

Berlin
Mathematical
School



The Excellent Graduate Center

Offers for BMS students

Mentoring, Language Courses,
Soft-Skills Training/BMS Workshops,
Financial Support for Conferences,
Summer Schools, Lounges and
Computer Pools, Office Spaces,
Support for Students with Children,
Buddy Program, Sports Courses,
Cultural Events

Mentoring

The mentoring process at BMS is designed to identify at an early stage any difficulties that may arise during the study program, in order to provide additional support and take corrective measures.

During Phase I, each student will be assigned a mentor from the BMS faculty. The mentor:

- advises the student on his/her study and follows its success
- meets with the student on a regular basis to evaluate the progress made
- consults with the lecturers and tutors of the courses taken.

After each semester, students must write a short report on their activities. These reports form the basis for discussion with the mentor and are then forwarded to the BMS executive board.

During Phase II, students continue to have a mentor, besides the thesis advisor. While your advisor supports you concerning progress on the PhD thesis, choosing the right conferences and publishing articles, your mentor can

- guide you concerning career planning and networking
- give you a second opinion
- help in case of e.g. communication problems with your advisor.

The mentor must be a member of the BMS faculty and should not be a member of your research group but it is quite reasonable if he/she works in the same field.

Language Courses

For international students who don't yet speak German, BMS will cover the cost of one preparatory language course (60 hours of German as foreign language, "Deutsch als Fremdsprache", aka "DaF") to be taken before the start of the first semester. If there is sufficient interest from students, we will offer a special BMS DaF course, starting in September, 4 to 6 weeks before the beginning of the semester.

Depending on our budget, support may be available for an additional language course (during the semester break) for international students who are already here. Language classes taken during the semester cannot be supported by BMS.

Soft-Skills Training/BMS Workshops

BMS offers workshops on “soft skills“, non-mathematical things that are helpful for a career in mathematics. The workshops usually take place on Friday mornings (before the BMS Friday Colloquium) or on weekends. So far, there have been workshops on communication and negotiation, time management, and intercultural communication. Other possible topics include academic presentation and writing skills, career planning, leadership skills, conflict management, networking, work-life-balance, moderation, etc. Please let us know which of these topics would be of interest to you!

Lounges and Computer Pools

There are BMS Lounges at the FU, HU and TU. These lounges serve as meeting places for BMS students: to relax, discuss ideas over coffee, and meet the staff of the One-Stop Office during our rotating office hours. BMS students have computer access at all three universities. Please let us know if you would like to use the computers and need an account.

Office Space/Study Rooms

The BMS provides office space and study rooms to students at all three universities. Please come and talk to us, if you would like to use them.



Summer Schools

BMS will regularly sponsor Summer Schools, concentrated periods of lectures on specific mathematical topics. Our first summer school “Mathematics of Multiscale Phenomena“ took place at FU Berlin in September 1-12, 2008. In 2009 the “Moduli“ Summer School will take place at the HU Berlin.

If you have an idea or a specific academic interest which you would like to cover more deeply but have no time for during the semester, come and talk to us! We are looking for your input, and may be able to turn your idea into the next BMS Summer School.

Financial Support for Conferences

BMS encourages students (in both Phase I and Phase II) to attend mathematical conferences! To help you do so, BMS will cover registration fees and travel costs for one conference over the course of Phase I, and one conference per year during Phase II. Or maybe even more, if sufficient funds are available.





Support for Students with Children

We will work to accommodate students with children and students who are pregnant. Individual solutions will be found: You can take a break or study with a reduced load (part-time, etc.). It is all up to you! We will find a way to cover your individual needs as a parent.

In order to cover part of the costs associated with childcare the BMS will augment the BMS scholarship by a flat rate of 150 Euro per month for each child in the care of a BMS student. TU, FU and HU Berlin have suitable rooms for parents with small children. There are also daycare facilities on campus. Tanja Fagel, the Gender & Diversity Officer, will help you in all matters associated with childcare. She will support you in finding help both for regular daytime hours and for selected evenings or weekends.

Especially for Women

BMS offers informal meetings for our female students, with the intention of exchanging experiences and mutual assistance. Before each Kovalevskaya lecture there will be a lunch with the opportunity to talk to an outstanding woman mathematician about career paths, opportunities and perspectives.



Buddy Program

BMS offers a buddy program to welcome new students to Berlin. Their buddy might e.g. pick them up at the airport when they first arrive, and help them find their way around the city. Please consider volunteering to be a buddy!

Sports Courses

All three universities offer a wide variety of sports to their students at very reasonable prices or in some cases for free. The universities' sports websites (below) are in German; the One-Stop Office can help you find suitable courses.

<http://www.tu-sport.de/>

<http://www.hs-sport.fu-berlin.de/>

<http://www.zeh.hu-berlin.de/sportarten>

Cultural Events

The One-Stop Office can also help with advice on Berlin's cultural life. Ask us or have a look at these websites for information (in English) about Berlin, concerts, theatres, cinemas, bars, restaurants, etc.:

<http://www.exberliner.net/cityguide/>

<http://www.berlin.de/english/>

<http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de/index.en.php>

Contact

Please keep in mind:

We're there to help you! Just come by, give us a call, or send us an e-mail; we'll do what we can to help out, solve problems, give advice, or just listen to your ideas!

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