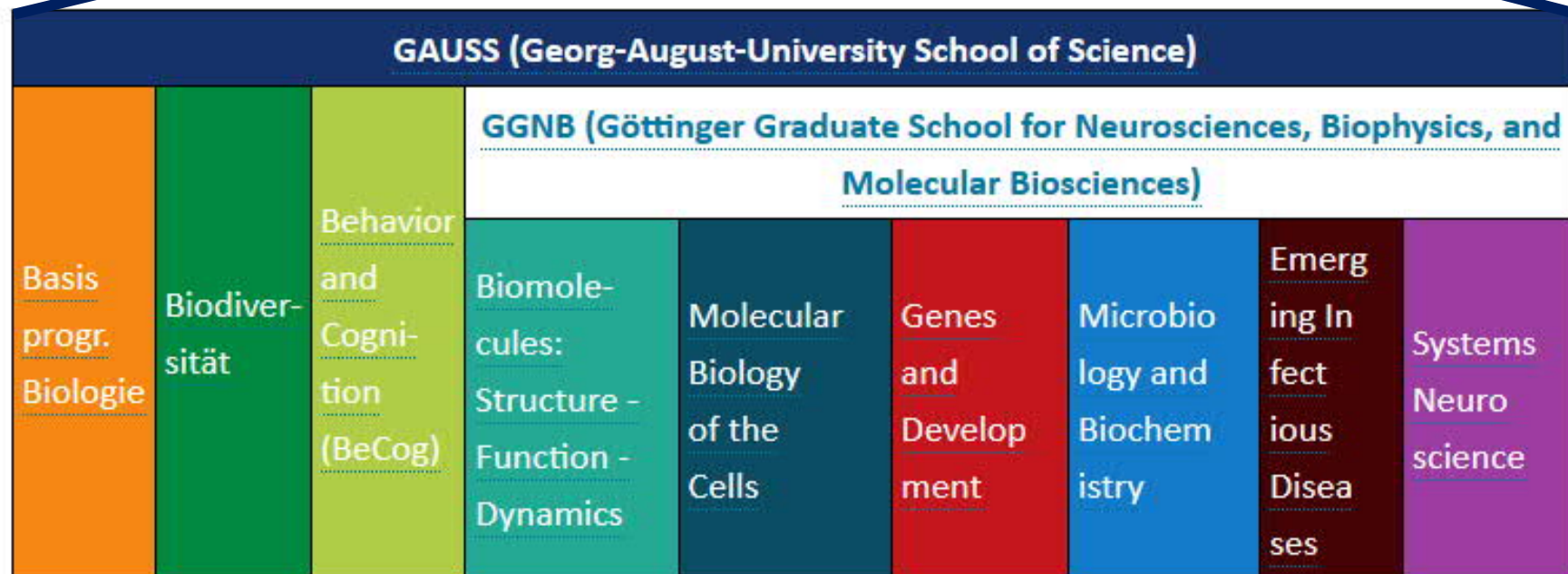
# Formalities

- Which programme?
- Admission requirements
- Application procedure
- Thesis committee
- Credits
- Duration
- Enrollment at UniGö

# Programmes of Biology

Depends on the affiliation of your supervisor

RerNat-O (2018)



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# Admission requirements

- completed Master's degree (or eligible degree)
- Master thesis in mathematics or natural science (min. 6 month)

# Application procedure

- See webpage of each programme:

Biology - Basic programme: Dr. Anke Schürer

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/415855.html>

Biodiversity: PD Dr. Dirk Gansert

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/37268.html>

Behaviour & Cognition: Dr. Rebecca Jürgens

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/217295.html>

GGNB: Michaela Wasmuth

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/415855.html>

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# Thesis Advisory committee (TAC)

## ➤ 3 members

- first supervisor: listed in the respective programme
- second supervisor: GAUSS admission or individual examination accreditation necessary (not in the same working group as first supervisor)
- third supervisor (PhD)

