

Letter of Motivation

for the Middle European interdisciplinary master's programme in Cognitive Science (MEi:CogSci) at the University of Vienna

1. Personal Information

Last Name	
First Name	
Date of Birth (DD.MM.YYYY)	
Degree 1, University 1	
Discipline of Degree 1	
Degree 2, University 2	
Discipline of Degree 2	
Degree 3, University 3	
Discipline of Degree 3	

2. Structured Letter of Motivation

1) Why do you want to study cognitive science? (1.000 characters max.)

2) Why do you want to study MEi:CogSci, i.e. why MEi:CogSci rather than any other degree programme in cognitive science? And why MEi:CogSci in Vienna (e.g. refer to research groups, which might be of interest for you)? (1.000 characters max.)

3) What is your central research question, which could lead you through this programme in cognitive science? Describe the phenomenon you want to explore and how it can be studied within cognitive science. Explain how you approach it (methods). What are potential insights or applications of your research? Write an extended abstract using a scientific writing style. Include three references. (1.500-2000 characters)

References:

1.	
2.	
3.	

4) What is your most memorable experience of working in a team? What was your role? What challenges did you experience in this role and why? How were difficulties resolved? (800 characters max.)

5) How have your past experiences prepared you for studying in the MEi:CogSci programme? (e.g. summer schools, conferences, voluntary work, professional experience, university courses, etc.) In case you have certificates, you may add them to your application. (800 characters max.)

6) Imagine the following. You just graduated from MEi:CogSci – what are the five key competencies, skills, or mindsets that you have acquired during your studies?

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

7) Imagine that you have just graduated from MEi:CogSci and you are about to apply for a job. What is the job you are applying for? (200 characters max.)

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Why do you study cognitive science in order to pursue this career? (800 characters max.)

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3. Important Information

By submitting this application, i.e. the MEi:CogSci Letter of Motivation, I am aware of the following:

- MEi:CogSci is a full-time study programme.
- MEi:CogSci starts once a year in October.
- MEi:CogSci is a joint programme. To obtain a joint degree from all universities in the MEi:CogSci network (current MEi:CogSci partner universities: Comenius University in Bratislava, Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, University of Ljubljana, University of Vienna) students have to:
 - Spend one semester abroad at one of the partner universities (mobility semester, third semester).
 - Students may communicate a preference regarding the mobility semester, i.e. which partner university (for current options, see partner universities listed above) they would like to go to. Despite our best efforts, we cannot guarantee that students will be able to spend the mobility semester at their preferred partner university. MEi:CogSci guarantees a place at one of the partner universities, but not necessarily the preferred one.
 - The mobility semester is financed by Erasmus+ scholarships.
 - The mobility semester must take place in the third semester – only students in the third semester are guaranteed a place at one of our partner universities (including an Erasmus+ scholarship and a place in all mandatory seminars/courses at the host university).
 - If an Erasmus+ scholarship is not a valid option to finance the mobility semester of a student (e.g. because the student is not eligible for Erasmus+), MEi:CogSci cannot guarantee financial support for the mobility semester.
- MEi:CogSci requires students to participate in the annual MEi:CogSci Conference.
 - The MEi:CogSci Conference takes place annually (commonly in June). Each year, a different partner university hosts the conference.
 - Students have to participate in the MEi:CogSci Conference twice:
 - Students have to participate in the second semester to present their second semester project at the Conference. This includes participation in the Conference peer-review process, publication of an abstract in our MEi:CogSci Conference proceedings, as well as a presentation at the Conference.
 - In the fourth semester, students participate in the Conference to present their master's thesis (projects). This includes participation in the Conference peerreview process, publication of an abstract in our MEi:CogSci Conference proceedings, as well as a presentation at the Conference.
 - Participation in the MEi:CogSci Conference may require a conference contribution of up to 30 Euros per participant.
 - MEi:CogSci cannot cover students' travel expenses – students have to cover travel expenses related to the MEi:CogSci Conference themselves.

3.1 Information regarding processing and sharing of personal data (according to GDPR)

Please be aware that we share the following personal data among our network of MEi:CogSci partner universities (current MEi:CogSci partner universities: Comenius University in Bratislava, Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, University of Ljubljana, University of Vienna), who act as joint data controllers.

1) Data in context of MEi:CogSci application: applicant's name, date of birth, and information regarding status, i.e. accepted or rejected.

This data is shared to allow for coordination of application procedures across the MEi:CogSci partner universities and to determine the exact number of students who will start the programme at each partner university. The personal data processed and shared for this purpose will:

- a) be deleted after the application process in case of rejected candidates, and
- b) in case of accepted applicants will be deleted after graduation from MEi:CogSci at the latest.

2) Data in the context of organising the mobility semester: student's name, student's home university, student ID number, start semester/semester of enrolment into MEi:CogSci at home university, preference ranking of partner/host universities for mobility semester (list of ranked names of preferred partner/host universities), statement of interest regarding mobility semester projects.

This information is shared among partner universities to organise the number of required places and distribution of places for mobility students at each partner university. The personal data processed and shared for these purposes will be deleted after graduation from the MEi:CogSci programme at the latest.

3) Data in the context of learning contracts (including students' transcripts of records) for the students' mobility semester projects: student's name, student ID number, name of home university and host university, degree programme code/name at home university, mobility semester project description, transcript of record (project and exam grades obtained at host university), as well as supervisor's name)

This information is shared among the partner universities to ensure successful project planning and completion, as well as for organisational purposes, i.e. recognition of grades and projects at the student's home and host university.

The personal data processed and shared for these purposes will be deleted after graduation from the MEi:CogSci programme at the latest.

4) Data in the context of the MEi:CogSci Conference and the affiliated online conference system: student's name, affiliation, e-mail address, and scientific abstract.

This information is shared to allow for co-organisation of the conference by the partner universities, as well as publishing the conference proceedings. The personal data processed and shared for these purposes will be deleted after graduation from the MEi:CogSci programme at the latest.

5) Data in the context of master's thesis concepts: student's name, student's e-mail address, student ID number, master's thesis project description, name of student's home and host university, supervisor's name, supervisor's affiliation, supervisor's e-mail address.

This information is shared for organisational purposes in case students write their master's thesis at a host/partner university to ensure that the master's thesis concept can be approved at the home university. The personal data processed and shared for these purposes will be deleted after graduation from the MEi:CogSci programme at the latest.

If you wish to enquire about and/or enforce your data subject rights (according to GDPR) regarding the shared personal data specified above, please contact the university you are applying to and/or the university at which you have been accepted for MEi:CogSci (your home university), i.e. the University of Vienna.