

OUR SITES



SITES ABROAD	
BRAZIL ○ Manaus	LUXEMBOURG ● Luxembourg
ITALY ● Florence ● Rome	THE NETHERLANDS ● Nijmegen
	USA ● Jupiter, Florida

The 86 institutes and research facilities of the Max Planck Society are distributed among 39 locations in Germany, with five in other countries. They are assigned to three sections reflecting the research spectrum: the Chemistry, Physics and Technology Section, the Biology and Medicine Section, and the Human Sciences Section. Some 24,000 people currently work and conduct research at the Max Planck Society. These include approximately 7,000 researchers; the proportion of women is 32 percent. In addition, some 16,500 young researchers and guest scientists join Max-Planck every year.

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IMAGES:

S. 3: Entrance Administrative Headquarters: © Kai Weinsziehr, **S. 4–5:** Gravitational waves: © S. Ossokine, A. Buonanno / MPI für Gravitationsphysik, Simulating eXtreme Spacetime Project, D. Steinhauser / Airborne Hydro Mapping GmbH, **S. 5:** Prof. Dr. Svante Pääbo: © Frank Vinken; Algae Chlamydomonas reinhardtii: © Wolfgang Bettighofer 2010 / Creative Commons License V 3.0 (CC BY-NC-SA), **S. 6–7:** ASDEX research facility: © Volker Steger, **S. 8–9:** Junior Research Group at the MPI for Astronomy: © Wolfram Scheible, **S. 10–11:** Max Planck partner group in New Delhi: © epa, **S. 13:** Max Planck Day in Munich, 2018: © Axel Griesch (top); Max Planck Day in Berlin





A BRIEF PORTRAIT

"Insight must precede application" – the guiding principle of the Max Planck Society (MPG) are words spoken by the physicist that our organisation was named after. Excellent minds, a high degree of freedom and outstanding work conditions create the foundation for basic research at the very highest level. And thus 20 Nobel Prize Laureates are among the ranks of the Max Planck Society to date.

The Max Planck Society is an internationally recognized, autonomous science organization with a longstanding tradition. In 1948, it succeeded the Kaiser Wilhelm Society (KWG), which was established in 1911 and which numbered renowned researchers among its ranks such as Albert Einstein and Otto Hahn, as well as Max Planck himself. A total of 15 KWG researchers were awarded a Nobel Prize, making Germany the leading scientific nation in the first half of the 20th century.

The period of National Socialism marked a turning point, however, and left the MPG with a problematic legacy. At the end of the 1990s, the Society initiated a comprehensive programme of research to reappraise the history of its predecessor organization under the Third Reich. Many KWG scientists were involved in the Nazi system in various ways. Max Planck Society has assumed historical responsibility for these actions.

