Q&A:

Questions about applying

1. Where can I find more information about the program and the application?

- **Discipline-Specific Regulations for Study and Examinations** provide general information about the program, its structure and main Modules: [https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/studium/docs/03_studium_konkret/07_rechtsgrundlagen/studienordnungen/CoSEC_StudO_ENG.pdf](https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/studium/docs/03_studium_konkret/07_rechtsgrundlagen/studienordnungen/CoSEC_StudO_ENG.pdf)

- To get more information on eligibility and academic admission requirements, please go to the **subject-specific admission regulations**: [https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/studium/docs/03_studium_konkret/07_rechtsgrundlagen/studienordnungen/ZuO_CoSEC_EN.pdf](https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/studium/docs/03_studium_konkret/07_rechtsgrundlagen/studienordnungen/ZuO_CoSEC_EN.pdf)

- You can find the information about prerequisites for admission as well as the documents that you need to provide for application here (in the section “Cognitive Science – Embodied Cognition”): [https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/studium/application-enrollment/application-master/consecutive.html](https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/studium/application-enrollment/application-master/consecutive.html)

2. What are the main admission requirements?
For a successful application you need to provide (1) a BA degree that is related to Cognitive Science (e.g., psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, cognitive science, computer science) (2) a certificate of your English language skills and (3) proofs of either your mathematical training (linear algebra, calculus) or practical training in experimental psychology (designing, conducting, analyzing, presenting an experiment) - at least 9 ECTS. To enter the program, German language skills need **not** be demonstrated.

For the complete list of required documents please see:
3. **My BA is not in Psychology. Can I apply?**
Most of the applicants have a BA in Psychology/Neuroscience/Cognitive Sciences, but the program values and encourages diversity of backgrounds, since Cognitive Science can be studied from different viewpoints. Therefore, students with BAs in Neurobiology, Sports and Philosophy can also be admitted if they satisfy the admission requirements (see also Q4). However, students with a standard engineering background or with interest in clinical issues will be disappointed by the program and should not apply.

4. **Experimental Psychology Practice or Mathematics skills.**
Apart from having a good command of English (B2) it is crucial to have experience (equivalent to 9 ECTS) in either Experimental Psychology Practice or Mathematics (linear algebra and calculus). This can be a serious problem and an exclusion criterion for students with some BAs (e.g. Philosophy) that usually lack both courses in the curricula. In that case **prior to application** candidates need either to take additional courses in Mathematics (linear algebra and calculus) or attend an internship in the lab that conducts Psychology/Neuroscience/Cognitive Sciences research to earn a certificate, confirming their skills in doing research.
If you’d like to apply for an internship at the UP, please see the list of Cognitive Sciences Labs:

5. **Can courses in Statistics be counted as Mathematics skills?**
No, courses in Statistics cannot be accepted as demonstrating your knowledge of Mathematics, since they do not provide an in-depth introduction in the topics of linear algebra and calculus.

6. **Can I apply if I do not have either Experimental Psychology Practice or Mathematics skills?**
No, applicants that lack skills in both Mathematics and Experimental Psychology practice cannot be admitted to the program.

7. **What should I write in the Statement of Purpose?**
You may denote your interest in Cognitive Sciences and motivation for research in that area, and provide more details about your skills and
expertise. Be *specific*: describing your research projects and main findings is better than briefly mentioning the topic. For applicants with a BA less relevant for Cognitive Sciences the statement of purpose is a good opportunity to tell more about the expertise they acquired in their BA and how these skills and knowledge may inform and inspire research in the field of cognitive science.

8. **There are several deadlines for submission – which one do I need?**
   The deadlines for submission are given here:


   There are two deadlines: “1st semester” and “Advanced studies” – if you intend to start your study at the MA level, you need 1st semester deadline, if you have already obtained the MA degree in a closely related topic and would like to apply for a transfer to the University of Potsdam to the higher semester, than select the “Advanced studies” deadline.

