

## 12 Doctoral positions at the Munich Center of the Learning Sciences

The [Munich Center of the Learning Sciences](#) (MCLS) invites applications for 12 PhD positions (equaling 2/3 of a full academic position, amounting to approximately 29.000 – 34.000 €/year, duration 36 months) within the [International Doctoral School “Scientific Reasoning and Argumentation”](#) (REASON) funded by the [Elite Network of Bavaria](#) (ENB) to commence in **October 2016** (pending a favorable decision on the continuation of program funding).

### Program Description

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The International Doctoral School “Scientific Reasoning and Argumentation” is an interdisciplinary PhD program in the Learning Sciences, incorporating research from Educational Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Biology Education, Mathematics Education, Medical Education, Education Sciences, Computer Science and Social Work.

Doctoral candidates have the opportunity to carry out scientific research in an international, interdisciplinary and supportive environment that brings together expert researchers from the **Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU)**, the **Technical University of Munich (TUM)** and the **Katholische Stiftungsfachhochschule München, University of Applied Sciences (KSFH)**.

REASON aims to advance scientific knowledge on the development and promotion of scientific reasoning and argumentation skills from preschool age to adulthood.

The **program research areas** include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) *The interplay between domain-specific and domain-general skills in scientific reasoning and argumentation*
- (2) *The role of epistemic emotions in scientific reasoning and argumentation*
- (3) *The role of social context and social interaction in scientific reasoning and argumentation*
- (4) *Fostering scientific reasoning and argumentation skills*
- (5) *The development of scientific reasoning and argumentation*
- (6) *Scientific reasoning and argumentation in evidence-based practice*
- (7) *The role of technology in scientific reasoning and argumentation*
- (8) *Measuring scientific reasoning and argumentation (including competence-oriented and large scale assessment)*

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**Main Supervisory Body**

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**KSFH**

Prof. Dr. Birgit Dorner	Professor for Arts Education
Prof. Dr. Sabine Pankofer	Psychology in Social Work

**LMU**

Prof. Dr. Frank Fischer	Chair of Education and Educational Psychology
Prof. Dr. Martin Fischer	Institute for Medical Education
Prof. Dr. Moritz Heene	Psychology in the Learning Sciences
Prof. Dr. Heinrich Hußmann	Work Group Media Informatics and Human-Machine-Interaction
Prof. Dr. Birgit J. Neuhaus	Institute for the Didactics of Biology
Prof. Dr. Reinhard Pekrun	Chair for Personality & Educational Psychology
Prof. Dr. Beate Sodian	Chair of Developmental and Educational Psychology
Prof. Dr. Stefan Ufer	Chair for Mathematics Education

**TUM**

PD Dr. Johannes Bauer	Susanne Klatten Endowed Chair for Empirical Educational Research
Prof. Dr. Prenzel Manfred	Susanne Klatten Endowed Chair for Empirical Educational Research
Prof. Dr. Reiss Kristina	Heinz Nixdorf Chair for Mathematics Education
Prof. Dr. Tina Seidel	Friedl Schöllner Endowed Chair of Teaching and Learning Research

**Cooperation Partners**

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Prof. Dr. Anne Frenzel	Psychology in the Learning Sciences, LMU
Prof. Dr. Ingo Kollar	Chair for Psychology with particular focus on Educational Psychology, Augsburg University
Dr. Marco R.H. Schmidt	International Junior Research Group on Developmental Origins of Human Normativity, LMU and MPI Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences

International experts will act as additional supervisors and potential hosts for research stays abroad. The program offers a structured curriculum including courses on research methodology for the Learning Sciences in general and for studying scientific reasoning and argumentation in particular. Further provided are training opportunities for soft skills development and a mentoring system for international candidates.

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## General Requirements

Prospective candidates must be qualified to enter doctoral level studies according to LMU regulations and must have obtained an excellent Bachelor's or Master's degree (or equivalent) in a field related to the Learning Sciences. Candidates with degrees from academic teacher education programs are also eligible. Candidates holding a Bachelor's degree can benefit from a "fast track" option that offers the opportunity to combine studies at master's and doctoral level. All applicants are expected to display a strong interest in research related to the Learning Sciences and the area of scientific reasoning and argumentation. Additionally, they must demonstrate very good knowledge of scientific methodology and research skills, as well as English language proficiency.

## Application Documents

1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Letter of motivation consisting of:
  - description of prior experience and knowledge related to scientific reasoning and argumentation and empirical research in the Learning Sciences,
  - clear ranking of three research areas (from the list presented above) in terms of relevance to the future PhD project.
3. A max. 500-word proposal of the envisioned research project related to the research area prioritized as first option in the motivation letter. The proposal should also include explanations for suggested data analysis methods.
4. Notarized copies of the master's diploma and the transcript of records.
5. Letters of recommendation from two researchers from disciplines associated with the Learning Sciences who hold at least a doctoral degree.
6. Proof of English proficiency in the form of an acknowledged language test certificate. The certificate must confirm a result equivalent to the B2 level established by the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment](#).

Complete applications must be submitted via the online application tool, which will be available on the [program official webpage](#) starting with **March 21, 2016**. Based on the application review process, promising candidates will be invited to a job interview during which they are asked to present their prior research as well as the plans for their PhD project.

## Application Timeframe

Application Period	March 21, 2016 - May 13, 2016
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>May 13, 2016 (23:59 UTC+1hour)</b>
Application Review Process	May 13, 2016 - May 26, 2016
<b>Interviews</b>	<b>June 6, 2016 - June 16, 2016</b>
Program Start	October 1, 2016

For any questions related to the program and the application process, please contact the coordination office at [reason-enb@psy.lmu.de](mailto:reason-enb@psy.lmu.de).

**We are looking forward to receiving your application!**