Campus and City life

As the state capital of Northrhine-Westphalia Düsseldorf is situated at the heart of the lively Rhine-Ruhr metropolitan region and is counted among the five most important economic, political, cultural and travel centres in Germany. Not only is Düsseldorf the birthplace of famous artists like Robert Schumann, Heinrich Heine, Joseph Beuys or Wim Wenders, but the surrounding area has been known as a centre of humanistic science since the 16th century. Today, this area hosts four universities including Arts Academy and Heinrich Heine University.

Heinrich Heine University comprises five faculties (Mathematics and Science, Law, Medicine, Philosophy and Economics) and is the alma mater to over 17,000 students and 240 professors. In addition to excellent teaching and research, outstanding studying and living conditions in modern student residences, a generous culinary selection on campus, and a wide range of sports and cultural activities.

The city of fashion and arts at the banks of the Rhine is well-known for its exclusive shopping boulevards like the Königsallee and the modern architecture in the Media Harbour. Further, Düsseldorf offers a versatile mix of leisure activities ranging from underground exhibitions to traditional locales such as the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, the Schauspielhaus theatre, or the arts collection NRW. Nightlife thrives in Düsseldorf. Every night venues host a selection of movies, concerts, and parties. Moreover, the Altstadt or “old town” is constantly teaming with people visiting the huge selection of nightclubs, discos, bars, and pubs.
Intensive Course Program

The iGRADplant program offers the opportunity to either enter with a Bachelor’s degree (from BSc to PhD in 4 years) or a Master's degree (from MSc to PhD in 3 years).

Incoming students with a Bachelor's degree will be initially trained in a structured one-year program. Throughout this qualification period, current topics in plant molecular biology, biochemistry and bioinformatics will be taught in comprehensive lecture series and practical courses.

Subsequently, all students carry out three independent lab rotations in participating laboratories. The rotation period gives students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with and select a lab for a thesis project.

The iGRADplant program is part of the "iGRAD – Interdisciplinary Graduate and Research Academy Düsseldorf", which allows us to offer our PhD students a broad range of courses in “Transferable Skills”.

The iGRADplant program offers:

- Excellent research facilities
- Supervision of your research project by a thesis advisory committee
- Interdisciplinary scientific training through lecture series, seminar courses and practical workshops
- International research experience through the six to nine month research stay at the Michigan State University
- Active participation in institute seminars and international conferences
- Training in “Transferable Skills” such as: scientific writing and presentation, grant writing, project management, career planning, etc.
- All courses offered by the program will be taught in English

Applying

Application is open for students holding a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree (or equivalent) in biology, biochemistry, bioinformatics or related fields of study. A strong command of the English language is required.

For further information, calls for applications, and the application form, please visit our website: www.igrad-plant.uni-duesseldorf.de

Fellowships and Support

The program supports every student with a fellowship funded either by the Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft (DFG) or by Heinrich Heine University. Students entering the program with a Bachelor's degree receive a fellowship of €800/month in the first year. For the subsequent three years, PhD students receive a fellowship of €1100/month. The program will assist in all formal and legal affairs, such as visas, housing, health insurance and registration at the university.

Faculty of iGRADplant

Faculty at HHU and Research Center Jülich
Michael Feldbrügge (Microbiology)
Georg Crotch (Plant Physiology)
Peter Johns (Plant Biochemistry)
Martin Lercher (Bioinformatics)
Nicole Linka (Plant Biochemistry)
Shizu Matsubara (IGS Phytosphere, Jülich)
Laura Rose (Population Genetics)
Rüdiger Simon (Developmental Genetics)
Andreas Weber (Plant Biochemistry)
Peter Westhoff (Plant Developmental / Mol. Biology)
Jürgen Zener (Plant Molecular Ecophysiology)

Faculty at Michigan State University
Christoph Benning (Biochemistry / Mol. Biology)
Federica Brandizzi (Plant Biology)
Robin Buell (Plant Biology)
Yuehua Cui (Statistics and Probability)
Brad Day (Plant Pathology)
Eva Maria Farré (Plant Biology)
Maren Friesen (Plant Biology)
Sheng Yang He (Plant Pathology)
Susanne Hoffmann-Benning (Biochem. /Mol. Biol.)
Jiaping Hu (Plant Biology)
David Kramer (Plant Biology)
Robert L. Last (Biochemistry / Mol. Biology)
Jennifer Lau (Plant Biology)
Barbara Montgomery (Biochemistry/Mol. Biology)
Barbara Sears (Plant Biology)
Thomas D. Sharkey (Biochemistry / Mol. Biology)
Shin-Han Shiu (Plant Biology)
Michael F. Thomashow (Crop & Soil Science/Microbiol.)
Jonathan Walters (Plant Pathology)
Curtis Wilkerson (Plant Biology)