

# Master Cognitive Science

## How to Apply

### Contact Information

**Prof. Dr. Jonas Rose**

Director of the Program

Email: [jonas.rose@rub.de](mailto:jonas.rose@rub.de)

Office: GA 04/48

Office Hours: on appointment

**Beate Krauß**

Email: [cogsci-info@rub.de](mailto:cogsci-info@rub.de)

Office: GA 04/47

Office Hours: Monday to Friday (09:00 – 15:00)

Phone: +49 (0)234 32 27136

### Websites

**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 **15<sup>th</sup> of July** of each year. The [online portal](#) opens in the beginning/middle of 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.



### 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. [Proof of fulfillment of academic admission requirements" for the M.Sc. Cognitive Science](#)
4. 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.

Further general information about the application for a Master's Program with restricted admission at the RUB can be found [here](#).

### Step 2: Application via Online Portal

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

To submit an application, you must first create an account in the new RUB application portal. After registration, you will receive a confirmation email to activate your account. Once activated, you can then proceed to submit your application request.

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.

Attention: Please note that the following information only applies to applicants from EU countries: If you have not yet fully completed your studies, an application is possible based on a transcript of records if **at least 150 out of 180** credit points have been earned in the Bachelor's program according to the study plan in a six-semester Bachelor's program or **at least 180 out of 210** credit points in a seven-semester Bachelor's program. In that case, a certificate issued by the university showing all examination achievements up to that point and showing an **average grade** must be submitted. The document must be **stamped and signed by the responsible examination office**, or alternatively must provide a **distinct electronic verification option**. Please note that the final certificate must be submitted by the time of enrollment (before the start of the semester – the deadline will be stated in your admission letter). Alternatively, if you have not yet received your final certificate, a confirmation of the respective examination office including signature, stamp and the date of graduation must be submitted.

### Step 3: University Admission

Successful candidates will receive an acceptance letter from the university after the deadline, most likely in 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 Zoom 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, you will be contacted 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.

## 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, epistemology or philosophy of science (at least 15 ECTS)
- ❖ Neuroscience
- ❖ Computer Science
- ❖ Linguistics
- ❖ Mathematics
- ❖ Biology with a focus on Neurobiology or Bioinformatics or similar topics (at least 20 ECTS)

Subjects that are not included in the list are considered relevant if they have a clear focus on cognitive science (e.g. neurobiology or neuroinformatics) or if they include courses amounting to 60 ECTS that are clearly related to cognitive sciences in terms of content.

If the Bachelor's program consists of two (or more) subjects, one of the relevant subjects listed above must have been completed to the extent of at least 60 ECTS; additionally in a second subject from the list, a minimum of 15 ECTS must be completed.

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.

The document ["Proof of fulfillment of academic admission requirements" for the M.Sc. Cognitive Science](#) is required for a complete application.

**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:

- ❖ UNlcert 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 hard copies. Language certificates must not be older than two years on the day of application. We can only accept other language certificates if you can prove 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's 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.

## Further Information

Admission is denied to those who already have failed to complete a 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 if you are an international applicant. German applicants can find information about study financing [here](#).