

Welcome to the online application system of the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research



The next few pages will guide you through the details of the application process for the 2019 Student Selection. Please read these instructions carefully and additionally make use of the information we provide via email. We receive several hundred applications and cannot answer individual questions that have been previously answered in the available instructional material. Address any open questions to gradschool@mpipz.mpg.de and **good luck** with your application!

To use our application platform, you first have to register an account by providing your name, email address and a login name. Please choose an email address **that you frequently check** as we might want to individually get in touch during the selection procedure.

Start

Register

Login

Register for Online Application

Before you can enter your application, you need to register with the online application system.

Title, first name, surname: First name Surname

Email:

Login name:

All personal data such as your name, gender, contact information and academic history that you provide during the application process is treated confidentially and is electronically stored to process your application and to potentially establish your employment. Your personal data is deleted once it is no longer needed for the application process and for a maximum of 18 months. You agree with this and our data policy by continuing with your registration.

REGISTER

Agreeing to our data policy is **necessary** to register

Within a few minutes, you should receive an automatically generated email that reads like this:

Your registration with the online application system Inbox x



Graduate School

to me ▾

11:22 (0 minutes ago)



Dear Mr. John Doe,

Thank you for registering as an applicant to the MPIPZ.

You can login at https://gradschool.mpipz.mpg.de/intern/login_login_for.php using the following name and password:

Login name: JohnD2019

Password: XXXXXXXXXX

After successful login, you will find a data entry panel specifying all the information and documents needed for a complete application.

If you experience any problems during your online application, don't hesitate to contact us at: gradschool@mpipz.mpg.de

Best regards,
Stephan

You can now login to the application system with your chosen login name and the password we provided via email.

General Introduction

-  Use the **pen symbol** to make edits in each section
-  Use the **back symbol** to go to the previous page
-  Use the **disc symbol** to save your changes. Changes will also be saved when logging out.
-  Use the **add page** symbol to add an item in each section

Entries marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory

Comments on the individual sections

Personal data

Personal data:

Submission date: 

Picture: 

Application no: 

Surname: Doe

Middle name:

First name: John

Title: Mr.

Email*: john.doe@provider.com

Street*: Park Street 1

Postal code / city*: 12345 Kingston

Country*: Jamaica

Date of birth*: 10 Oct, 1995

Nationality*: Jamaican

Second nationality:

Phone (home)*: +1876 12345 67890

Phone (work):

Phone (mobile):

Skype: john.doe

Alternative email:

Country, I will travel from, if I am invited to attend the PhD interviews*: Jamaica

Academic history

Doe, John

Academic history:

Please provide details of your academic career. Specify at least details of your bachelor (or equivalent) or master (or equivalent) studies. If you have not completed your master (or equivalent) studies, please provide the expected end date.

Aug, 2017 - Aug, 2019 Master of Science

University / college: University of Kingston
Jamaica

Name of degree in English: Master of Science

Name of degree in original language: Master of Science in Plant Breeding

Grade: 3.7 out of (best possible): 4.0

Thesis title: Genetic Diversity in an Island Population of Very Interesting Plants

Thesis advisor: Professor John D Miller

Use the **add page** symbol for each course of studies

Please use **accurate** names throughout the application

Jun, 2014 - Jun, 2017 Bachelor of Science

University / college: University of Kingston
Jamaica

Name of degree in English: Bachelor of Science

Name of degree in original language: Bachelor of Science in Molecular Plant Biology

Grade: 3.8 out of (best possible): 4.0

Thesis title: Mapping of Two Genes for Drought Resistance

Thesis advisor: Professor John D Miller

Master research

Master thesis / research project:

Start date*: Aug, 2017

(Expected) End date*: Aug, 2019

Where did research take place*: 'Plant Cell Biology Lab' at the University of Kingston

Name & affiliation of research project supervisor*: John D Miller

Plant Cell Biology Lab, University of Kingston, Park Street 10, Kingston, Jamaica
johndmiller@unikingston.com

Please use your own words to describe the significance and aim of your master (or equivalent) research project in up to 2500 characters.*

This is my research description.

Fields marked with an * are mandatory.

Please clearly indicate **your contribution** to the project

Additional experience

Employment and/or additional research:

Please list any employments and additional research stays (e.g. student helper positions or lab internships) with relevance to your application.

No employment / additional research filled in

Honours / awards

Honours, publications and awards:

Publications: Doe J & Miller JD (2016) Flowering time QTL in caribbean populations of *Arabidopsis thaliana*. The Plant Magazine 109:1314-17. DOI: 10.1111/tpm.12345

Honours and awards: First poster prize at the 'Caribbean Plant Conference' (2016)

Travel grants and scholarships: Travel grant of the Caribbean Society of Plant Biologists to join the 'Caribbean Plant Conference' (2016)

Fellowships: Junior member of the Caribbean Society of Plant Biologists

Please provide information **relevant** to your application

Outside interests

Outside interests:

Please list your hobbies and social activities (e.g. services, tutor activities, or active participation in aid organisations, student organisations, political parties, churches). Please do not exceed 1000 characters.

