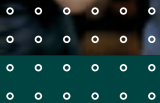
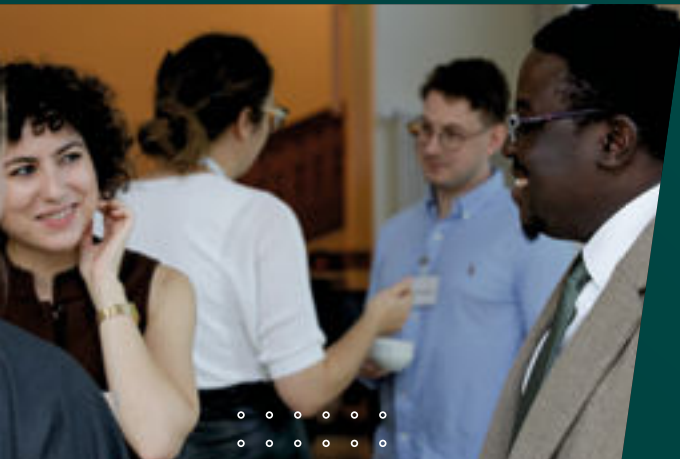
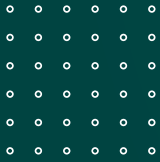




MAX PLANCK LAW



INSIGHT | INNOVATION | IMPACT

# Pioneering Legal Research

[law.mpg.de](http://law.mpg.de)



## Academic Opportunities



The Max Planck Law website provides a single gateway to PhD, postdoc, and visiting researcher opportunities at our Institutes—scan the QR code or visit [law.mpg.de/academic-opportunities/](https://www.law.mpg.de/academic-opportunities/)

On the site, you can either apply for any of the current vacancies listed, or find out which Institute caters for your research interests and send in a speculative application. You can apply at any time!



## Discover the Benefits of Joining Max Planck Law

*Welcome to Max Planck Law! If you are a passionate early career researcher looking for academic opportunities in law and interdisciplinary legal studies, read on to learn what we can offer you.*

Max Planck Law is a network of eight Max Planck Institutes engaging in legal research. We are dedicated to advancing the understanding of legal systems and their impact on society through rigorous academic inquiry and cutting-edge research projects. A significant amount of our work is interdisciplinary, comparative, and transnational. On the following pages, you will learn more about the benefits of joining us and why spending a few years in Germany could be a great opportunity for you.

We are part of the Max Planck Society, a leading research organization based in Germany that consists of over 80 research Institutes specializing in a wide range of academic disciplines. We are always looking for talented and passionate PhD students and post-doctoral researchers.

At Max Planck Law, you will have the chance to build upon a legacy of pioneering research and to become part of a community that values intellectual curiosity, exceptional scholarship, and collaboration.

Research is central to our mission, and we ensure it is generously funded. We offer PhD students and postdocs contracts that combine the guarantee of academic freedom with the security of a salaried position.

Learn more about the many opportunities at Max Planck Law in this brochure and on our website!

[law.mpg.de](http://law.mpg.de)  
[info@law.mpg.de](mailto:info@law.mpg.de)





## Collaborating at the Forefront of Legal Research

Max Planck Law connects eight Institutes and over 400 researchers across Germany.

Each of our research Institutes operates independently, focusing on specific fields ranging from anthropology of law to tax law. However, we collaborate closely, particularly in support of our early career researchers.

We have a wide array of resources and opportunities available to assist you in your career. These include research seminars, workshops, a professional development programme, support for grassroots cooperations, exchanges with top international law faculties, as well as a fellowship programme that attracts renowned scholars from around the globe.

Our working language is English, and knowledge of German is not an essential requirement for application.

### ABOUT THE MAX PLANCK SOCIETY

The Max Planck Society is Germany's most successful research organization. Home to more than 30 Nobel Laureates, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the most esteemed research organizations across the globe.

The Max Planck Institutes produce over 15,000 publications every year, many of them amongst the most cited works in their respective fields.

The Max Planck Institutes provide excellent working conditions and offer researchers the freedom to pursue their own research projects. There are no teaching obligations, but researchers are supported in gaining teaching experience.

