



## University of Münster

With a total of 44,500 students, the University of Münster is one of the largest universities in Germany with a rich and time-honoured tradition. It promotes internationally renowned cutting-edge research in numerous scientific and academic fields including evolutionary science. The University of Münster is committed to offering excellent research opportunities, high-quality teaching, and strong support to its junior researchers.



## Living in Münster

The city of Münster has around 300,000 inhabitants and is a bustling academic and cultural city. A historic city centre, modern urban city quarters, a lively cultural scene, a wealth of sport and recreational opportunities, and lots of green space in the city are appreciated by residents and students alike. Münster is widely known as the "bicycle capital of Germany".

## Applications

Students starting their doctoral studies in the research areas of the MGSE at the University of Münster can be suggested for admission to the MGSE by one of the Principal Investigators. If you are interested in the programme of the MGSE, please feel free to contact the Principal Investigator, in whose research group you would like to start your PhD to ask about open positions.

## Contact

### Speaker

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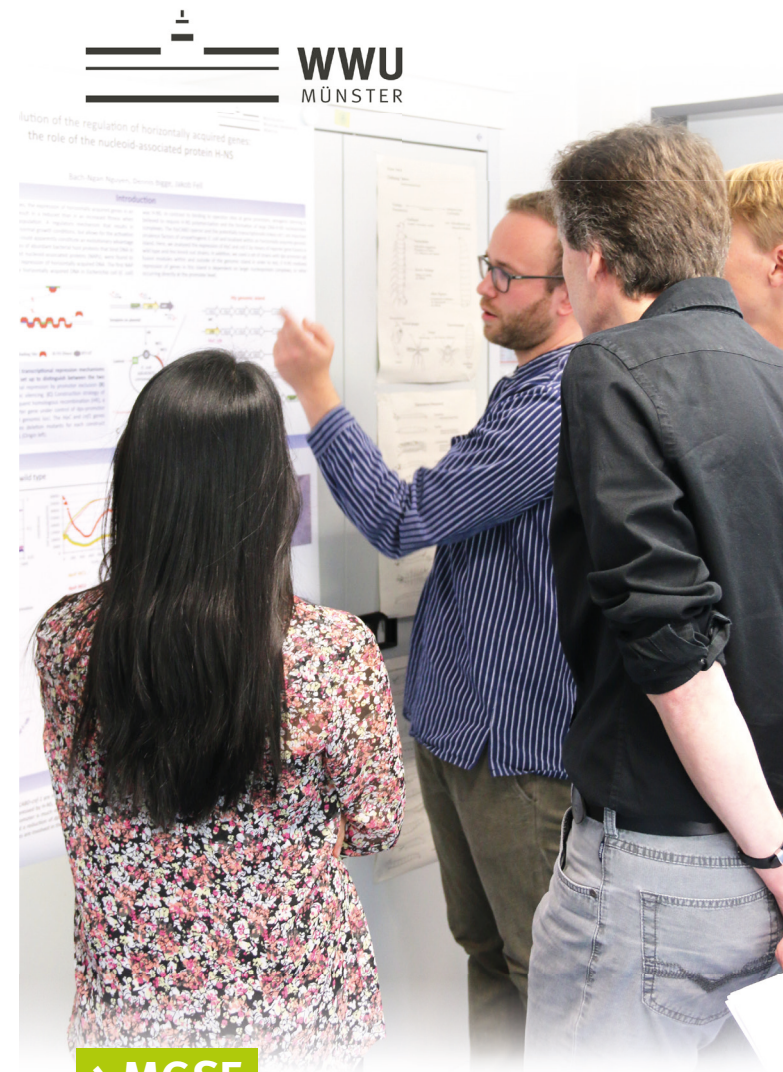
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*"The Münster Graduate School of Evolution is more than an educative environment, it is a place where ideas and knowledge can circulate freely. There are many activities that encourage us to share our scientific interests and climb over the limits of our field. The workshops demonstrate that young creative minds in the right environment with an experienced Think Tank can be the source of new and unexpected scientific relevant results with encouraging perspectives."*

Dr. Diana Ferro (MGSE alumna 2016)