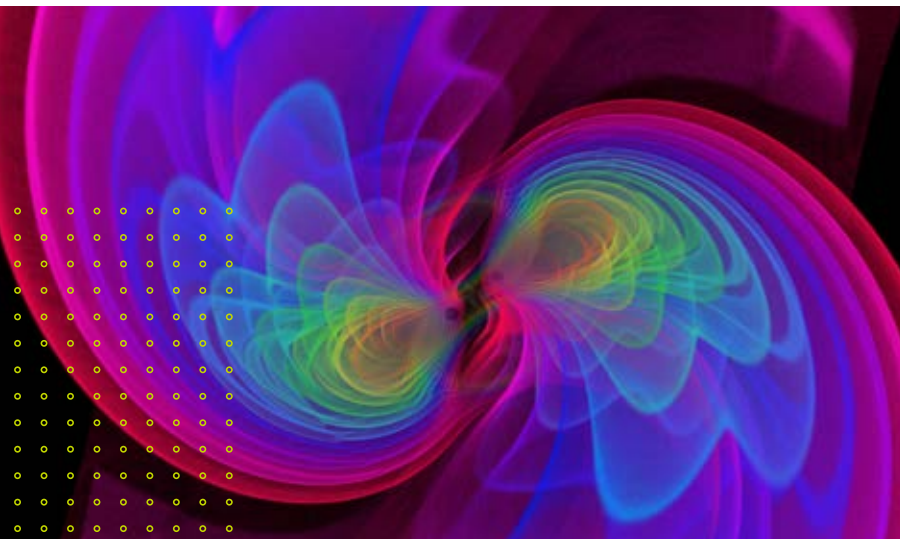


Nobel Prize *From top left to bottom right:*

Laureates 1954 Walter Bothe | 1963 Karl Ziegler | 1964 Feodor Lynen | 1967 Manfred Eigen | 1973 Konrad Lorenz | 1984 Georges Köhler | 1985 Klaus von Klitzing | 1986 Ernst Ruska | 1988 Robert Huber | 1988 Hartmut Michel | 1988 Johann Deisenhofer | 1991 Erwin Neher | 1991 Bert Sakmann | 1995 Paul Crutzen | 1995 Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard | 2005 Theodor Hänsch | 2007 Gerhard Ertl | 2014 Stefan Hell | 2020 Emmanuelle Charpentier | 2020 Reinhard Genzel

Pioneering achievements

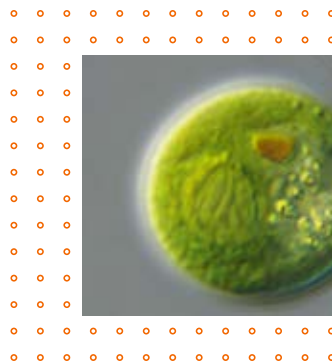
Latest knowledge about the development of humankind – hidden in ancient DNA.



The discovery of gravitational waves was an achievement based on perseverance and international cooperation.

Shifting boundaries, questioning what is known, exploring the unknown: this is what drives us. Max Planck scientists have made significant contributions to the detection of gravitational waves (2015), to capturing the first image of a “black hole” (2019), to decoding the Neanderthal genome (2010) and to discovering Denisova man (2011) and rewriting the early history of humankind. With the discovery of light-activated channels in the small freshwater algae *Chlamydomonas*, Max Planck researchers revolutionized neurobiology (2002). The resulting optogenetic methods today enable completely novel research approaches.

Basic research provides a pool of ideas which society can draw on and the skills to solve urgent problems. Thanks to federal and state funding, the Max Planck Society is able to promote “high risk” research even with a long-term perspective.



Small algae – big effect: the functions of light-activated channels have laid the foundation for completely novel research approaches.

World-class science



*Outstanding
equipment +
brilliant minds =
excellent perfor-
mance.*

What makes the Max Planck Society so attractive to scientists from all over the world? Firstly, it is the freedom to decide on the goals and paths of their own research; secondly, they have first-class technical resources that can compete with any other top research institutions worldwide.

Great freedom also involves obligations: to deliver excellent results and use the resources entrusted to them with care. Every two years, the research performance of each Institute is reviewed by Scientific Advisory Boards made up of renowned international experts. More than 15,000 publications in scientific journals every year – many of them in highly regarded journals such as SCIENCE and NATURE – also testify to the outstanding work done at our Institutes. In the principal rankings such as Nature Index and the index of Highly Cited Researchers, we have been among the top five worldwide for many years.

With the German federal administration and its federal states each providing half of the Society's financial resources, the Max Planck Society received basic funding of some EUR 1.86 billion in 2019. In addition, project-specific funding is provided by the German federal government, the German states and the European Union and revenues are generated from patents and licenses, the sale and marketing of which is handled by Max Planck Innovation GmbH (MI).

Max Planck Innovation has been involved in major technological advancements such as Flash, which made magnetic resonance imaging clinically viable and earned its inventor the European Inventor Award in 2018. Sutent, the cancer drug licensed by MI to Pfizer, became a blockbuster, and one of MI's more than 150 spin-offs – Evotec – managed to get listed on the MDAX. Investments in basic research pay off in many ways.

Every year several thousand young people from all over the world join us as PhDs and Postdocs.

Promoting talent



In order to attract talented young doctoral researchers from all over the world to Germany, we have joined forces with partner universities to found the International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS). Here, early career researchers enjoy excellent research opportunities; they receive close supervision and support through specially designed programmes.

