The International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Astronomy and Astrophysics, is funded by the German Max Planck Society and is operated by the Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie (MPIfR) in collaboration with the Argelander-Institut für Astronomie (AIfA) of the University of Bonn and the I. Physikalisches Institut at the University of Cologne. It offers three-year financed PhD courses. The official language is English. Currently it hosts about 40 PhD students from 17 countries.

Fields of research
The IMPRS for Astronomy and Astrophysics offers a broad spectrum of topics in observational and theoretical, galactic and extragalactic astrophysics, observational and theoretical cosmology, fundamental physics with astronomical tools and more. Some examples:


Besides the expertise in radio astronomy, IMPRS for Astronomy and Astrophysics offers the opportunity for scientific activity in all fields of contemporary science, all modern techniques, methods and energy bands. Examples of possible topics can be found at: www.mpifr.de/pdf/PhD_projects.pdf

Training
The IMPRS for Astronomy and Astrophysics offers competitive PhD programs on the basis of a tightly structured curriculum, including:

- Advanced lectures, courses and seminars on almost all subjects of astrophysics
- Colloquia given by international experts
- Weekly student seminars
- Soft skill seminars on presentation, time management, scientific reading, etc.
- Annual ‘students-only’ workshop where team activities are developed aside the main research interests
- Thesis committee which monitors the PhD research progress
- Travel funding for schools and international conferences

Furthermore, the students are strongly encouraged and funded to apply and travel to the best observing facilities around the world. They are exposed to the most advanced techniques and methods using state-of-the-art earth-bound or space observatories, such as the unique 100-m radio telescope in Effelsberg and the most advanced instruments in millimeter and sub-millimeter astronomy as well as high-energy band observatories.

This call for applications is open until November 15, 2010. Encouraged to apply are students who hold a Master of Science or equivalent degree (preferably including a thesis) in physics, astronomy or related subjects. Solid astrophysical background is highly favored.

More details on the IMPRS program and the admission requirements can be found at: www.mpifr.de/imprs

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