

Information for MD Applicants


- Exciting research projects with strong clinical relevance
- Individual supervision & structured training programme
- One full-time year in the lab to focus entirely on your project
- Monthly studentship: €1.095

Join the Integrated Research Training Graduate School (iRTG) of the Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) 1700: "Immune Regulation in the Liver: From Homeostasis to Disease"

Discover all projects at www.uke.de/sfb/crc-1700/

Why Liver Immunology?

Liver and biliary diseases are among the most prevalent yet under-researched medical conditions in Europe. The liver is constantly exposed to a vast number of antigens and signals from metabolism, nutrition, and gut-derived microorganisms. These arrive via the portal vein and the mucosal surfaces of the biliary tract.

A stylized blue and light blue icon of an antibody, consisting of two Y-shaped structures joined at the base.

To avoid harmful immune overreactions, the liver has evolved specialised mechanisms to suppress inflammation and induce immune tolerance. However, this tolerance may allow tumours and hepatotropic viruses to escape immune detection.

Research Focus of CRC 1700

The central hypothesis of CRC 1700 is that immune regulation is a key function of the liver that directly affects whole-body health.

Disturbances in this balance can lead to:

- Chronic inflammation
- Autoimmune liver diseases
- Persistent infections
- Liver cancer



To investigate these mechanisms, CRC 1700 unites clinician scientists, biomedical researchers, and computational experts across two research areas:

- **Project Area A:** Mechanisms of hepatic immune tolerance and inflammation
- **Project Area B:** Pathways to disease: autoimmunity, infection, and cancer

What is the iRTG?

The Integrated Research Training Graduate School (iRTG) is a structured research programme within CRC1700. It is designed to support both medical students (Dr. med.) and PhD students in conducting translational research in liver immunology.



A key component is the Academy for Translational Liver Immunology, which fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and career development.

Tandem Teams: MD meets PhD

MD and PhD students work together in tandem teams for two years to promote mutual exchange and interdisciplinary learning. Each tandem is mentored by a team of three:

- One project principal investigator (PI)
- An additional PI
- A CRC-affiliated bioinformatician



Your Benefits at a Glance

- Exciting research projects with clinical relevance
- One full-time year in the lab to focus on your doctoral thesis
- Individualised mentoring and supervision
- Structured curriculum with seminars, workshops and lectures
- Monthly studentship: € 1.095
- Choose from a range of projects within CRC 1700



Application Details

- Deadline: 30 June 2025
- Selection interviews: July
- Programme start: October 2025

Application documents (PDF):

- Motivation letter
- Curriculum vitae
- High school diploma
- Transcript of the first medical examination (Physikum or equivalent)



Submit to:

Prof. Dr. Ansgar W. Lohse and Dr. Dorothee Schwinge

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Explore our projects

www.uke.de/sfb/crc-1700/research-projects

