

Molecular Biosciences - Admission FAQ

Why I'm not on the 'Valid Applications' list?

- According to the guidelines of the Central Office for International Education Affairs in Bonn (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen – ZAB; see: www.anabin.de), the included documents do not allow you to embark on a master's course at Heidelberg University.
- Your application did not include all the required documents. One or more of the following documents are missing:
 - Certified copy of the Higher education diploma
 - Certified copy of the Transcript of records
 - Certified translation of the Higher education diploma into German or English
 - Certified translation of the Transcript of records into German or English (please see the following link concerning information about certifications http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/md/studium/download/information_beglaubigungen_en_dib.pdf)
 - Grading system, indicating highest grade and passing grade
 - Original certificate of the Akademische Prüfstelle (APS) in China, Ulan Baator/ Mongolia or Hanoi/ Vietnam
 - Mandatory online application form

Why wasn't I shortlisted for the interviews?

We receive many applications each year and it is impossible to accommodate everybody. We are in the luxurious position that we are able to pick the best students that apply. If you have not been shortlisted, you may wish to know why, and if you can do anything about it. Please do not write to ask.

Here are three of the most frequent reasons:

1. Your degree does not have enough solid background for example in molecular biology, biochemistry, and cell biology to prepare you for our course.

For example, for degrees from Africa, Middle Eastern countries, and the Indian subcontinent, this usually applies to Medical Laboratory Technology and Pharmacy, and often (though not always) to Veterinary medicine and Medicine. We scrutinise course content carefully. If you do not know enough at the start, you will not understand our lectures at all and will therefore be extremely unhappy, fail the exams, and be unable to continue the course. You CAN do something about this. First, you can do a year, at least, of study specifically in molecular biology, cell biology and biochemistry, in your own country or elsewhere. Some relevant molecular research experience will help a lot too, especially if it includes a broad range of methods. You could also apply to our bachelor course, if you can speak German and have financial support.

2. Your grades are not high enough.

We pay particular attention to your most recent grades in relevant subjects. We are aware that different countries have different standards, and that universities and colleges within a country vary too; we take this into account. As a general guideline, for letter grades, we expect to see a very high proportion in the range of B+, A, and (if given) E (excellent). Indian students should have many grades above 70% and at least some in the 80% range.

3. Your degree formally does not qualify you to start a Masters in Germany.

The most common example of this is a three-year bachelors degree from India. To qualify you need an extra year, for example in a more advanced programme. Exceptionally, a year of research experience may be a substitute. If you are uncertain about this try enquiring at the local German consulate or DAAD office.