



IMPRS-QST Guidelines

This document serves as a comprehensive guide to the IMPRS-QST program, aiming to provide clarity and transparency to current students. If any questions or concerns arise, students are encouraged to reach out to the program coordinator or other [contact persons](#) listed on the website.

Joining IMPRS-QST

Students can gain admission to the program through the [yearly application process](#) or by [joining as a member](#) after starting their PhD at associated research groups. Regardless of funding sources, all members have equal access to program benefits and offerings.

Registration Process:

There are specific registration periods each semester for joining IMPRS-QST. Prospective members must complete the registration form and supervision agreement within these periods:

- Summer semester: April 15th - May 15th
- Winter semester: October 15th – November 15th

PhD students have two full registration periods after beginning their PhD.

The registration form and supervision agreement can be downloaded from the [IMPRS website](#).

Supervision Agreement & Thesis Advisory Board

PhD students in the IMPRS-QST program work under the guidance of a Thesis Advisory Board (TAB), with a supervision agreement outlining rights and responsibilities. This agreement must be signed when joining the IMPRS program and submitted to the coordination office.

The TAB comprises a supervisor and a co-supervisor. The supervisor offers direct guidance, while the co-supervisor, preferably from a different group, provides additional advice. Students select their TAB before signing the supervision agreement, ensuring active involvement in the decision-making process.

Students should actively participate in selecting their co-supervisor, seeking advice from peers, supervisors, and the program coordinator. While it's preferable for the co-supervisor to be from IMPRS-QST research groups, external PIs can also be chosen if they align with the student's research profile.

Regular meetings with both supervisor and co-supervisor are encouraged, with at least one mandatory meeting per year. Additional TAB meetings can be arranged upon request or suggestion of the student, any TAB member, or the program coordinator.



IMPRS-QST Guidelines

Curriculum & Recognition of courses and external activities

The IMPRS curriculum offers a comprehensive training program in Quantum Science and Technology (QST), integrating courses from participating institutions and encouraging students to explore diverse fields within QST. To fulfill the program requirements, PhD students must attend:

- Four courses on QST (ideally during the first two years of the PhD)
- The annual IMPRS-QST Summer School
- Seminars and workshops organized by the IMPRS-QST
- One soft skills and/or scientific writing seminar

A regularly updated list of recognized courses is available on the [IMPRS website](#), encompassing offerings from TUM and LMU. Suggestions for new courses are welcomed and considered by the Steering Committee.

After each semester, PhD students are required to report their attendance to courses and teaching activities to the coordination office using provided templates, which can be downloaded from the [IMPRS team room in MAX](#). Students should complete the forms, have the course leader sign them at the end of the semester, and then submit a scanned copy via email to the coordination office.

Participation in external summer schools, workshops, and teaching activities can sometimes substitute course attendance, with a limit of two alternative activities.

- Teaching activities must involve a full semester's commitment to a course listed in the IMPRS curriculum.
- The recognition of alternative activities is determined by the Steering Committee on a case-by-case basis, requiring submission of relevant program details.

Additional recognized activities or courses beyond the limit of two will not replace course attendance, but they will still be noted on the IMPRS-QST certificate. Supervision of Bachelor's and Master's students is considered a teaching activity and will also be listed on the certificate, though it doesn't substitute course attendance.

IMPRS-QST working groups

A key aspect of the IMPRS program is its emphasis on empowering PhD students to take ownership of their education. Through involvement in organizing IMPRS activities, students have the chance to contribute ideas and initiatives, shaping the curriculum to align with their interests and needs. Active participation in organizing events like summer schools, seminar series, and workshops is encouraged for all IMPRS members. Working groups for these events are formed at the yearly members meeting, but students are welcome to join and assist these groups at any time, fostering a flexible and collaborative environment.



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Yearly progress report

Each year, students in the program are required to submit a progress report at the beginning of the winter semester. The report consists of two parts:

- I. A scientific section, shared with Thesis Advisory Board (TAB) members, focusing on the project's development and future plans;
- II. An optional, confidential section for self-reflection, to be reviewed by the coordinator. Students encountering difficulties are encouraged to contact the coordinator for support.

The report is due by October 31st annually and is forwarded to the TAB. Before submission, a mandatory meeting with the supervisor is required, which may be substituted by established feedback sessions. After submission, a meeting with the co-supervisor is recommended for further feedback and discussion. Detailed guidelines for the report's aim, structure, and content are available in a document accessible on the [MAX team room](#).

Support structures and contact points

There are different persons of contact within the graduate school to offer guidance and support to IMPRS-QST members. Whether you have questions about the program, seek guidance on improving certain aspects of your doctoral research, or encounter any difficulties with your supervisor, we are here to help!

- Our PhD representatives act as a vital link within the IMPRS community, advocating for your interests and facilitating communication. Don't hesitate to reach out to them for assistance or to share your ideas.
- If you ever face conflicts or differences of opinion with your supervisor, our Officer for Doctoral Affairs is here to provide guidance and support. You can approach them at any time, and your concerns will be handled with confidentiality and care.
- Additionally, our Diversity Representatives are dedicated to offering extra support and advice to female, international, and minority group students. They're here to ensure that every member of our community feels valued and supported.

There are further points of contact within the participating institutions of IMPRS-QST. The IMPRS website features a [comprehensive list of links and resources](#) aimed at providing assistance and support in various situations. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you require guidance or support in any aspect of your doctoral journey..



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TUM Graduate School and LMU Graduate Center

If your supervisor is affiliated with the Technical University of Munich (TUM), you will pursue your doctorate there and become a member of the [TUM Graduate School](#) through one of its Graduate Centers.

Contact your corresponding Graduate Center early on for guidance on administrative procedures. Note that administrative tasks are handled by the Graduate Center or faculty dean's office, not IMPRS-QST. Check with your Graduate Center to avoid redundant requirements from the IMPRS curriculum.

If your supervisor is associated with the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (LMU), you'll do your doctorate there and can access [LMU Graduate Center](#) services. LMU Graduate Center has no additional regulations, registration is not mandatory, and there are no compulsory program elements. However, it is important to contact the dean's office as soon as you start working on your doctoral project for administrative guidance unrelated to IMPRS.