### LEGEND Areas of expertise



*Comparative Law*



*Criminal Law*



*Criminology*



*Empirical Legal Studies*



*European Law*



*Human Rights*



*Intellectual Property and Competition Law*



*International Law*



*Law and Anthropology*



*Law and Sociology*



*Law and Economics*



*Legal History*



*Legal Theory and Philosophy*



*Private Law*



*Public Law*

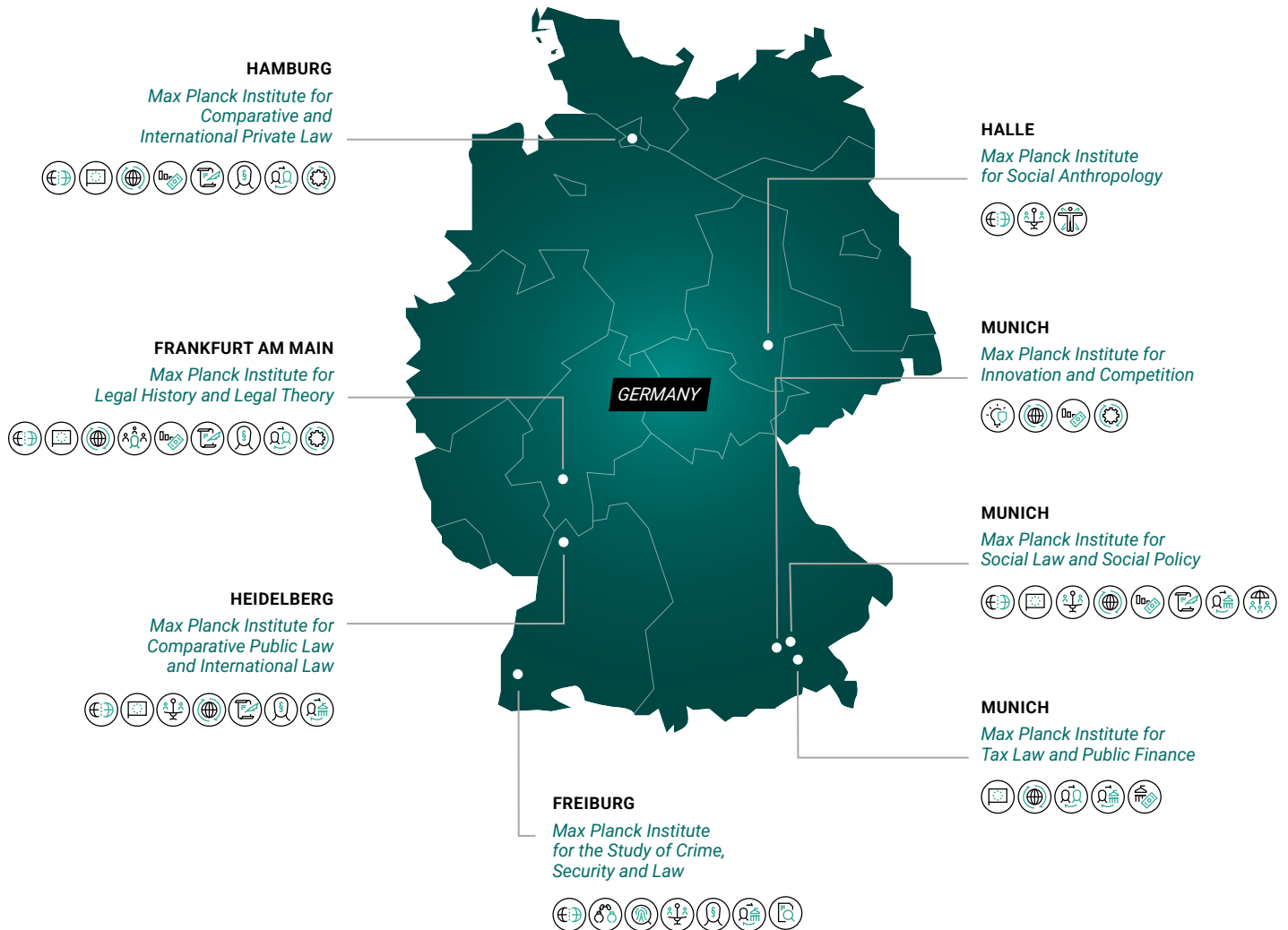


*Social Law*



*Tax Law*

# One of the World's Largest Networks for Legal Research





*Current and former researchers come together in a vibrant global community of scholars and professionals in law and related disciplines through our Alumni Network.*

