



Regulations for the Doctoral Program Integrative Molecular Medicine (imMed)

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I. General Information

The comprehensive study and understanding of how healthy and sick organs function requires multidisciplinary approaches and an interconnected way of thinking. The doctoral program in Integrative Molecular Medicine (imMed) offers students a scientific environment, which combines foundational and clinical research and provides a wide variety of educational opportunities. The research groups that belong to the imMed program use state-of-the-art technology to address complex biomedical questions on a molecular, cellular and systems level.

II. Admission

For admission to the imMed program, students can either apply to the Life Science Zurich Graduate School (LSZGS) (track I) or directly to a research group leader at UZH or ETHZ, who is a member of the imMed program (track II).

Track II candidates must apply to the imMed program within 3 months of beginning their dissertation.

The imMed program committee reviews all applications. The committee consists of five research group leaders and a student representative. Interviews for track I candidates take place twice a year, while interviews for track II candidates take place four times a year. The imMed committee decides on the admission of the candidates.

Candidates who have not been admitted to the imMed PhD program cannot reapply. Candidates, who have been previously rejected from a different doctoral program at the Life Science Zurich Graduate School, cannot apply to the imMed program.

III. Structure of the Doctoral Program

1. Dissertation
Completing a dissertation usually takes 3 or 4 years. During this time, the PhD student should contribute to at least two peer-reviewed publications and be the primary author of at least one of these publications.
2. Curricular Portion
During their doctoral studies, students must earn at least 12 ECTS credits at UZH, ETHZ or other institutions of higher education. Their selection of courses must be approved by the doctoral committee at the beginning of their PhD. Any changes to this selection must be discussed at committee meetings and approved by the committee.

Module/Course	ECTS Credits
Compulsory module: BIO 681 Integrated knowledge in physiology	2
Course for PhDs at UZH/ETH (<i>program specific</i>)	max. 8

Courses for PhDs at UZH/ETH (<i>transferable skills</i>)	max. 4
Courses for PhDs at other institutes of higher education	max. 4
Primary author of a grant proposal (worth at least CHF 20,000 , 2 ECTS Credits per grant).	max. 2
Poster and presentation at an international conference (1 ECTS Credit per poster/presentation)	max. 2
Total	min. 12

3. Teaching Assistance

All PhD students at MNF must participate in teaching for 100-420 hours over the course of their doctoral studies. The realization of this requirement has to be structured in consultation with the Studies Coordination in Biology according to the rules specified in the document "Teaching requirements for PhD students" (www.biologie.uzh.ch/Studium/Doktorat.html).

4. Doctoral Committee

Within 6 months of the beginning of a doctorate, the doctoral committee which consists of four members must be formed - and communicated by the Official Thesis Supervisor (Responsible Faculty member MNF). Two of the members must have the right to confer PhDs at the MNF. One member is an external expert (not working at the UZH.) The Official Thesis Supervisor (Responsible Faculty Member MNF) functions as the head of the doctoral committee.

5. Doctoral Committee Meetings

The doctoral committee supports students over the course of their dissertation. Committee meetings are scheduled to take place after about 6 months, 1.5 years, 2.5 years and, if necessary, 3.5 years. At every meeting, the head of the doctoral committee must keep a transcript of the proceedings (minutes), which is to be signed by her/him and submitted to the imMed program office via the DissGo platform within a week.

The first meeting (can take place over email) should involve:

- Discussion of the project's concept, which should be submitted by the PhD student to the imMed program's coordination office within six months (corresponds to the doctoral agreements according to PVO §11).
- Determination of a topic related to the dissertation to be discussed at the following doctoral committee meeting. This could be a chapter of a book or a paper, which is relevant to the dissertation (ca.100 pages) (part of the compulsory module BIO 681).

The following meetings should include:

- Discussion of the interim report, which should be sent to all the members of the doctoral committee at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.
- Discussion of the workplan for the next 12 months of the project.
- Discussion of the previously defined topic (30 min.) and determination of a new topic for the following meeting. Testing the prepared topic at the last doctoral committee meeting, after 2.5 or 3.5 years, constitutes the conclusion of the compulsory module BIO 681 "Integrated knowledge in physiology." Students who are not satisfactorily prepared for one of these discussions/exams must retake it within three months.
- Review of completed coursework.

IV. Doctoral Degree

1. PhD Defense

When registering for their PhD defense on the homepage of the MNF Student Affairs Office (PVO §17), students should also submit a digital copy of their dissertation to the imMed program's coordination office.

The public colloquium and disputation should take place 6 to 12 weeks after the dissertation's submission to the coordination office.

2. Circulation Round

The circulation round consists of at least two MNF Faculty Members. The dissertation's circulation should be completed no more than 4 weeks after its submission (PVO §21).