Master Cognitive Science

How to Apply

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Master Cognitive Science (MSC):
https://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/philosophy/mcs/

Center for Mind and Cognition (CMC):
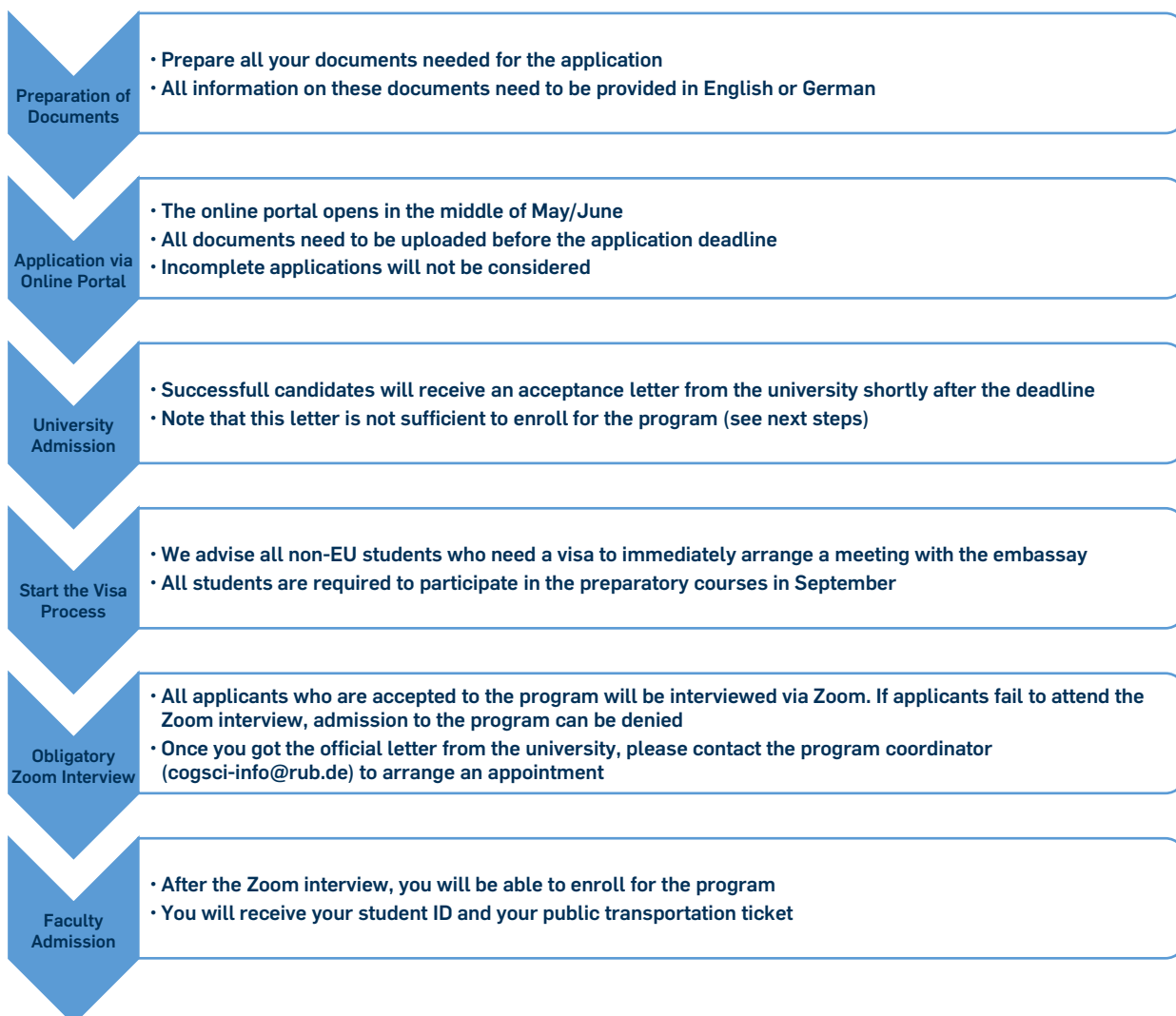https://philosophy-cognition.com/cmc/

General Information

Applications are possible every year for the **winter semester** which starts in **October**. Applications for the summer semester are not possible. Please further note that students can only start the program in October. This means that in case of successful application, students will be required to start the program no later than October.

The **application deadline** is **15th of July** of each year. The online portal opens between mid-May and mid-June. It will guide you through the process and specify which documents have to be uploaded and which format should be used to do so.

The application process consists of the following steps. Please consult the list of requirements below for further information.

Preparation of Documents
- Prepare all your documents needed for the application
- All information on these documents need to be provided in English or German

Application via Online Portal
- The online portal opens in the middle of May/June
- All documents need to be uploaded before the application deadline
- Incomplete applications will not be considered

University Admission
- Successfull candidates will receive an acceptance letter from the university shortly after the deadline
- Note that this letter is not sufficient to enroll for the program (see next steps)

Start the Visa Process
- We advise all non-EU students who need a visa to immediately arrange a meeting with the embassay
- All students are required to participate in the preparatory courses in September

Obligatory Zoom Interview
- All applicants who are accepted to the program will be interviewed via Zoom. If applicants fail to attend the Zoom interview, admission to the program can be denied
- Once you got the official letter from the university, please contact the program coordinator (cogsci-info@rub.de) to arrange an appointment

Faculty Admission
- After the Zoom interview, you will be able to enroll for the program
- You will receive your student ID and your public transportation ticket

Step 1: Preparation of Documents

Once the application portal is opened, it will require you to upload the following documents:

1. A certified copy of your original degree in German or English. If your university does not provide an English version of your transcript, it needs to be translated by a certified translator into either German or English.

