

## Berlin School of Integrative Oncology (BSIO)

### Basic information

**Keywords:** Cancer | Translational and Clinically-Oriented Research | Interdisciplinary Research and Training | Broad Technological Spectrum

**Program director:** Prof. Clemens A. Schmitt

**Program coordinator:** Dr Eleanor Horn (eleanor.horn [at] charite.de; +49 30 450 559075)

**Program web link:** [www.bsio-cancerschool.de](http://www.bsio-cancerschool.de)

### Detailed program information

**Program summary description:** The BSIO offers a structured 3-year doctoral program entirely in English jointly educating natural scientists and physicians/medical students in the field of integrative oncology and features excellent research conditions, an inspiring training environment including a comprehensive curriculum and a broad supervision and mentoring network. Students have the opportunity to conduct part of their project in one of the labs of the renowned international partner institutions of the BSIO. With respect to its scientific scope, the BSIO aims to bring our understanding of malignant growth to new conceptual levels, i.e. to expand the molecular, cell biological, organismic and system-mathematical research focus by utilizing advanced experimental and simulatory models to develop novel diagnostics and innovative therapeutic principles, and to make them rapidly available for clinical testing. At the BSIO, highly talented graduate students and postgraduate scientists from all over the world are guided through the early phases of their careers in translational and clinically-oriented cancer research.

**Systems medicine and/or translational highlights:** The BSIO educates natural scientists and medical students/ clinical scientists hand in hand creating an interdisciplinary research and training atmosphere where both groups ‘speak the same language’. It is the central mission of the interdisciplinary graduate school to introduce basic scientists to the most demanding problems in clinical oncology, and, in turn, to stimulate young research-interested clinicians to translate unsolved clinical challenges into experimentally approachable questions, ultimately leading to their mechanistic explanation. Projects at the BSIO range from more basic to more clinically-oriented research and share their focus on cancer and on how results can be translated to clinical advances.

**Primary funding source:** Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) Excellence Initiative

**Program start date:** 11/2012

**Number of students recruited per year:** 10-15

**Number of program funded positions/places:** up to 10

**Duration of program:** 3 years (PhD track), up to 2 years (MD track)

### Scientific training

**Lecture series:** The BSIO organizes its Cancer lecture series which is covering the modules CancerDissect, CancerInteract, CancerModel and CancerStrike, with two lectures being held per semester. More details are available at [www.bsio-cancerschool.de](http://www.bsio-cancerschool.de)

**Other activities:** The BSIO also organizes an international speaker series, in-house seminars and in 2015 the first Young Scientists in Cancer symposium (organized by BSIO students) as a satellite symposium to the international “Making walls history: Overcoming treatment barriers in Cancer” conference on June 05/06, 2015.



## **Mentoring & supervision offered**

Supervision covers meetings with each doctoral student's first supervisor as well as one or more meeting(s) with every doctoral students' thesis committee including progress reports in preparation of these meetings.

## **Additional features**

**Soft skills training:** A wide range of soft skill classes offered by Humboldt Graduate School and Dahlem Research School is open to BSIO students.

**Support for conference visits:** Travel grants are available in the framework of the BSIO program.

**Clinical visits:** Participation in clinical visits at different departments as well as participation in clinical video conferences are part of the BSIO program.

**Stipends/grants funded within your program:** PhD and MD positions funded by the BSIO are available.