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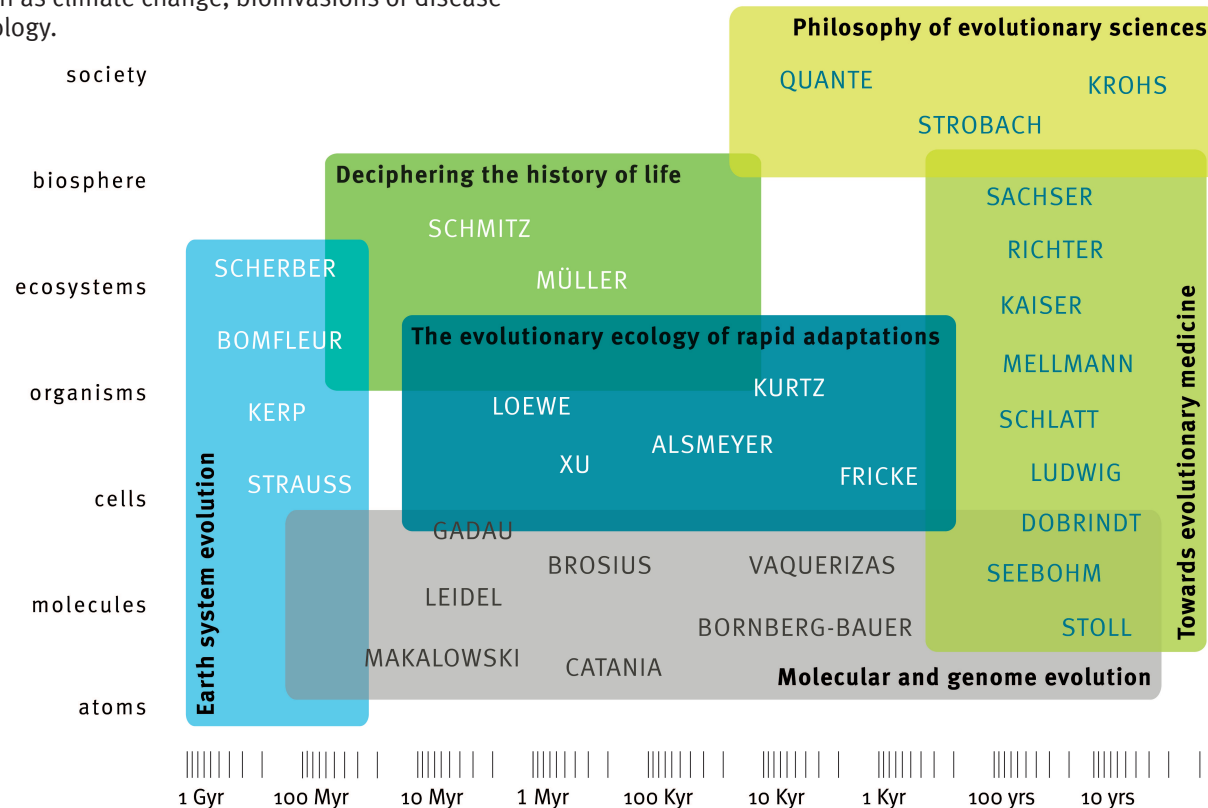
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MÜNSTER  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL OF  
EVOLUTION



## Why study evolution?

Evolution - broadly defined as a gradual development that may lead to a more advanced or complex form - is the most widely applicable scientific concept to understand processes at all scales, from the formation of earth to human societies. In particular, Charles Darwin's theory of evolution based on heritable variation and selection is now being applied to many disciplines. Modern evolutionary thinking can provide a unifying theoretical framework to understand and address urgent problems of human-kind, such as climate change, bioinvasions or disease epidemiology.



## What is the MGSE?

The Münster Graduate School of Evolution (MGSE) is an interdisciplinary graduate school bridging the faculties of Biology, Medicine, Geosciences, Mathematics, and Philosophy at the University of Münster. The MGSE provides a structured study programme for doctoral students of the different faculties in the general field of evolution. The programme, as well as a modern mentoring system ensure interdisciplinary networking, while the work in the projects is performed at the highest interdisciplinary level.

## Which research areas are covered?

Currently, 30 research group leaders contribute to the MGSE who work on a large range of topics in evolution across a broad scale. Their work can be grouped into six research areas as depicted in the graph below.



## What does the curriculum involve?

The teaching and education programme is structured into three periods:

- (1) Cross-disciplinary training:** Insight into the MGSE research areas and basic knowledge within the different disciplines.
- (2) Sciences-skills training:** Scientific communication skills, e.g., through conference contributions, publication of papers, or a research stay abroad.
- (3) Tailored training:** Qualifications tailored to the individual students' career plans, e.g., in academia, industry, or society.

The entire doctoral studies are accompanied by a *Studium Integrale* consisting of multidisciplinary lectures and courses and project-oriented training in the working groups.



## Evolution Think Tank

Supported by *Santander Universities*, the MGSE regularly invites internationally outstanding scientists from different disciplines for research stays of 1 - 6 months. During their stay they contribute to the so-called *Evolution Think Tank* (ETT) aiming at an advancement of evolutionary theory and its application across fields. The ETT-Fellows collaborate closely with the doctoral students and Principal Investigators, offer workshops, and present their research in public lectures.