

Faculty of Science

Regulations for the Doctoral Program Cancer Biology (CB)

Version June 1, 2023

I. General Regulations

1. Mission Statement

The goal of the PhD program in Cancer Biology is to recruit exceptional young scientists and to educate them in cancer research over the course of their PhD. Students in the Cancer Biology PhD program work in research groups doing foundational or clinical research.

2. General Information

Students with a Master of Science can earn a Dr.sc. nat. UZH within 3-4 years while in the Cancer Biology PhD program. Doctoral students choose the focus of their research from areas of clinical and foundational cancer research and thus contribute to the progress of cancer research in Zurich. Admission to the PhD program depends on successfully advancing through the admissions committee's review process. The program's official language is English; English proficiency is tested during the admissions process.

Admissions requirements for the PhD defense are defined in the UZH MNF Ordinance for Obtaining a Doctoral Degree from the January 31, 2011. The following criteria must be fulfilled to successfully complete the doctoral program:

- Participation in 3 for the following 4 modules:
 - Module A: Cancer biology (1 ECTS Credit).
 - Module B: Tumors and the immune system (1 ECTS Credit).
 - Module C: Mechanisms of cancer induction and progression (1 ECTS Credit).
 - Module D: Cancer treatments (1 ECTS Credit).
 - Module E: Translational cancer biology (1 ECTS Credit)
- Participation in 2 mandatory modules as follows:
 - Science Ethics (1 ECTS Credit).
 - Scientific Writing (1 ECTS Credit).
- Active participation in at least one CB PhD students Retreat or one CCC Zurich Scientific Retreat (1 ECTS Credit)
- Completion of 6 additional ECTS Credits.
- Regular meetings with the doctoral committee.
- Submission and defense of a doctoral thesis, in which the student describes his or her own original scientific research.
- Fulfillment of any other requirements set by the UZH or ETH Zurich.
- 3. The Cancer Biology PhD program is part of the Life Science Zurich Graduate School (LSZGS).

II. Admission

1. Candidates must have a master's or an equivalent degree when beginning their dissertation. Their master's studies need not be completed at the time of their

application or admissions interviews, but they should end within 6 months of completing the application.

2. T The application must be made via the online system of the Life Science Zurich Graduate School.

Track I: The selection process takes place via an admissions committee. Applicants who are invited to an admission interview have the opportunity to meet with group leaders of their choice to discuss potential research areas and PhD projects. Passing the interview leads to membership in the program. Should the candidate not find a group leader to offer, supervise and direct a dissertation within the next six months, membership in the program will lapse.

Track II: Direct application to a group leader. The admission interview is organised individually and in consultation with the program coordinator and must take place before the start of the doctorate.

Upon admission to the CB PhD program, the doctoral committee must be determined, and the doctoral agreement recorded in the Student Admin database no later than six months after the start of the PhD.

III. Structure of the Doctoral Program

1. Curricular Portion

Module/Course	ECTS Credits
3 of the 4 modules A-E Scientific Writing and Science Ethics course Retreat	3 2 1
Elective module	
Participation in a convention with a personal contribution, summer schools, etc.	
Institute and group seminars	
Transferrable skills	4
Total	min. 12

2. Teaching Assistance

All doctoral students of the MNF (UZH) must teach in accordance with the provisions of the MNF during their doctorate.

Realization of the teaching requirement should be conducted in consultation with the Studies Coordination in Biology according to the rules specified in the document "Teaching requirement for PhD students" (see www.biologie.uzh/studium/Doktorat.html).

3. Doctoral Committee

The doctoral committee should consist of at least three members:

- Direct PhD advisor, must be a member of the CB.
- Official PhD advisor, must be a faculty member at MNF or have the right to confer PhDs at MNF (not applicable if met by the direct supervisor).
- An additional faculty member at MNF or a person with the right to confer PhDs at MNF.
- An external member, with the right to advise PhD students.

The first meeting should take place within 6 months (as an exception and in consultation with the program coordinator, the meeting can be postponed to maximally 12 months after the beginning of the dissertation). A follow up meeting should be scheduled every 12 months. The PhD defense may not take place more than 18 months after the doctoral committee's last meeting.

PhD students should send out a research plan (2000 words) to the doctoral committee and upload it to Student Admin database two weeks ahead of the doctoral committee's first meeting.

In the case of an unsatisfactory performance, doctoral students can repeat the doctoral committee meeting and defense of their research plan after three months. If they fail a second time, they will be expelled from the program.

The PhD student submits a short report after each meeting. The report should record the date, the members present, the committee's decision (requirements fulfilled/ not fulfilled) and any specific recommendations. The report must be signed by the members of the doctoral committee and uploaded and submitted to Student Admin database.

For the following meetings, the PhD students send a progress report to the members of the doctoral committee two weeks in advance and upload the report to the Student Admin database afterwards.

If a PhD student repeatedly fails to fulfill these requirements, the steering committee can expel him or her from the CB program.

IV. Doctoral Degree

The specifications in Part A, section V regarding doctoral degrees apply.