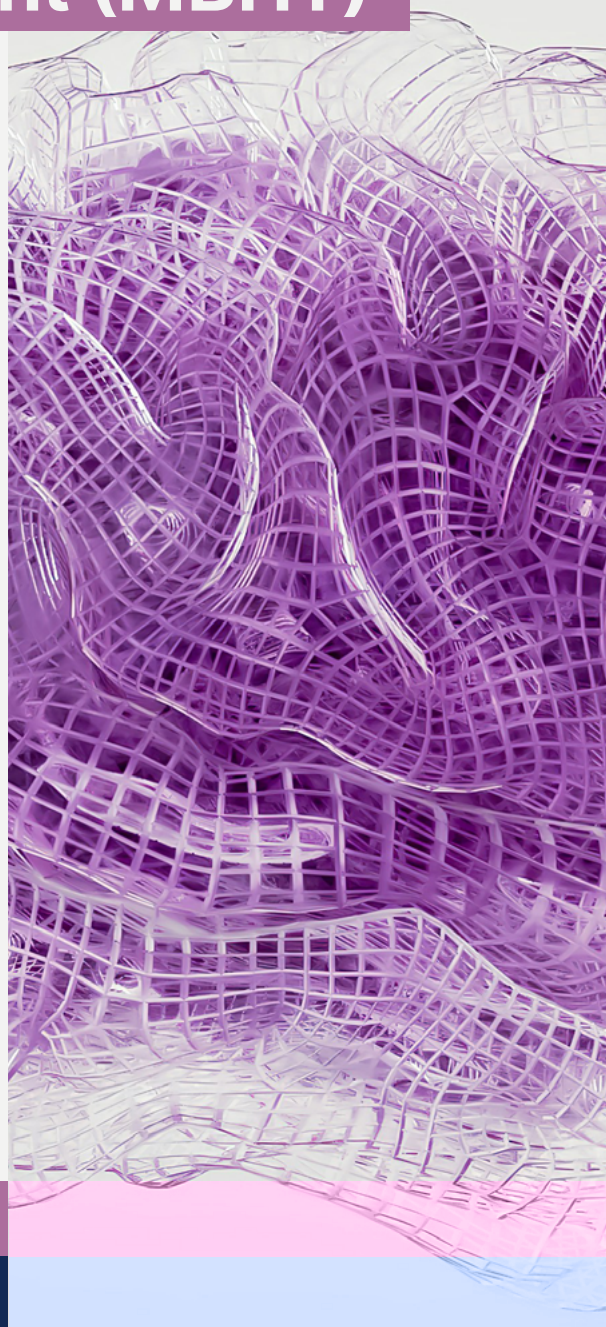


PhD Program in Mind, Brain and Human Thought (MBHT)

IMT SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES LUCCA

Mind, Brain and Human Thought (MBHT) is an **international Ph.D. program** offered by the **IMT School**, one of the seven Schools of Excellence in Italy, which provides rigorous training and close supervision in **humanities, sciences, and technological disciplines**, welcoming multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches at their boundaries. The IMT School is a truly **international environment** welcoming students and scholars from all around the world. The School has a record of placing students in top research universities, policy-making institutions, and companies. IMT School is a member of the EFC - Educating Future Citizens network: students and scholars have the opportunity to participate in joint activities and are encouraged to engage with partner institutions to foster academic and research collaborations. English is the official language of the School.



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The newly launched MBHT PhD program, which builds on the legacy of the former CCSN PhD program, offers advanced, interdisciplinary training in understanding **human thought, mind, and behavior, integrating neuroscience, psychology, philosophy of science, and the history of philosophy**. It focuses on both the **biological and cultural dimensions of the human mind**. The program has two main perspectives: one studies the **neural and psychological mechanisms of behaviour**, while the other explores the **historical and epistemological development of knowledge**. It prepares researchers to address complex challenges in mental health, intercultural understanding, and ethics, combining scientific rigor with a philosophical approach.

