

WELCOME TO THIS YEAR‘S AUTUMN SCHOOL IN:

MPSP AUTUMN SCHOOL 2026

MAX PLANCK SCHOOL of photonics

KARLSRUHE

The Q - Quadro City Hotel
Rüppurrer Straße 2
76137 Karlsruhe

21.09. – 24.09.2026



READ ME FIRST: DEADLINES

YOUR TO-DOS BEFORE THE AUTUMN SCHOOL

04th of Sept.

- Use THIS FORM to let us know by the **04th of September** whether you can participate in the Autumn School and which agenda points you will attend. Please make sure to also select online workshop(s) you want to take part in, as places are limited here and the coaches will adapt their courses to the attendants.

04th of Sept.

- If you can offer an INTERNSHIP for study phase candidates, submit your internship offer(s) using THIS FORM by the **04th of September**.

09th of Sept.

- If you want to make use of our “Print and Bring” service, send us your poster for the poster session by the **09th of September** (to: photonics@maxplanckschools.de)



AT A GLANCE:

PROGRAM (21.-24.09.2026):

	MONDAY, 21.09.	TUESDAY, 22.09.	WEDNESDAY, 23.09.	THURSDAY, 24.09.
9-10 a.m.	*ARRIVAL*	Intercultural Training for Cohort 8	2 DAY WORKSHOPS: AI assisted Python *OR* Communication and Presentation *OR* Academic Writing	How to kick-start your doctorate for Cohort 8
10-11 a.m.				Lab Tour
11-12 a.m.				
12-1 p.m.			*LUNCH - LUNCH - LUNCH - LUNCH - LUNCH*	
1-2 p.m.				
2-3 p.m.	Lab Tour with coffee break			*DEPARTURE*
3-4 p.m.				
4-5 p.m.			MPSP POSTER SESSION	
5-6 p.m.		PHD CANDIDATE MEETING		
6-7 p.m.	*DINNER – DINNER – DINNER – DINNER - DINNER*			
7-8 p.m.	WELCOME EVENING	CAREER EVENING	FELLOW TALK	
			FIRESIDE CHAT	

CLICK ON EACH BOX TO JUMP TO THE DETAILS

LAB TOURS

MONDAY, 21.09., at 14:00 & THURSDAY, 24.09., at 10:00



We start the week on Monday with a visit to David Hunger's labs at the Physikalische Institut (PHI) at KIT (Campus South) and gain insights into the group's research on Cavity Quantum Optics.



On Thursday you will have the opportunity to take a look into the laboratory of our Fellow Maryna Meretska at the Institute of Nanotechnology at KIT (Campus North).



WELCOME EVENING

MONDAY, 21.09., at 19:00

To kick off this year's Autumn School and give us a chance to get to know each other (a little bit better), we'll be holding a Welcome Evening again on the first night. There will be a few games again—just for fun and to chat with each other.
Feel free to bring a few board games and if you'd like to share something from your culture with others, you can of course also bring a few snacks or drinks from your home country.

We are looking forward to having a great week with you again in the Autumn School!



INTERCULTURAL TRAINING – for the 8th Cohort

TUESDAY, 22.09. at 9:00

Academia and industry increasingly act on a global scale. How nice, if this brings together the knowledge and competencies of people of different background and facilitates synergies. But intercultural communication leads often to typical misunderstandings or even conflicts which could be avoided.
Therefore intercultural competence forms an important key qualification. It strengthens the awareness of cultural differences and helps to reflect or, if necessary, to correct one's own perceptions and patterns of action. Intercultural differences can thus be bridged and a basis for an improved collaboration develops.

<u>A glimpse into the contents:</u>
Effective communication: Relation between culture and language
The power of stereotypes: Self-perception & the perception of others
Personal competence: Encountering culture as a way to personal development
Symptoms: Cultural shock and adjustment
Strategy development: Dealing with misunderstandings and conflicts



AI-ASSISTED ADVANCED PYTHON FOR SCIENTIFIC WORKFLOWS

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, 22. & 23.09, at 9:00

This two-day advanced Python workshop equips participants with practical tools for modern scientific computing and experimental work. Building on the “Python for Scientists & Engineers” approach, the course focuses on analyzing, interpreting, and visualizing scientific data, including large and complex datasets, and on producing clear, publication-ready plots. Participants will also explore automation strategies for repetitive analysis tasks, reproducible workflows, and instrument control in laboratory environments.