## Pioneering Legal Research

*We recognize the importance of international collaboration in developing ground-breaking research.*

Nearly half of our researchers are from outside Germany. This diversity of backgrounds and research cultures fosters creativity and innovation. The success of our approach is reflected in the achievements of our researchers, who have gone on to impact society in significant ways. Whether as professors, judges, policymakers, officials, or leaders of think tanks or civil society organizations, our researchers have made their mark both inside and outside the academy. We take pride in their accomplishments.

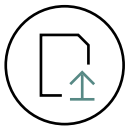




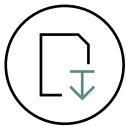
### SSRN PARTNERSHIP

Max Planck Law maintains a Social Science Research Network (SSRN) Research Paper Series and consistently ranks highly in a number of SSRN criteria for top international law schools.

### AMONGST THE TOP 500 INTERNATIONAL LAW SCHOOLS



Max Planck Law frequently ranks **#1** for papers uploaded



Max Planck Law frequently ranks **#1** for total papers downloaded



### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

The Max Planck Society is committed to promoting diversity in the workplace and encourages applications from individuals identifying as belonging to groups that are underrepresented in research in terms of, for example, gender, disability, age, religion, internationality and ethnicity, sexual orientation and identity, social background and education.



## How We Support Your Career

*Max Planck Law offers a range of resources and opportunities to support your research, whether you are working towards a PhD, embarking on a postdoc project, or leading your own research group.*

As a researcher at one of our Institutes, you will have access to excellent resources, including specialized libraries and databases, as well as support from administrative and academic staff.

In addition, you will benefit from funding for research-related expenses such as travel costs, conference fees, and publication costs. We provide career coaching, organize exchanges with leading international law faculties, and help you promote your research globally.

You can also access language courses, onboarding services and

family services to assist with, for example, childcare.

The Max Planck community is a globally respected network of researchers with a wealth of experience and knowledge. Being part of this network provides a strong foundation for your professional future.

With both access to a valuable network of researchers and the necessary financial resources, you will be able to focus on what really matters: pursuing your passion and making a meaningful impact in your field.

### FUNDING

At Max Planck Law, we charge no tuition fees. All our researchers are employed under contracts that provide both academic freedom and financial security. PhD students at our Institutes receive a three-year contract and a minimum salary of € 3,200 per month before tax. For postdocs, the initial contract is a fixed-term appointment for two to three years, which can be extended up to a maximum of six years. The annual salary before tax will be on a scale from € 62,000 to € 89,000 for a full-time position, depending on prior experience. The Institutes facilitate mobile working through local agreements. The positions also include an annual bonus, access to state benefits, and 30 days annual leave.



## *This is what you can achieve with us:*

**AS A PHD STUDENT,** you will have the opportunity to work towards your doctorate in a supportive and diverse environment. Your status as an employed researcher will allow you to entirely focus on your PhD project.

**AS A POSTDOC,** you will carry out independent research with the guidance and support of an Institute Director or Research Group Leader. This will allow you to enhance your research skills, build your expertise, and establish yourself as an internationally recognized researcher.

**AS THE HEAD OF A RESEARCH GROUP,** you will be responsible for managing your group's research and activities, and for completing a major project.

- [Find out what our current researchers and alumni say from page 12.](#)



**FRANKFURT** – an international and diverse urban scene



**HALLE** – excellent working conditions





**MUNICH** – a perfect combination of city and outdoor life close to the Alps



**HAMBURG** – a dynamic port city with a rich cultural life



**FREIBURG** – proof that the weather in Germany can be amazing

... AND MANY MORE.