2. A certified copy of your transcript of records covering all courses, grades and credit points obtained, including an average grade of all obtained courses. If your transcript does not show ECTS credits or no credits at all, your workload will be converted to ECTS credits accordingly as part of the evaluation process.

3. Evidence of English language proficiency (see Language Requirements).

Please note that we cannot accept letters of recommendation, be it academic or professional. Please do not attach such documents. We would like to further ask you to refrain from submitting letters of motivation, as we cannot consider them in the decision-making process.

Step 2: Application via Online Portal

The online portal opens between the middle of May and middle of June of each year. All applicants are required to submit digital copies of their required documents. Please do not send in hard copies at any time.

All documents need to be uploaded before the application deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered. This includes your bachelor's diploma. If you have not yet received the diploma certificate but completed your studies, you can still apply. In this case, please provide an official document from your department that testifies that you have completed **all** course work, received **all** credit points and marks, and **finished** the program. This document must further specify the **final mark** with which you have passed.

Step 3: University Admission

Successful candidates will receive an acceptance letter from the university shortly after the deadline, most likely at the beginning of August. Please note that this letter is not sufficient to enroll for the program (see next steps).

Step 4: Start the Visa Process

We strongly advise all non-EU students who need a visa to immediately apply for an appointment with the Embassy. It might take some time before you receive an appointment. However, we cannot accept late arrivals. For this reason, we recommend that you do not waste time.

Step 5: Mandatory Zoon Interview

All applicants who are accepted to the program will be interviewed via Zoom by the program coordinator. Note that *all and only* those applicants will be interviewed, and no interviews are offered to those applicants who were denied access to the program. Once you got the official letter from the university, please contact the program coordinator (cogsci-info@rub.de) to arrange a Zoom interview.

If applicants fail to attend the Zoom interview, admission to the program can be denied.

Step 6: Faculty Admission

After the successful Zoom interview, you will be admitted to the program and may officially enroll for the program. Please note that in very rare cases, we might deny access to the program on the basis of the Zoom interview. This might happen if, for instance, the applicant's actual language skills or academic background are significantly below expectations.

Preparatory Courses

In the mandatory interviews, you will be assigned to preparatory courses based on your academic background. Those courses will start at the middle of **September**. All students are required to participate in the preparatory courses and admission to the program can be denied of students fail to attend them.

Admission Requirements

Professional and Academic Competence: The minimal condition for application is a bachelor's degree from a university inside the EU with at least 180 ECTS or an equivalent degree from outside the EU. The following subjects are considered relevant for the program:

- ❖ Cognitive Science
- ❖ Psychology
- ❖ Philosophy with a strong focus on analytic philosophy, especially philosophy of mind (at least 15 ECTS)
- ❖ Neuroscience
- ❖ Informatics/Information Technology
- ❖ Linguistics
- ❖ Mathematics
- ❖ Biology with a focus on Neurobiology or Bio-Informatics or similar topics (at least 20 ECTS)

If the applicant's bachelor program consisted of two subjects, at least one of those subjects has to be considered relevant (see list above) and it must have been studied for at least 60 ECTS. The second subject has to provide at least 15 relevant ECTS.

Given previous experiences, we do normally not accept students with a bachelor's degree in programs of applied psychology (e.g. speech therapy, business psychology, sport psychology). We can also not accept students with a background in medicine, pharmacology or engineering without a strong focus on cognitive, mathematical, or software related aspects.

In case of doubt, please contact the program coordinator (cogsci-info@rub.de) for further information. Please attach your transcript of records in German or English to your email.

Language Requirements: The program is taught entirely in English. All students are required to provide proof of English proficiency. We require a proficiency level of at least B2+. German is not a requirement. Please read the following information concerning the language requirements carefully.

The following tests are accepted as proof of English proficiency:

- ❖ UNIcert II (grade 2.0 or better)
- ❖ IELTS 6.5 (with at least a 6.0 in all four sub-categories)
- ❖ TOEFL iBT 85 (with at least 18 in all four sub-categories)
- ❖ FCE (grade A or B, resp. C or B2)

Test certificates have to be uploaded by the applicant via the application portal. Do not send any hardcopies. We can only accept other language certificates if you can proof equivalency.

No test certificate is required if you are a citizen of the following countries

- ❖ Australia
- ❖ Canada (excluding Quebec)
- ❖ Ireland
- ❖ New Zealand
- ❖ United Kingdom
- ❖ United States of America

No test certificate is required if your bachelor degree complies with the following: the only medium of instruction was English, the program lasted for at least three years, your graduation dates back not more than two years. The uploaded document must explicitly indicate English as language of instruction.

German applicants need proof of English proficiency just as non-German applicants. The German Abitur does **not** count. Further, if your language of instruction in school was English, yet you do not fulfil any of the other conditions, you are still required to submit a language test.

Language certificates must not be older than two years at the final application day.

Language certificates are valid for four instead of two years, if one of the two conditions are fulfilled:

- ❖ In the last two years, the applicant studied for at least 6 months in an English program at an English-speaking university
- ❖ In the last two years, the applicant wrote an academic thesis (master, bachelor) in English to complete an academic program. The program need not have been conducted in English.

Further Information

Admission is denied to those who already have failed to complete a bachelor's or master's program in Cognitive Science (or a related subject) at a German University.

Unfortunately, we cannot consider working experience as a relevant background.

Please do not send a letter of motivation, CV or letters of recommendation. We cannot consider those documents.

Please take into account that this program is a full-time program which will require your undivided attention. It would be very difficult to combine this program with a part-time job or additional studies and there are more suitable academic programs or career options that will allow you to do so. If you are in the process of studying or intend to study another program simultaneously, we also advise you to reconsider your options. If you need advice concerning financial matters (e.g. grants or loans), please contact the International Office of the Ruhr University in advance.