9. **How should I submit the documents?**
   You should submit your documents via Uni-Assist. Please visit “Application via uni-assist e.V.” web page for more details:


10. **I have questions about submitting the documents to Uni-Assist – whom should I contact?**
    All enquiries regarding applications via uni-assist should be sent to Mrs. *Julia Schindler*. Her contact info is provided here:


11. **I have problems with Uni-Assist (e.g., my GPA calculation is not correct).**
    If you think that your documents were not processed correctly by Uni-Assist please contact *Mrs. Julia Schindler*. Her contact info is provided here:
12. **When can I expect to receive a decision about my application?**

After the official application deadline with Uni-Assist there are several sources of delay: processing delays at Uni-Assist, difficulties in finding dates for the Admission Board during holidays, and delays in postal delivery of the formal decisions of acceptance and rejection. Therefore, we ask applicants to wait two months after the admission deadline before inquiring about their status.

**General questions about the program**

13. **How flexible is the program structure - Is it possible to study part-time?**

This MA can be studied part-time - you'll need to have a meeting with the Board and modify your study plan according to your work engagement. More in § 7 Duration and Organization of the First Segment of the Master’s/Ph.D. Program:

https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/studium/docs/03_studium_konkret/07_rechtsgrundlagen/studienordnungen/CoSEC_StudO_ENG.pdf

14. **I plan to study part-time, so it’s important for me to know how courses are usually scheduled.**

It is difficult to say, since it will also depend on the Choice Modules you'll select (which can even be in another university). There are several types of course organization at the UP: 1) regular - with a class every week on a specific day; 2) block - intensive course when classes take place in one week, Mon-Fri, 9-17; 3) Semi-Block - several weeks with 2-3 intensive days (usually Fri-Sat) 9-17.

15. **This is an integrated MSc-PhD program. How does the transition to the PhD level work? Do all Master students - if desired - automatically proceed to PhD level without further formal application?**

No, the transfer to the PhD level is not automatic - students need to apply to be admitted. Students interested in continuing their advanced research on a topic related to Embodied Cognition usually apply. The documents should be send to the Head of the Program, Prof. M. H. Fischer within the specified deadlines.
More information in § 11 Admission to the Ph.D. Program: https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/studium/docs/03_studium_konkret/07_rec.htsgrundlagen/studienordnungen/CoSEC_StudO_ENG.pdf

16. **What do the students usually do after their Master's degree?**
   Students with research aspirations apply for a PhD position (at the University of Potsdam or other Universities), others find their places outside Academia – in start-ups, tech companies with a cognitive slant, government panels, etc.

17. **Does the embodied cognition course also have relations with other cognitive science research facilities in the region?**
   There are occasional joint lectures or block seminars with Humboldt University and Free University that students from all universities attend. Also, you may propose for approval as equivalent for a Choice Module a course that you are interested in at another university. Information about open lectures and talks is sometimes placed on the Info Boards in the building, but of course students are welcome to learn about interesting events in other universities by themselves and attend.

18. **I am interested in participating in research projects/internship. What are the main research foci? What should I do to apply?**
   There are different candidate labs within the Humanities faculty - they mostly do psychology research (with different methods, such as EEG, eye-tracking, TMS, kinematics, virtual reality, etc) and computation modelling. Links with other departments can be established on the initiative of students willing to do research in a particular area. There is a Baby lab in the building; the Sports Dept. also has interest in projects about embodiment.

   The list of Cognitive Sciences Labs can be seen here: https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/cognitive-sciences/science-research/labs.html

   External internships (e.g., abroad) are possible upon arrangement.

   The Potsdam Embodied Cognition Group (PECoG) (https://www.uni-potsdam.de/pecog/index.html) currently has the following research foci: embodiment, action simulation in perception and comprehension, numerical cognition, action-language
interaction, links between numbers and other domains (e.g., language, music), emotions, decision-making, scene perception and processing comics (Dr. Laubrock), human-robot interaction (Dr. Zhou). You can see more detailed info here:
https://www.uni-potsdam.de/de/pecog/themen-fuer-bama-abschlussarbeiten.html

The topics are not "cut in stone", it’s a general overview, so if you have a specific research idea you'd like to work on, you may set a meeting with someone who has related research interests, discuss and start a project under supervision.