The research units **MoMiLab** and **PhiBor** contribute to the program's curriculum and research.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING

All students enrolled in the PhD program receive a **scholarship** of about €1,350/month, which includes pension contributions and results in a net salary of about **€1,200/month for 3 years**. As an exclusive additional benefit, students are offered **free on-campus serviced housing and full board at the IMT canteen**, worth an equivalent of about €800/month. Furthermore, they are given a research budget of about €4,000 to attend international academic conferences, summer and winter schools, and other similar events. During visiting periods abroad, the scholarship is increased by 50%, possibly receiving further funds from the **Era-smus+ program**.



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CAMPUS LIFE

At the IMT School, a PhD isn't just about research - it's about **becoming part of a vibrant, international community in the heart of Tuscany**. Located within the stunning historical walls of Lucca, the IMT campus offers a unique blend of **academic excellence, personal growth, and everyday comfort**. One of the standout features of the IMT experience is the **dynamic campus life**. While PhD paths are often solitary, IMT transforms the journey into a **collaborative, enriching experience**. Workspaces and recreational areas are seamlessly integrated, encouraging students to connect, share ideas, and build lasting friendships.

All IMT students are guaranteed a **desk and have unrestricted access to the fully accessible campus**, thoughtfully designed to support both academic success and personal well-being. Modern amenities include cozy relaxation zones, coffee corners, kitchenettes equipped with cookers, microwaves, and dishwashers, as well as laundry rooms. When it's time to unwind, students can enjoy a dedicated Turkish bath, a fitness area, and a leisure room with ping pong, foosball, PlayStation consoles, and board games.

Student accommodations, located in the beautifully restored **San Francesco Complex** and the nearby **Brunero Paoli residence**, feature hotel-like shared double



rooms with private bathrooms. A campus **canteen** serves lunch and dinner daily, and **all students benefit from free housing and meals**.

The IMT School also offers outstanding academic facilities. With six spacious study rooms and 65 individual workstations reserved for students, students always have the space they need to work. The **IMT Library**, housed in the historic former **San Ponziano Church**, offers 32 exclusive study spots for IMT students, 86 additional seats for public use, and 24 private offices—four of which are bookable by students for deep, focused work.

At IMT School, students won't just study—they'll thrive in an environment designed to bring out their best, both professionally and personally.

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INPUT AND OUTPUT PROFILES

The MBHT PhD program is primarily for candidates with backgrounds in **psychology, philosophy, neuroscience, medicine, biology, or humanities**, but also welcomes applicants from fields like **physics, economics, mathematics, engineering, and computer science**.

Graduates will be highly qualified to conduct **research on thought, behavior, and the brain, integrating biological, psychological, philosophical, and cultural perspectives**. They will be prepared for academic careers, including postdoctoral positions, fellowships, and professorships, in areas like psychology, neuroscience, cognitive science, and philosophy of science.

Beyond academia, the program opens opportunities in research and development roles in **healthcare and technology**, as well as **consulting, science communication, and policy development**. Graduates can also pursue careers in cultural institutions and humanities research centers. The interdisciplinary nature of the program and the strong professional networks at the IMT School provide graduates with a competitive edge in the job market.



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The MBHT PhD program is divided into two complementary tracks:

- **Neuroscience, Experimental Psychology, and Psychophysiology (NEPP)** – focuses on the neural and psychological mechanisms of human behavior.
- **Human Thought: Philosophy, History, and Science (HT)** – explores the philosophical, epistemological, and historical foundations of knowledge.

This interdisciplinary program offers both theoretical and methodological tools for studying the human mind in its neurophysiological and cultural dimensions. Coursework covers a range of topics, including **emotions, psychopathology, perception, cognition, brain plasticity, and consciousness, along with philosophy of science, epistemology, and the historical development of human thought across cultures**. Students also receive rigorous technical training in psychological and neurophysiological research methods, such as experimental design, statistical inference, and machine learning. Practical training includes analyzing brain data from techniques like MRI, EEG, and non-invasive brain stimulation, as well as psychophysiological and behavioral data. **The program emphasizes hands-on learning through projects simulating experiments, with final assessments based on applied projects**. It also stresses ethics, integrity in research, and open science practices.