## Advancing Your Career in Germany

*Germany is a leading destination for research and education, attracting some of the brightest and most innovative minds from around the world.*

With its long history of academic excellence, high-quality institutions, and strong funding and support system, Germany offers an unparalleled environment for PhD students and postdocs to advance their careers. Whether you are looking to further your education, contribute to cutting-edge research, or explore new opportunities for personal and professional growth, Germany offers an attractive and supportive environment for your continued success.

### LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Germany is widely known for its comfortable lifestyle and affordable living costs. It is a highly sought-after global destination, offering a range of benefits such as excellent healthcare, a clean environment, stunning scenery, and vibrant cities, all contributing to an enjoyable living experience.

Moreover, Germany is considered a secure place to reside, providing a safe and stable environment for its residents. Today's Germany is a cosmopolitan and diverse society, with around 30% of the population having an international background.

### VISA AND WORK PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

As an EU citizen, you already have the right to work in Germany. If you are joining us from outside the EU, with a job offer or visiting researcher contract you will qualify for a settlement permit for highly skilled workers or for an EU Blue Card.

If you move to Germany with your partner, they will be eligible for a working visa and for financial support with language courses. Additionally, any children will be eligible for financial support.



*I was delighted to be part of Max Planck Law. The network and my Institute provided me with a perfect environment to conduct my doctoral research and to continue my education as a lawyer committed to social change. This is because Max Planck Law offers its members a wide range of academic resources and*

*promotes valuable exchanges among researchers from different countries of the world on various areas of the law. For those who like to do research on legal-related topics and are committed to academic exchange, open legal discussion, and the promotion of a culture of equality, I encourage you to apply.*

**CRISTINA VALEGA CHIPECO**

*Former Doctoral Researcher*

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law

*I chose to pursue my postdoctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law because of its truly international and intellectually vibrant atmosphere. What makes this environment particularly inspiring is the exchange with guest scholars from all over the world—even during a quick coffee break—which creates a genuinely diverse and stimulating academic community.*

*At the same time, I feel very privileged to work in an institution with such a strong support system, from the phenomenal library to the dedicated event team, which allows researchers to fully focus on their work. Being part of Max Planck Law also means being closely connected to the other legal institutes, a network that continually enriches my research and broadens my perspective.*

**SUSANNA ROSSBACH**

*Senior Research Fellow*

Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law



## This is what our current researchers and alumni say:

*There are many reasons why one should apply for a PhD or a postdoc position with Max Planck Law. If I had to name the three main reasons that led me to spend nine years at the Institute in Freiburg they would be the following:*

- *the opportunity to fully commit to research while still having the possibility to teach on the side*
- *the chance to conduct interdisciplinary research*
- *the possibility to build your international network*

*I would recommend doing a PhD or a Postdoc at Max Planck to anybody who, like me, is interested in pursuing an academic career.*

### **CLARA RIGONI**

*Former PhD student  
and Senior Researcher*

Max Planck Institute  
for the Study of Crime,  
Security and Law

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## This is what our current researchers and alumni say:



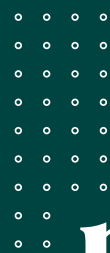
*Joining Max Planck Law has been one of the best decisions of my academic career. My Institute's commitment to cutting-edge research and its focus on interdisciplinary approaches have allowed me to broaden my horizons and gain valuable insights. The opportunity to build and expand my international network has been invaluable, providing me with a diverse range of perspectives and a wealth of knowledge.*

*I highly recommend Max Planck Law to anyone looking to further their academic pursuits and make a meaningful impact in the field of law. Max Planck Law opens up almost infinite possibilities for its researchers.*

**RALF SEINECKE**

*Researcher*

Max Planck Institute for  
Legal History and Legal Theory



‘Insight  
must precede  
application’

*(Max Planck, 1858–1947, Nobel Prize in Physics 1918)*

**Max Planck Law**

Mittelweg 187  
20148 Hamburg  
Germany

Chair: Professor Dr Anne Röthel

Find out more:  
[law.mpg.de](http://law.mpg.de)

