Göttingen gets new International Max Planck Research School for Genome Science

In fall this year, the International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Genome Science will start at the Göttingen Campus. It is a cooperation between the University of Göttingen and four Max Planck Institutes (MPI) – the MPI for Biophysical Chemistry, for Dynamics and Self-Organization, and for Experimental Medicine in Göttingen as well as the MPI for Molecular Genetics in Berlin. Additionally, the German Primate Center, the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases, and the Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Datenverarbeitung Göttingen participate in the new research school. The doctoral program combines state-of-the-art techniques in experimental and computational life sciences to train young researchers in the interdisciplinary field of genome science. Interested students with suitable qualification can apply until April 15th, 2017.

Over the last decade, technical progress has accelerated data acquisition in the molecular life sciences. In particular, the development of so-called high-throughput technologies applied to characterize genomes and their cellular products has led to a massive increase in the amount of data generated per experiment. The teaching program aims at qualifying young scientists for the analysis of large data sets and research at the interface between experimental and theoretical disciplines in genome science. To this end, the students will get to know different fields of research during their studies, including experimental disciplines like genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and bioimaging as well as important theoretical disciplines, such as stochastics, theoretical physics, bioinformatics, and computational biology.

“Our doctoral program provides visibility to genome science and allows us to implement innovative ideas for interdisciplinary research. For example, PhD students will have the option to collaborate and tackle a scientific question using complementary experimental and computational approaches. Thereby, they will be supervised by two faculty members, who cover both fields,” says Patrick Cramer, spokesperson of the IMPRS for Genome Science and Director at the MPI for Biophysical Chemistry.

The new doctoral program is the fifth IMPRS located at the Göttingen Campus. There, it will be embedded into a well-established and successful organizational structure provided by the Georg Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry.
August University School of Science (GAUSS) and the Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences, Biophysics, and Molecular Biosciences (GGNB). Further, the Faculty of Biology and Psychology, the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Physics, and the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of the University of Göttingen are involved in the doctoral training.

The doctoral program seeks for talented graduate students from Germany and abroad holding a diploma or Master’s degree in the life sciences, mathematics, computer sciences, statistics, physics, or a related field. It admits up to ten doctoral students annually, enabling them to complete their PhD within three years. Theoretical and methods training is complemented by regular mentoring and a lecture series on genome sciences. In addition, students can participate in seminars and courses for communication and presentation techniques or project and team management. They are further encouraged to organize lectures with external speakers or annual symposia. The program language is English.

About the International Max Planck Research Schools
Since 2000, the Max Planck Society, in cooperation with Universities in Germany, is building up a network of doctoral programs, the "International Max Planck Research Schools" (IMPRS). The joint program’s aim is to recruit and promote excellent junior researchers from Germany and abroad. It offers both structured scientific training as well as excellent research opportunities. On average, more than 60 percent of the IMPRS stipends available have been awarded to international students. Currently, there are 60 IMPRS Germany-wide.

Further information

imprs-gs.uni-goettingen.de – Website of the IMPRS for Genome Science
www.mpg.de/en/imprs – Website of the Max Planck Society about the IMPRS

Contact
Prof. Dr. Patrick Cramer, spokesperson of the IMPRS for Genome Science
Dr. Henriette Irmer, program coordinator
International Max Planck Research School for Genome Science
Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany
phone: +49 551 201-2821
e-mail:limprs-gs@mpibpc.mpg.de

The IMPRS for Genome Science combines experimental and computational methods in their doctoral training. (Image: IMPRS for Genome Science)