A further focus will be the efficient use of AI tools for programming assistance, debugging, and code development. The workshop is designed for participants with prior Python experience



COMMUNICATION AND PRESENTATION

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, 22. & 23.09, at 9:00

Whether small talk or academic subject presentation – the ability to present oneself adequately and to communicate one's concerns effectively is a deciding factor of career related success in academia.
With a few fundamental strategies for communication and presentation techniques it is possible to illustrate complex data in a context relevant way, to convince others, to win supporters and thus reach the respectively set goals.
In this workshop the participants engage with their personal communication strategies.
Through exercises and role-plays they familiarize themselves with established presentation techniques and train their communicative competencies.

A glimpse into the contents:

- Good communication presumes set goals
- Preparation is key
- Go public – go scientific! The context makes the difference
- Everything under control? - Dealing with difficult situations
- Minima rhetorica: Tips & tricks on the art of oratory



ACADEMIC WRITING

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, 22. & 23.09, at 9:00

For many scientists writing is the most difficult part of research work. Poor structure, breakneck formulations and unclear argumentation lead to texts which are not too user friendly. However, for the success of academics it is essential that the content is successfully conveyed to the relevant target groups – from the subject community to the wider public.
The methods and instruments of scientific writing can be learnt. Coherently built up and convincingly formulated, even academic texts can be an exciting read!
In this workshop the process of academic writing is highlighted from the first idea through the structuring and formation of the text to its completion. The participants engage with the content related, formal and organisational aspects of writing and train their text competency with exercises.



HOW TO KICK-START YOUR DOCTORATE – for the 8th Cohort

WEDNESDAY, 23.09. at 9:00

You will be guided to view your doctorate as a personal and understand a scientific project, overcome typical challenges and pitfalls, and keep an eye on your health. All acquired skills can be applied effortlessly and transferred to future projects.

The methods consist of moderated reflection exercises, group work, and discussion.



CAREER EVENING

TUESDAY, 22.09., 19:30

For our career evening we invite representatives of local photonics industry to give you insight into the companies and areas of work of your potential future employers.

On Tuesday you will have the chance to gain insight into various companies, talk with their representatives about their personal experience and career path and get advice from them on your professional development.



THE POSTER SESSION

WEDNESDAY, 23.09., 16:00 – 18:00

As in the previous years, you will again have the chance to exchange ideas on your research in a poster session. All research phase candidates as well as senior study phase candidates are expected to prepare a poster about a current research project. If you would like to use our "Print and Bring" service, please send us your poster with the following criteria by **14:00 on 09.09.2026 (Wednesday)** via email to photonics@maxplanckschools.de.

- Format: A0
- File type: pdf, tif or jpg
- Make sure it is good quality
- File size: max. 10Mb

On the Virtual Campus you will also find MPSP templates for your poster design in PPT, which you are welcome to use.

