General
The International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Astronomy and Astrophysics, is funded by the German Max Planck Society and is operated by the Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie (MPIfR) in collaboration with the Argelander-Institut für Astronomie (AIfA) of the University of Bonn and the I. Physikalisches Institut at the University of Cologne. It offers three-year financed PhD courses. The official language is English. Currently it hosts more than 50 students from 20 countries around the world.

Fields of Research
The IMPRS for Astronomy and Astrophysics offers a broad spectrum of topics in observational and theoretical, galactic and extragalactic astrophysics, observational and theoretical cosmology, fundamental physics with astronomical tools and instrumentation. Some examples:

Besides the expertise in radio astronomy the IMPRS for Astronomy and Astrophysics provides the opportunities in almost all fields of contemporary astrophysics, techniques and energy bands.
A list of indicative PhD projects can be found at:
http://www.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/2937536/PhD-projects

Training
The IMPRS for Astronomy and Astrophysics offers a competitive PhD program on the basis of a tightly structured curriculum, including:
- advanced lectures on fundamental astrophysical fields
  http://www.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/1544270/bbl
- soft skill seminars (e.g. presentation skills, time management, scientific reading)
  http://www.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/1573130/sss
- weekly students seminars
  http://www.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/1587877/seminar
- annual, "students-only" workshop where they develop team activities aside from their main research interests
  http://www.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/1714927/retreat
- colloquia at the three hosting institutions given by experts from all over the globe
- university courses
- thesis advisory committees monitor the progress of each student and provide scientific feedback to the PhD course

Furthermore, the students are funded to travel to international schools, conferences and the best observing facilities around the world. They are exposed to the most advanced techniques and methods using state-of-the-art earth-bound or space observatories, such as the unique 100 m radio telescope in Effelsberg and the most advanced instruments in millimeter and sub-millimeter astronomy as well as high-energy band observatories.

Application
The call for applications is open until November 15, 2014.
Encouraged to apply are students with a M.Sc. degree or equivalent including a written thesis in Physics or closely related subjects. Solid astrophysical background is highly favored.

More details on the IMPRS program and the admission requirements and process can be found at the IMPRS website:
www.mpifr.de/imprs
www.youtube.com/user/imprtube