The Max Planck Schools and the Max Planck Graduate Centers supplement these as a national network for graduate education. The Max Planck Schools are a joint initiative of the Max Planck Society, German universities and non-university research organizations. The pilot project includes the Max Planck Schools of Photonics, of Cognition and Matter to Life. Bringing together excellence within geographically distributed, topic-related interdisciplinary networks, they are able to offer unique conditions for getting started in science.

As a Max Planck Research Group Leader at a Max Planck Institute, a young researcher can lay the foundations for their future scientific career: for a period of five years they have the opportunity to pursue their own research goals based on a limited but secure budget. The positions are highly coveted; they are advertised internationally and awarded on a competitive basis. This funding programme has proven successful for more than 50 years and has been adopted by many science organizations in Germany and abroad.

We support young female scientists in their career development through funding and mentoring programmes such as Minerva Fast Track and Minerva-Femme-Net. In addition, the Lise Meitner Excellence Program offers exceptionally qualified women scientists a transparent and attractive internal career path. With this program we offer them their own research group, excellent resources, and the prospect of advancing to become a Max Planck Director.

The Max Planck Society also trains specialists in the non-scientific field. The Society offers some 500 vocational trainee positions every year. Trainees have a choice of 40 different professions – in the areas of office administration, electrical engineering and metalworking, as well as in laboratories, in IT and animal husbandry.

Family-conscious personnel policy is of great importance for us. In 2006, Max Planck was the first science organization to undergo the “Career and Family” audit and was successful in gaining certification. We are permanently committed to expanding and further developing our measures and programmes geared towards families and life phases. The most recent certification was in 2019.

International collaboration



Exchange through brilliant minds – the international partner groups.

The Max Planck Society is the international flagship of German science: in addition to five Institutes abroad, we also run 20 Max Planck Centers in collaboration with partners such as Harvard and Princeton/USA, Science Po Paris/France, University College London/UK, ETH Zurich/CHE, and the University of Tokyo/Japan.

There are now some 70 partner groups in Asia, Eastern Europe and South America – these act as bridgeheads for German science abroad. They are led by particularly talented young foreign researchers who return to their countries of origin after a research stay at a Max Planck Institute and who we support in setting up a scientific working group. In recognition of expanding international cooperation and promoting young international researchers, the Max Planck Society was awarded the Spanish Prince of Asturias Award in 2013.

Our Institutes are networked worldwide through international cooperation and projects. They are involved in more than 2,500 projects with international partners – from the global climate measurement campaign to the Icarus project being implemented on the International Space Station ISS to observe animal movements from space, operation of the particle accelerator LHC at the European Nuclear Research Centre in Geneva, and projects with Latin American countries where concepts are being developed to strengthen human rights in those countries.

Public science



Research at the highest level is one thing – making it accessible to others is another. We offer information on a range of different channels – via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, on our [own website](#) and in the quarterly scientific magazine [MaxPlanckResearch](#).

In order to enable anyone who is interested in finding information about the work carried out at our Institutes, we regularly open our laboratories, libraries and workshops to the public with events such as the “Long Night of Science” and open days. The Institutes organize science slams and science shows as well as guided tours, school talks and exhibitions.

With the four-page BIO-, GEO- and TECHMAX booklets for upper secondary schools, we also support teachers in their efforts to integrate current research topics into the school curriculum. The MAX booklets are supplemented with a wide range of images, videos and podcasts on the media portal [max-wissen.de](#) (only in German).

At some Max Planck Institutes, school pupils also have the opportunity to take a pupil internship or gain their first experimental experience by participating in the Pupils’ Lab.

Interactive science events give visitors the opportunity to participate.



Both entertaining and informative: science shows.