Check on GAUSS webpage:

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/577092.html>



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## TAC meetings

- regulary reports
- presentation on the progress of the project
- organized by the Phd student itself
- at least once a year
- first progress report ca. 6 month after beginning

## Good to know:

- Duration: three years + extension possible (2 x 6 month)
- Enrollment: as PhD student registered at the university the whole period of a dissertation
- Credits: at least 20 C according to the regulations of the programme

for example:

- colloquia & seminars
- teaching
- conferences & symposia (poster, talk)
- key competence courses
- lab courses
- mandatory: seminar „good scientific practice“

# GGNB

## Application and Admission Process(es)

## Apply for a PhD project in GGNB

- no application deadlines - PhD projects can start throughout the year
- eligible to apply to GGNB if:
  - already secured a doctoral position with a GGNB faculty member; apply within max. 3 months after the start of the PhD project, or
  - successfully established contact to a GGNB faculty member who has expressed an interest in your application; apply up to 4 months before the planned start of the PhD project

## GGNB programs

The program depends on the GGNB affiliation(s) of your supervisor and the topic of your PhD project.

Simplified admission procedure possible for

### FROM MSC TO PHD

Biomolecules: Structure - Function  
Dynamics

Molecular Biology of Cells

Genes and Development

Microbiology and Biochemistry

Emerging Infectious Diseases

International Research Training Group  
2172 - PRoTECT

IMPRS Physics of Biological and Complex  
Systems

Cellular and Molecular Physiology of the  
Brain

Sensory and Motor Neuroscience

Systems Neuroscience

Theoretical and Computational  
Neuroscience

IMPRS Genome Science

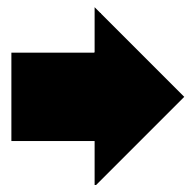
Molecular Medicine

## Two ways to admission:

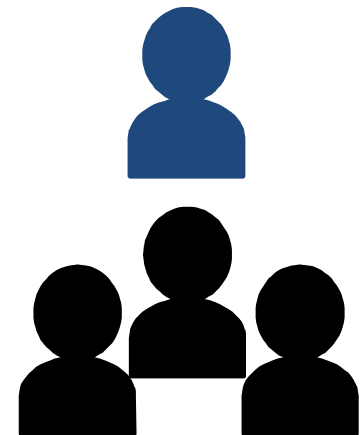
### a) Regular procedure:

„Master's degree“ with very good grades in the natural sciences or mathematics, including a Master's thesis with a minimum duration of six months

For MSc degrees from abroad, faculties may request the fulfillment of add. requirements before the admission to doctoral studies



admission talk in front of three members  
of the respective program

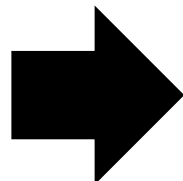


Two ways to admission:

b) „Vereinfachtes Verfahren“ (simplified procedure):