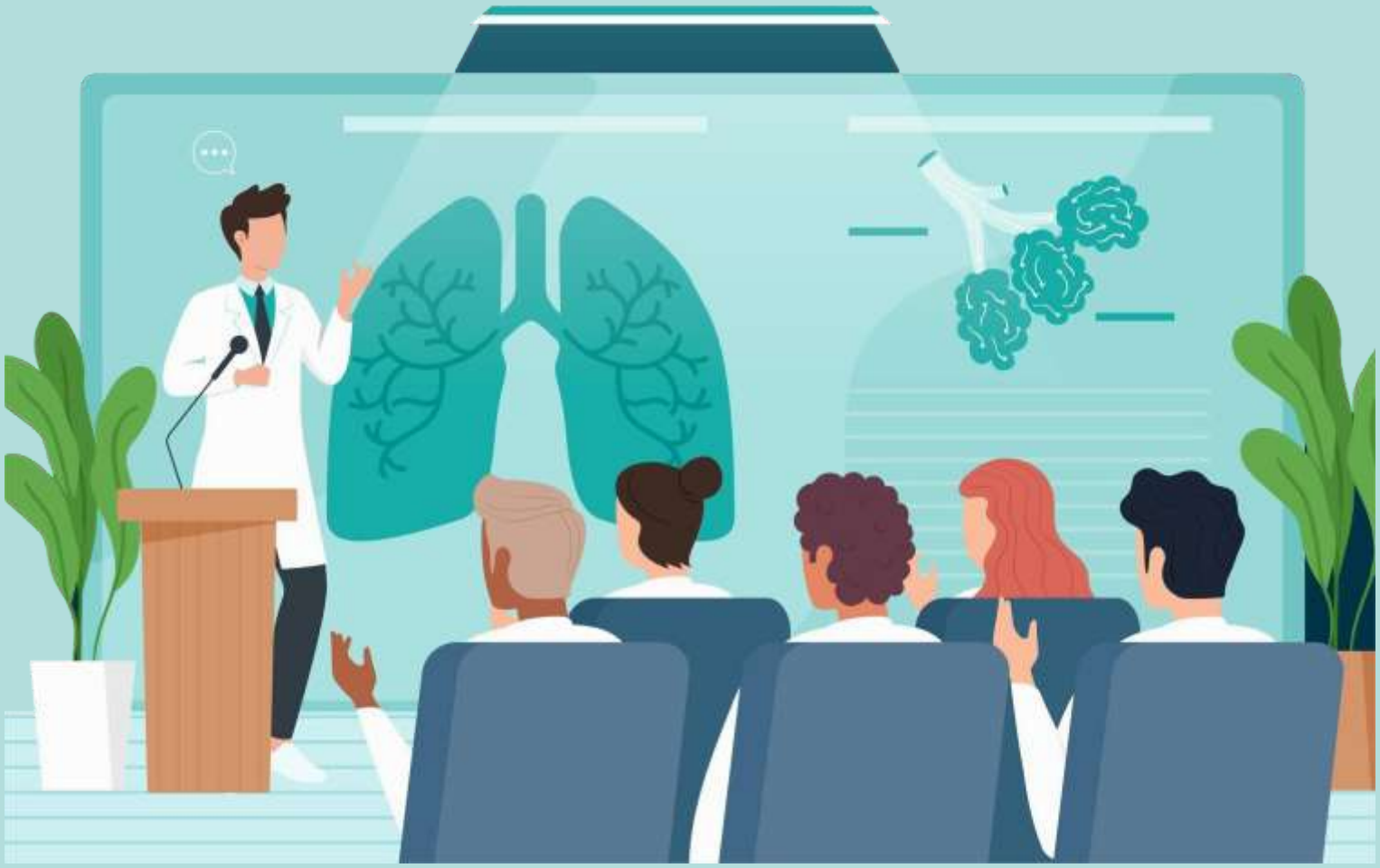


Please fill in the following form the title of your poster latest until **12:00 on 15.09.2026 (Tuesday)**, so we can prepare an overview of your posters for the event: https://forms.office.com/posterlist_autumnschool2026

FELLOW TALK

WEDNESDAY, 23.09., 19:15

Wednesday evening is dedicated to networking and tips for your scientific career, hopefully with some special guests – one of our Fellows. Otfried Gühne will give us insights into his latest research about Theoretical Quantum Optics and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss with him.



FIRESIDE CHAT

WEDNESDAY, 23.09., 20:00

Continuing networking and because of the great feedback on the last Fireside Chat, there will be another at this year's Autumn School. Our Fellows will share their experiences with you about pursuing a career in science and discuss the changes and challenges brought about by AI. You can ask for helpful tips for your own career in science and get feedback.



MPSP TRAVEL EXPENSES

WHAT TO DO SO THAT WE CAN PAY FOR YOU

BEFORE THE TRAVEL

Always hand in a Business Travel Request at your employer or University.
Study Phase and **Research Phase** candidates will be reimbursed after the event.

Do you have a contract of employement* with the FSU Jena (Staat Thüringen)?

*also **Hiwi** and/or **Part-time** Contract!

YES

- **PhD candidates+Hiwis:** use the SAP System of the FSU Jena and/or the procedure required in your institute to to submit a travel expense request
- Use the PSP-Element:
  Z-73-00500-01-17010000
- Do it at least 2 weeks before the travel

NO

- Hand in a Business Travel request
  at your workplace / institute
- You'll have a guest status at the FSU



MPSP TRAVEL EXPENSES

WHAT TO DO SO THAT WE CAN PAY FOR YOU

AFTER THE TRAVEL

WHEN?

- You have a maximum of 3 months to hand in your Travel Expense Request, but the FSU Administration usually needs 6-8 weeks to process the requests, so please do it as soon as possible after the travel

WHAT TO HAND IN?

- You are going to get informed in an email after the Autumn School, due to the frequent changes in the FSU processes, to ensure you have the latest info

WHAT WE PAY

- Accommodation
- Travel (Train tickets: 2nd Class / own car: 0,2 €/km / Taxi: only when it is properly justified; Parking fee)
- Food is NOT reimbursed; if the event is fully catered, no daily allowance is granted

You can find detailed information about Business Travels and the downloadable Forms to use on our Virtual Campus under MPSP Office/General Administrative Resources/Business Travel



SEE YOU AT THE

MPSP AUTUMN SCHOOL!

Any questions regarding the program? Just email

photonics@maxplanckschools.de

PLEASE REGISTER BY 04.09. 2026

