

## Application FAQs

---

### TOEFL/IELTS

#### **Is a TOEFL / IELTS test required without exception?**

Applicants do not need to present a TOEFL or IELTS if the Master program (or equivalent) they went through, has been entirely taught in English.

### GRE

#### **GRE score report – what is this?**

The GRE score report refers to the GRE or Graduate Record Examination test. Further information on the test can be found here: <https://www.ets.org/gre/>. The GRE score report is recommended if you are applying for a PhD in Economics. If you are applying for a PhD in law, the test is not a requirement, either. In that case, you are required to ensure that your application shows your motivation and ability to successfully complete the first year of training in economic theory and methods.

#### **Is it mandatory?**

**Econ:** No. However, the GRE test is highly recommended. If you are unable to take the test before the deadline for reasons beyond your responsibility, you are still encouraged to apply. Upload your application by the deadline, leave a comment on why there is no GRE test result in your documents, and send the GRE test results as soon as you have them to [imprs@coll.mpg.de](mailto:imprs@coll.mpg.de). Please note that no other documents will be accepted after the deadline.

**Law:** There is no requirement to include the GRE score in your application. We will of course still consider your application.

**Do I need a minimum score?**

Your GRE quantitative score should be 160 or higher. You can still apply without the GRE test or with a lower score, but make sure to convince us in the complementing parts of your application.

**University entrance qualification****What is exactly meant by this?**

The university entrance qualification is – depending on the education system one went through – the certificate that allows formal access to academic education at a university.

**What do I have to do if my academic transcripts are not written in German or English?**

A translation must be included in the application for any document not in English or German. If, at a later stage of the application process, you are accepted to the program, you will need to provide notarized translations.

**Letter of Reference****What kind of information must be included in the letter?**

First of all, the letter should include the full name and address of the referee and the name of the applicant for whom the letter is written. Furthermore, the letter should answer the following questions:

What is your relationship with the applicant?

How long have you known the applicant?

In what capacity have you known the applicant?

What is your overall impression of the applicant in relation to his or her application?

**Is it mandatory that persons writing the reference letters are university professors?**

We do not make any restrictions about who should be the authors of the letters of reference. However, please bear in mind that these letters should convince our professors that you are able to excel in academia. Further, a letter of recommendation should state your academic achievements so far, as seen by the person giving the recommendation, and present an idea of how he or she predicts your performance will be when producing a dissertation.

**Since my referee will send my recommendation letter via e-mail, how will I know that my reference letters have arrived?**

You will receive an automatic e-mail as soon as we have received both letters.

**When am I eligible to apply for this program?**

One is eligible with a (nearly) completed Master's degree (or equivalent) in law, economics, or a related discipline.

**How much time is required for the program?**

The IMPRS BeSmart program is a full-time program. Within the first year, participants will receive further training in economic methods and theory and will have to collect 60 ECTS. After the successful completion of their training, they will be expected to work on their dissertation.

**Do I need a research plan or proposal?**

It is important that you state your research interests and how you want to investigate the question(s) raised. Although this does not mean that your thesis will correspond exactly to what you propose in your application, it is the minimum we expect all candidates to do in their letter of motivation. If you already have a rather concrete idea of what you want to work on, you are obviously welcome to send us a complete thesis proposal.