



Bonn-Cologne Graduate School
of Physics and Astronomy

Welcome to the BCGS!

The Bonn-Cologne Graduate School of Physics and Astronomy welcomes you for your Master's course. Enjoy and make the most of it! This note collects some information that you will find useful as you start your course.

By default, all physics and astronomy graduate students are members of the BCGS and can participate in all BCGS events, obtain funding for conferences and summer schools and as well as research trips, get support for German language classes, or take up research internships. (As research interns, students join a research group to undertake a research project of typically four weeks duration. Research internships are open to all MSc. students.)

Should you wish to opt out of being a BCGS member, please send us an email to gradschool.physics@uni-bonn.de.

PLEASE NOTE: Opting out of the BCGS means you accept that there won't be any financial help in any form (no stipend payments, no funding or allowances for summer schools, research trips, conferences, language courses etc.)

Our website <http://www.gradschool.physics.uni-bonn.de/>

provides regularly updated information about various subjects such as:

- Practical information and links about German classes, housing etc. (see: Student Life)
- Contact information for participating and cooperating institutions (see: Contact)
- Links to internships, course content and lecture courses (see: Teaching)

You are welcome (and indeed encouraged) to attend courses at either university. Credit points are freely transferable.

Mentoring Agreement

Independent of the Scholarship Program, all BCGS students are entitled to participate in the BCGS Mentoring Program. If you are not part of the Scholarship Program but wish to participate in the Mentoring Program, please contact us via email at gradschool.physics@uni-bonn.de.

As a Scholarship holder, participation is expected. All necessary information will be provided via separate email.

Honors Certificate

The BCGS offers a BCGS Honors Certificate for the best students after finishing their MSc in Physics or Astrophysics at the University of Bonn or Cologne. The BCGS Honors Certificate can be earned by any student and is independent of the BCGS Scholarship Program.

The BCGS Honors Certificate cannot be issued automatically. Thus, students have to apply for it at the BCGS office of their university after submitting their Master's thesis. To receive the BCGS certificate the following requirements have to be met:

- The Master's studies have to be finished within 5 semesters. Exceptions can be granted, if the delay is not caused by the student. Please contact the BCGS office at your university to discuss individual reasons for exceptions.
- The final mark for the Master's degree must be 1.5 or better.
- At least 126 ECTS have to be obtained, i.e. 6 ECTS more than necessary for a regular MSc.
- Participation in a BCGS research internship before the start of the Master's thesis.
- Presentation of a poster (or something equivalent) in a BCGS symposium. This presentation should typically take place towards the end of the research phase, shortly before finishing the Master's thesis.
- Participation in at least one course at the partner university is required. Such a course can be in the form of an Intensive Week.

Students who fulfill the above requirements can apply for the BCGS Honors Certificate to the BCGS office via e-mail. The final academic transcript and documentation of the research internship have to be submitted.

Office Hours and Contact Information

Office Hours (valid during times of no contact restrictions, check BCGS website for updates):

9:00 – 12:00 Monday – Friday

13:00 - 16:00 Wednesday

Please send all questions via email to gradschool.physics@uni-bonn.de by addressing the responsible person and specifying your issue:

All BCGS-related questions regarding your MSc/student life/your documents/BCGS Membership: **Isabela Fox**

All BCGS-related questions regarding your PhD/finances/stipends/travel allowances: **Johanna Echternach**