

Foreword

The purpose of this Guidebook is to prepare students for study in Berlin at the Berlin Mathematical School (BMS). It is unofficial and should not be read legalistically. It outlines the requirements for study in Berlin and describes the services provided by the BMS program and the Berlin universities. Specific questions concerning the program should be addressed to the staff at the One-Stop Office.

It is very important for all new students to read over Section 5: Before you leave and Section 6: Upon Arrival in this Guidebook. Some international students are required to acquire visa-related documents prior to entry into Germany. For some countries, it is possible that procuring these documents take more time than is normally expected.

Other publications of interest to new students are the BMS Study Regulations and Mentoring Guidelines. These documents have been included in your welcome package and are also available online on our website.

The BMS Study Regulations explain the policies of the BMS and describe the study program and your academic responsibilities as a graduate student in the BMS. The Mentoring Guidelines provide information about the BMS mentoring program. Your welcome package will also include information about the mentor we've initially assigned for you.

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with our website. In particular, you can find program information for both Phase I and Phase II students in the section for Current Students. There is also a listing of BMS courses offered each semester in Academics.

If there is any doubt regarding the interpretation of any information provided in this Guidebook, or if there are questions about the graduate program involving matters not covered here, please consult the One-Stop Office or send an email to office@math-berlin.de.

We look forward to welcoming you in Berlin!
The One-Stop-Office Team.

14 February 2011

Table of Contents

Welcome from the Chairs	4
1. The Berlin Mathematical School	5
1.1 BMS Fridays	5
1.2 Kovalevskaya Lunch	6
1.3 "What is ...?" Seminar	6
1.4 Mentoring	6
1.5 Soft-Skill Seminars	6
1.6 Diversity	7
1.7 Buddy Program	7
1.8 Support for Students with Children	7
1.9 BMS Student Representatives	8
2. Infrastructure	9
2.1 One-Stop Office	9
2.2 Lounges	9
2.3 Study Rooms	9
2.4 Financial Support for Conferences	10
2.5 Summer Schools	10
2.6 Language Courses	10
2.7 Sports Courses	10
2.8. Music	10
3. German Higher Education System	11
3.1 Course Programs and Timetables	11
3.2 Types of Courses	11
3.3 Advisory Services	11
4. The Berlin Universities	14
5. Before you leave	16
5.1 Overview – Application and Registration for BMS Students	16
5.2 Visa	17
5.3 Proof of Financing	17
5.4 Don't forget... ..	18
5.5 Accommodation	18
5.6 Cost of Living	20
6. Upon arrival	21
6.1 Residence Registration and Residency Permit	21
6.2 Health Insurance	22
6.3 Paying Standard Charges	23
6.4 Enrollment	23
6.5 Bank Account	24
6.6 Computer Accounts	24
6.7 Mensa Card	26
6.8 Campus Card (Libraries)	26
7. General facts about Germany	27
8. Berlin at a glance	28
9. Useful addresses and telephone numbers	34
Publishing Information	35

Dear new BMS student,

Berlin is an excellent place to study mathematics.

You realized that when you applied to the BERLIN MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL (BMS), the graduate school of Berlin's three universities – Freie Universität, Humboldt-Universität, and Technische Universität. The BMS was established in 2006 with the goal to enter into competition with great role models such as the prestigious American universities, which the founders of the BMS had themselves experienced as doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. So we designed a complete graduate school where students who have completed a first degree (bachelor or equivalent) can set their sights directly on advanced graduate studies and accelerated completion of a doctoral degree.

Since October 2006, the BERLIN MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL has been building toward that goal with funding from the federal and state governments' "Initiative for Excellence". With its support, the BMS offers a wide range of opportunities to its students and create outstanding conditions for study. At the BMS, "conditions for study" means providing not only scholarships, but also the working environment at the three universities, supervision, and mentoring. Each of the three universities has a BMS area with its own lounge (including a coffee machine!) as a gathering place for students. BMS professors look after students individually as advisors and dialogue partners, helping them to find the best way through the manifold opportunities of the Berlin mathematics landscape. Women in particular should find special encouragement on their mathematics career path. You are one of many students of mathematics from all over the world who are coming to the BMS to benefit from the diverse research environment in Berlin.

The One-Stop Office at TU Berlin advises students on matters ranging from the BMS application process to visa, housing, and child-care, all the way to applying for post-doc positions. The Guidebook you are holding in your hands right now is part of the advising service and will help you in planning the next steps before you start at the BMS. The One-Stop Office will be happy to help you to answer any questions you may still have after reading this Guidebook.

We look forward to teaching you, working with you, and helping you to build a successful career in mathematics. Welcome to Berlin!

Prof. Dr. Jürg Kramer
Prof. Dr. Konrad Polthier
Prof. Dr. John M. Sullivan
Nadja Wisniewski