Please provide information **relevant** to your application

Research interest

Research interest:

Please choose up to three subjects that you are interested in and inform us in which corresponding methods you have been trained before

Subject 1*: Genetics

Methods*: Linkage and QTL mapping, genome-wide association studies

Subject 2: Molecular Biology

Methods: DNA isolation, cloning (conventional, modular cloning, Gibson assembly, Gateway), (quantitative) PCR

Subject 3: Bioinformatics

Methods: Statistical analyses using R and SPSS, familiar with Python, basic knowledge of Java and C++

Choose subjects that you are **particularly interested in**

Only name methods which you are **really familiar with**

Please name three available projects (see: <http://www.mpipz.mpg.de/imprs/proposals-2019>) in order of preference.

First preferred project*:

Second preferred project*:

Third preferred project*:

Use this and links therein to **familiarise** yourself with the available projects

Please indicate your scientific interests with three to five relevant key-words.

Keywords*: *Arabidopsis*, natural variation, drought

Letter of motivation

Letter of motivation:

Please give a short summary of your scientific interests and future plans and explain your motivation for these. Furthermore, please provide information about why you would like to join the IMPRS or the MPIPZ and which research groups you are interested in. Please do not exceed 2500 characters.

This is my letter of motivation.

Tell us how your scientific interest fit to your preferred research projects and future plans within the IMPRS program. A **well-tailored** statement greatly increases your chances of being selected.

Referees

The request for writing a letter of recommendation has not yet been sent.

Please note that the request for writing a letter of recommendation on your behalf will be sent out to the indicated referee as soon as you have filled in his/her title, name, email address, affiliation and phone number, i.e. you should check the relevant email address beforehand for correctness and be sure that the referee is available (neither on holiday nor on a longer business trip) since there is no possibility for you to change your referee.

Name and title: Prof. John D Miller

Email:

Institution: University of Kingston

Department: Department of Breeding Genetics

Country: Jamaica

Phone: +1876 67890 12345

Your relation to referee: Professor Miller supervised my Master's thesis

Once you press the **disc symbol** To save your changes, your referee Will be contacted by email

The request for writing a letter of recommendation was sent on [REDACTED].

An email with the request for writing a letter of recommendation was sent to the referee, but he hasn't written one yet. Please remember that it will take some time to do that, but make sure that your referee will be finished until [REDACTED].

[Reset referee's data](#) | [Resend request to referee](#) | [Access recommendation form](#)

Once your referee has send his or her recommendation letter, you will see this in your application

The request for writing a letter of recommendation was sent on [REDACTED].

The referee has submitted a letter of recommendation on [REDACTED].

[Reset referee's data](#) | [Access recommendation form](#)

Supplementary info.

Supplementary information:

- I have previously worked, or am currently working at the MPI (please tick the box). If yes, please provide details:

Proof of English: TOEFL

Score: 104

How did you first hear about this programme*:

Your feedback here is much appreciated, thank you!

Fields marked with an * are mandatory.

Documents

Documents:

Supported file format is PDF with a file size of up to 3 MBytes.

Please provide certificates/transcripts of your Bachelor's degree and the current status of your current studies towards a Master's degree.

All Categories (3)	Proof of english (0)	High school (1/1)	Bachelor (1/1)
Master (1/1)	Transcript (0)		
 High School Certificate	High school	16 Dec, 2017 505 kByte 22:56	
 Master Certificate	Master	16 Dec, 2017 505 kByte 22:56	
 Bachelor Certificate	Bachelor	16 Dec, 2017 505 kByte 22:35	

General Recommendations

If you struggle obtaining required documents such as certificates, get in touch with the MPIPZ PhD office (gradschool@mpipz.mpg.de) **before** submitting your application.

Use your application to convince us of your **personality**. It is impossible to judge a person based on certificates and grades, so please use free text fields such as the 'Letter of motivation' to highlight creativity, teamwork and other strengths.

Where indicated, **do not exceed the character limits**.

Tailor the application **to your future plans** within the IMPRS program. Information on the institute and its individual research groups is widely available and could be referred to in the free text fields such as the 'Letter of motivation' and 'Master research' description.

Make sure that your **referees know you well**. A detailed recommendation letter from a less renowned scientist is generally more helpful than a vague letter from a more famous colleague.

Do not try to **hide** potential '**weaknesses**' such as age (too young/too old) or experience in a particular field (too much/too little). Everybody has them and we appreciate honesty over everything.

Do not cheat. We have received falsified documents such as certificates in the past and thoroughly check them using appropriate tools. Such an incident will not only result in a rejection of your application but will also be communicated.

Once you are invited for the Selection Symposium, **prepare your talk** carefully and practice it with friends or colleagues to receive fair criticism. As the schedule on presentation day is tight, you will absolutely need to stick to the time limit.

In the interviews, you will not only be asked about your scientific background but we also want to get to know you as a person. Be **open and honest** about your future plans and do not answer according to what you think we might want to hear.

Use the invite to Cologne to **get to know people** at the institute and ask them about their personal experiences.