How to fill in the application form

Personal data
Please fill in your family and given name. Because of differences in the naming system in European and non-European countries we would ask you to fill in as many names as possible.
For example, many candidates of Indian nationality have Kumar as one of the names and many of the Chinese candidates - Chen. Please add additional names (if possible) that we know who you are and which documents belong to you. **Do not** fill in only your initials!

Address
What is the difference between the current and permanent address and why we ask for both?
In case you are about to move out of your current address within 3-4 months from the time of your application, you must give us a permanent address for correspondence.

Academic education
Please fill in the details of your academic education starting with the current/ recent one. In case you are not done with your Master's or Bachelor's studies and the date when your degree will be awarded is in the future, please fill in the **expected** date.
GPA (Grade Point Average) - it is calculated by your university. In case your studies haven't been completed yet you may ask your university's administration to calculate it accordingly to your current results or fill in: "expected in Month/Year"

Former higher/secondary education institutions attended
These are any other universities/ colleges you attended in the past or in parallel to the current one.

Additional expertise and Related work experience
Here you have a space limited to 250 characters including spaces.
Please note: if you want to use the space you cannot format your text. Don't make bullet points, headline etc. Write your text continuously till the end of the line/ frame. Any characters outside the text frame cannot be seen by us.

Language competence
Applicants who are not native speakers should demonstrate adequate competence of the English language by an internationally recognized test (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS). German applicants don't need to submit a language competence certificate.
German language competence certificates are not required to apply to our program.

Have you been studying abroad?
When applicable, please fill in details of your stay abroad: what did you study? how long? where?

Research preferences
This is the most important part of the application form. Please take your time to fill it in properly. **This section is not about writing your cover/ motivation letter. It is also not about summarizing your lab experience gathered so far!** In this section you have to select up to three of the currently offered iGRAD-Plant PhD projects.
1) Please check our the information about the iGRAD-Plant faculty (NEXTplant research groups) at our website (http://www.igrad-plant.hhu.de/people.html)
2) It is very important to read about the research in the labs of your interest. Please read recent papers published by the groups as well as other relevant publications for the topic. Read carefully about the research aims and methodology of the groups of your interest.
3) Choose 1 project or research area as your top priority.
4) Write a mini project proposal for your top priority project. You have space limited to 4000 characters including spaces - Please use only unformatted text.
This field is not for your cover/ motivation letter, neither it is for your recent research experience or a description of your last project. Based on the project descriptio, references and information from the group's homepage you should write a paragraph indicating what you consider the most important questions to be answered and how you think they should be approached experimentally. You should show your critical thinking and ability to design experiments to answer main scientific questions asked in the project of your choice.