19. **I am interested in participating in an experiment. How can I find experiments?**
   Participating in experiments is a good way to learn more about the specific methodology that you may be interested in using yourself from an expert. Also, it is a requirement to get ECTS for some courses. To see the full list of the experiments recruiting participants and to enroll for participation, you need to register in SONA:

20. **Are there opportunities for entering an exchange program?**
   Yes, for more details:
   https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/international/outgoing/going-abroad.html

21. **Is there a tuition fee for the study program Cognitive Science – Embodied Cognition?**
   There is no tuition fee. However, students have to pay a regular administrative term fee (Semestergebühren) which includes a 6-month ticket for all public transportation in the state of Brandenburg and in Berlin. More details on the composition of those fees can be found here:
   https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/studium/studying/organizing-your-studies/re-registration.html

   Further information regarding the Semesterticket can be found on the webpage of the General Students Committee (German: Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss ASvA):
   https://astaup.de/service/semesterticket/
22. **How can I explore scholarship opportunities at the UP?**

Please visit the following page:

https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/studium/studying/financing-funding-housing/scholarship-programs.html

23. **Are there any preparatory courses (e.g., for Math or to acquire the terminology in English)?**

There are no specific preparatory courses (especially courses of English; this is an English-taught degree and all applicants are required to have a specific level of English already mastered) organized by the MSc Embodied Cognition instructors.

For University-level courses, you may ask here:

https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/studium/application-enrollment/before-application-enrollment/preparatorycourses.html

If you want to acquire Neuroscience terminology in English, you may enroll for any online courses in Neuroscience/Brain Science at Coursera, etc. or read journal articles on the topic.

**For Admitted Students**

24. **How can I get help with Visa application?**

Our faculty can only provide the admission notification sent via mail and e-mail. For further questions, please consult your local embassy or contact the friendly staff at the International Office of Uni Potsdam:

https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/international/service/center/io.html

25. **What means admission with obligation (Bridge Module)? Will the Bridge Module count into my Master's Degree?**

You will be able to register for bridge modules in the first Master semester during the regular instructional period and **not before**. Each bridge modules will count as 9 ECTS into your degree. You can register for a bridge module **only if** your admission notification contains the obligation to do so.
26. **Until when do I have to enroll to Uni Potsdam?**
   For enrollment deadlines, please refer to your admission notification. We recommend to apply for enrollment as *early as possible* after you received your admission notification. The procedure includes handing in of missing documents which takes time.

27. **When is the deadline for course registration? What happens if I am not registered when instruction period starts? ...or when I have not reached Germany by then?**
   Newly enrolled students will receive their account in PULS (the University of Potsdam’s online platform for study affairs) along with their student ID. There are certain deadlines for course registration and for de-registration usually around **mid of November**. So don't worry if you arrive a little late. The current deadline for registration, enrollment, and withdrawal period for courses in Master’s degree programs can be found here:

28. **How to connect with people in Potsdam?**
   For some students the start at Uni Potsdam is not only a new stage in life but also a big challenge. In order to make the start as convenient and welcome as possible, Uni Potsdam initiated a program to connect international and local students: Buddy – UP:
   [https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/international/service/buddy.html](https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/international/service/buddy.html)

   You can also check out the PANGEA project:

   Additionally, you can check out the webpages of the International Office:
   [https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/international/service/center/io.html](https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/international/service/center/io.html)

29. **How can I find Housing in Potsdam?**
   We recommend that you deal with accommodations in a timely manner and that you also consider accommodation in the surroundings of Potsdam. Information is provided here:

https://www.studentenwerk-potsdam.de/housing/our-halls-of-residence/?L=1#

https://www.wg-gesucht.de/