Done your Master's in Göttingen and overall score < 2,0 in

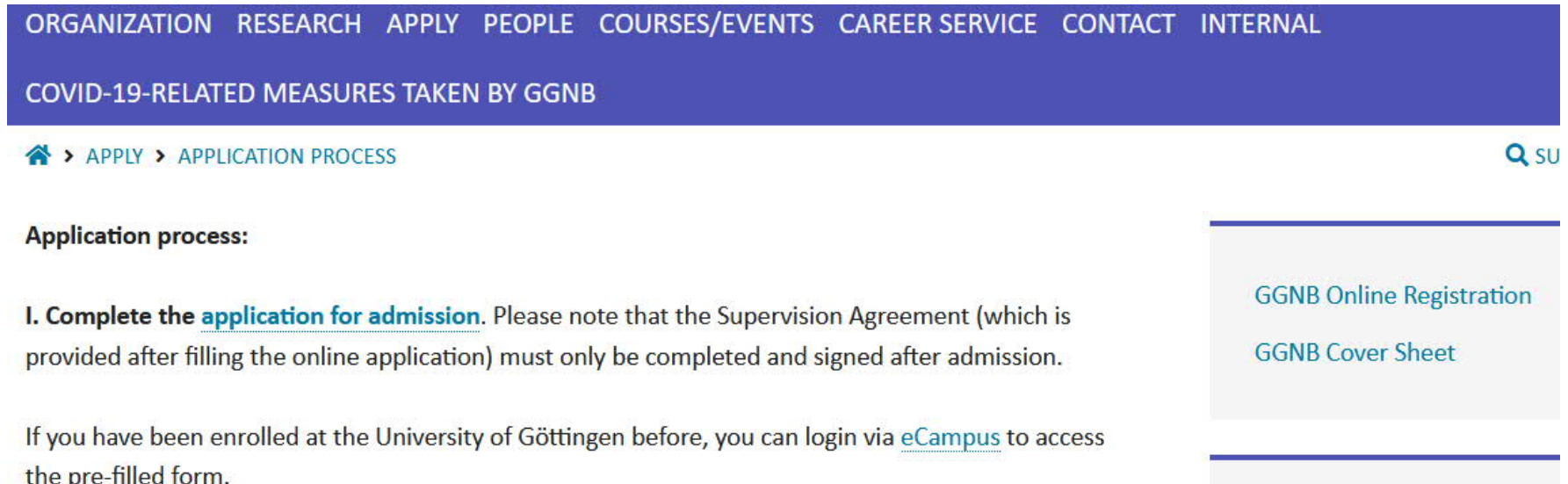
- „Developmental Neural and Behavioral Biology“
- „Molecular Life Sciences“
- „Molecular Biology“
- „Neurosciences“

 interview with one of your TAC members  
(who is not your supervisor)



## How to apply?

1) Complete the application form on our GGNB website:



The screenshot shows the GGNB website navigation menu with 'APPLY' highlighted. Below the menu, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'HOME > APPLY > APPLICATION PROCESS'. The main heading is 'Application process:'. The content includes two steps: a) 'I. Complete the [application for admission](#). Please note that the Supervision Agreement (which is provided after filling the online application) must only be completed and signed after admission.' and b) 'If you have been enrolled at the University of Göttingen before, you can login via [eCampus](#) to access the pre-filled form.' On the right side, there are two links: 'GGNB Online Registration' and 'GGNB Cover Sheet'.

ORGANIZATION RESEARCH **APPLY** PEOPLE COURSES/EVENTS CAREER SERVICE CONTACT INTERNAL

COVID-19-RELATED MEASURES TAKEN BY GGNB

[Home](#) > [APPLY](#) > [APPLICATION PROCESS](#) [Search](#) SU

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[GGNB Online Registration](#)  
[GGNB Cover Sheet](#)



## II) Have documents ready to upload:

- Master and Bachelor certificates and transcripts
- Statement by supervisor
- English proficiency certificates
- short abstract of your PhD thesis (1/2-1 page)  
(if you apply for Molecular Biology of Cells, Cellular and Molecular Physiology of the Brain or Systems Neuroscience)

## Office(s) processing your application:

- GGNB: Michaela Wasmuth, Justus-von-Liebig-Weg 11, rooms 0.226a/b, [ggnb@gwdg.de](mailto:ggnb@gwdg.de) (all applications except for programs below)
  - PBCS: Am Fassberg 11, tower 6, rooms E17.1 and E20  
[imprs-pbcs@gwdg.de](mailto:imprs-pbcs@gwdg.de)
  - Genome Science: Am Fassberg 11, tower 4, room 2.04  
[imprs-gs@gwdg.de](mailto:imprs-gs@gwdg.de) (application deadline!)
  - Molecular Medicine: Robert-Koch-Str. 40, Level 1 D1 room 211  
[sekretariat.molmed@med.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:sekretariat.molmed@med.uni-goettingen.de)

## Contact (currently):

- E-mail, (phone)
- Office hours: by appointment only