



Regulations for the Doctoral Program Geography & Earth System Science

Version March 16, 2023

I. General Information

Based on the Faculty of Science’s Ordinance for Obtaining a Doctoral Degree and the Doctoral Program Regulations, this document serves to describe the specific regulations at the «Zurich Graduate School in Geography & Earth system Science». These regulations apply to all members of the «Zurich Graduate School in Geography & Earth System Science» who are completing a doctorate in either Geography or Earth System Science.

II. Admission

1. Admission to a doctoral program at the «Zurich Graduate School in Geography & Earth System Science» is structured according to Faculty of Science’s Ordinance for Obtaining a Doctoral Degree and the Doctoral Program Regulations.
2. Conditions (which must be completed before the beginning of a doctorate) and additional requirements (which must be completed over the course of a doctorate) will be determined by the head of the doctoral committee and the «Zurich Graduate School in Geography & Earth System Science» executive committee and are forwarded to the Office of Student Affairs.
3. As the official language of the Zurich Graduate School in Geography is English, candidates’ English proficiency will be tested during the admissions process.
4. Once a provisional version of the doctoral agreement is completed, candidates will receive an acceptance letter to the Zurich Graduate School in Geography for the purpose of matriculation.

III. Structure of the Doctoral Program

1. Curricular Portion

The curricular portion of the program amounts to 12 ECTS Credits. Of these 12 ECTS Credits, 6 are determined by the Graduate School. These courses include introductions to the PhD level, interdisciplinary teaching, Graduate School retreats and transferrable skills.

Module/Course	ECTS Credits
PhD seminar I	1
PhD seminar II	1
Interdisciplinary teaching in Geography & Earth System Science	1
Graduate School Retreat (2x)	1
Transferrable skills, e.g. Scientific Writing Skills	2
Students may personally select the remaining 6 ECTS Credits in consultation with the doctoral committee.	

Total	min. 12
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2. Teaching Assistance
All PhD students must participate in at least 100 and no more than 420 hours of teaching. This requirement also applies to PhD students who are not stationed at the Department of Geography. Students and their doctoral committee should lay out a plan for the teaching assistance and include it in the doctoral agreement. Teaching hours at the Science Education Center (in Geography) will be accredited. Guidelines for typical credit hours for various teaching formats are available on the Graduate School website
3. Formation of the Doctoral Committee
The doctoral committee provides regular feedback on the doctoral student's performance. It consists of at least three members, at least two of them, including the head of the doctoral committee, hold the right to confer a PhD at the Faculty of Science. If the two members with the right to confer a PhD a) are based at the same division of the department or b) are external, the committee includes a third member with the right to confer a PhD from within GIUZ.

IV. Doctoral Degree

1. A dissertation consists of a monography or a collection of manuscripts and/or publications (cumulative dissertation). The minimum requirements for a cumulative dissertation are three manuscripts, all of which have been submitted for peer review by external experts, and at least one of which has been accepted for publication. The form and the requirements for a monography or cumulative dissertation are determined by the doctoral student in together with the doctoral committee.
2. The circulation round consists of at least two faculty members and one other person with the right to confer a PhD at Faculty of Science, main advisors of PhD-students, or group leaders. All three may not be members of the doctoral committee. At least one person must be from outside the research area. These individuals are determined jointly by the head of the doctoral committee and the Graduate School board. Other persons with the right to confer a PhD at Faculty of Science may be included in the circulation round if they are interested.
3. The circulation round should organize a meeting and discuss the dissertation and the expert reports. A written report will be sent to both the Graduate School Board and the doctoral committee. Further queries will be conveyed to the doctoral committee.