BAD MÜNSTEREIFEL

- Effelsberg Radio Observatory (branch of the MPI for Radio Astronomy, Bonn)

BAD NAUHEIM

- MPI for Heart and Lung Research

BERLIN

- Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society
- MPI for the History of Science
- MPI for Human Development
- MPI for Infection Biology
- MPI for Molecular Genetics
- Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens

BOCHUM

- MPI for Cyber Security and Privacy (in development)

BONN

- MPI for Mathematics
- MPI for Radio Astronomy (also see Bad Münsteriefel)
- MPI for Research on Collective Goods

△ caesar research center

BREMEN

- MPI for Marine Microbiology

COLOGNE

- MPI for Biology of Ageing
- MPI for Metabolism Research
- MPI for Plant Breeding Research
- MPI for the Study of Societies

CONSTANCE

- MPI of Animal Behavior

DORTMUND

- MPI of Molecular Physiology

DRESDEN

- MPI for Chemical Physics of Solids
- MPI of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics
- MPI for the Physics of Complex Systems

DÜSSELDORF

- MPI für Eisenforschung GmbH

ERLANGEN

- MPI for the Science of Light

FRANKFURT AM MAIN

- MPI of Biophysics
- MPI for Brain Research
- MPI for Empirical Aesthetics
- MPI for European Legal History
- Max Planck Research Unit for Neurogenetics
- △ Ernst Strüngmann Institute

FREIBURG

- MPI for Immunobiology and Epigenetics
- MPI for the Study of Crime, Security and Law

GARCHING

- MPI for Astrophysics
- MPI for Extraterrestrial Physics
- MPI for Plasma Physics (also see Greifswald)
- MPI of Quantum Optics

GÖTTINGEN

- MPI for Biophysical Chemistry
- MPI for Dynamics and Self-Organization
- MPI for Experimental Medicine
- MPI for Solar System Research
- MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

GREIFSWALD

- Sub-institute of the MPI for Plasma Physics, Garching

HALLE (SAALE)

- MPI for Microstructure Physics
- MPI for Social Anthropology

HAMBURG

- MPI for Comparative and International Private Law
- MPI for Meteorology
- MPI for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter

HANOVER

- Sub-institute of the MPI for Gravitational Physics, Potsdam

HEIDELBERG

- MPI for Astronomy
- MPI for Comparative Public Law and International Law
- MPI for Medical Research
- MPI for Nuclear Physics

JENA

- MPI for Biogeochemistry
- MPI for Chemical Ecology
- MPI for the Science of Human History

KAISERSLAUTERN

- MPI for Software Systems (also see Saarbrücken)

LEIPZIG

- MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology
- MPI for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences
- MPI for Mathematics in the Sciences

MAGDEBURG

- MPI for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems

MAINZ

- MPI for Chemistry (also see Manaus, Brazil)
- MPI for Polymer Research

MARBURG

- MPI for Terrestrial Microbiology

MARTINSRIED

- MPI of Biochemistry
- MPI of Neurobiology

MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR

- MPI for Chemical Energy Conversion
- MPI für Kohlenforschung (independent foundation)

MUNICH

- MPI for Innovation and Competition
- MPI for Physics
- MPI of Psychiatry
- MPI for Social Law and Social Policy
- MPI for Tax Law and Public Finance

MÜNSTER

- MPI for Molecular Biomedicine

PLÖN

- MPI of Evolutionary Biology

POTSDAM

- MPI of Colloids and Interfaces
- MPI for Gravitational Physics (also see Hanover)
- MPI of Molecular Plant Physiology

ROSTOCK

- MPI for Demographic Research

SAARBRÜCKEN

- MPI for Informatics
- MPI for Software Systems (also see Kaiserslautern)

SEEWIESEN

- MPI for Ornithology

STUTTGART

- MPI for Intelligent Systems (also see Tübingen)
- MPI for Solid State Research

TÜBINGEN

- MPI for Biological Cybernetics
- MPI for Developmental Biology
- MPI for Intelligent Systems (also see Stuttgart)
- Friedrich Miescher Laboratory of the Max Planck Society

SITES ABROAD

MANAUS, BRAZIL

- Branch of the MPI for Chemistry, Mainz

FLORENCE, ITALY

- Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – MPI

ROME, ITALY

- Bibliotheca Hertziana – MPI for Art History

LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG

- MPI Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law

NIJMEGEN, THE NETHERLANDS

- MPI for Psycholinguistics

JUPITER, FLORIDA / USA

- Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience

- Institute / Research Unit
- Subinstitute / Branch
- Other Research Institution
- △ Associated Research Institute
- Biology & Medicine Section
- Chemistry, Physics & Technology Section
- Human Sciences Section