

## **Admission and selection criteria for students**

The following selection criteria have been defined for CCHD students:

- ✓ the official admission criteria for PhD students at the MUV
- ✓ documented command of English
- ✓ documented scientific interest and research talent
- ✓ duration of undergraduate studies
- ✓ excellent grades at the undergraduate level
- ✓ letters of recommendation by previous supervisors
- ✓ GRE certificate

Further details concerning each of these criteria are given below.

### Official admission requirements:

The official admission requirements for PhD students at the MUV are regulated by § 2 of the Curriculum of the PhD-Studies. The academic degrees that qualify for participation in the PhD studies at the MUV are:

- final degree in the diploma studies of Medicine or Dentistry
- final degree in any scientific/technical, subject-relevant or subject-related diploma studies
- final degree in studies at an internationally renowned domestic or foreign post-secondary education institution equal to the above-mentioned diploma studies (the rectorate decides about the equality in the course of the admission procedure).

### Documented command of English:

Since English is the language of science and the language of all CCHD courses, participants need to document their English skills, best by providing a TOEFL (see [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)) certificate.

### Documented scientific interest and research talent

The curriculum vitae should demonstrate that applicants have a particular capability and motivation for scientific work. At least some former experience in laboratory work is required. This should be evident either from a previous publication or from a diploma thesis, at least from a detailed description of a previous research project and an appropriate work plan. According documents must be submitted together with the initial application. Furthermore, the accompanying letters of recommendation must further support these documents, and the scientific interest and research talent will finally be evaluated during the personal

presentations of the applicants in front of all CCHD members, and during the interviews with the members of the selection committee.

#### Duration of undergraduate studies

In light of the high competition between researchers in the biomedical field, there is an increasing tendency to fill positions with younger scientists, and many positions are only available until the age of 35. Therefore, CCHD students should be graduated well before reaching that age in order to give them the opportunity to earn some postdoctoral experience when turning 35. Accordingly, applicants aged above 30 are generally not considered. However, this cannot be an absolute requirement, since a loss of time due to, for instance, maternity leaves or civil services, also needs to be considered.

#### Excellent grades at the undergraduate level

Obviously, the grades at the undergraduate level will be taken into consideration, particularly when the duration of the undergraduate studies is not the shortest possible.

#### Letters of recommendation by previous supervisors

The applicants are requested to organize that at least two of their previous scientific mentors (preferably the supervisors of the diploma theses) send letters of recommendation. To prevent the submission of letters of recommendation written for purposes other than the application to CCHD, a separate 'referee form' is made available at the CCHD homepage. Applications with letters of recommendations that are not included in this form are not considered further.

#### GRE certificate

Within the application form, applicants are asked to provide a Graduate Record Examination certificate (see [www.ets.org/gre/](http://www.ets.org/gre/)). The best candidates according to the written applications will be ranked along the results of their GRE certificates.