Faculty of Science

Regulations for the Doctoral Program
Microbiology & Immunology (MIM)

Version May 22, 2017

I. General Information

1. The goal of the doctoral program in Microbiology & Immunology (MIM) is to attract motivated students from all over the world to a doctorate in the natural sciences and to provide them with an education that conveys both specialized knowledge and transferrable skills.

2. The PhD program in Microbiology & Immunology belongs to the Life Science Zurich Graduate School (LSZGS), a joint organization belonging to the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich. The doctoral studies are regulated according to the Ordinance for Obtaining a Doctoral Degree at MNF (January 31, 2011) and the Doctoral Program Regulations at MNF (December 13, 2012). Fulfilling any additional requirements set by MNF is necessary to obtain a doctoral degree at UZH.

3. Any additional information or documents are located on the MIM program’s homepage.

II. Admission

1. Track I: Online Application on the LSZGS Website
   Candidates submit their applications over the LSZGS homepage (application deadline July 1 and December 1). An admissions committee (consisting of three research group leaders belonging to the program) selects a group of candidates and then conduct interviews (usually in weeks 6 and 36). Based on their performance in their interview, candidates are admitted to the program. If a candidate cannot find a research group leader willing to be their PhD advisor within half a year, his or her membership in the program will become obsolete.

2. Track II: Direct application to a research group leader
   Applicants may also apply directly to a research group leader, who can accept them as a doctoral candidate. Candidates must then apply to the Program Coordination for admission to the program. A complete application includes a CV, a letter of recommendation from their PhD advisor and the LSZGS’s form, filled out online. The Steering Committee determines whether to immediately accept a candidate, conduct an additional interview or else turn him/her down. There are no deadlines for this application.

3. Only candidates with a master’s or an equivalent degree, who are proficient in English, will be admitted. Membership in the MIM program does not necessarily ensure matriculation at UZH. The formal requirements for admission to UZH must also be fulfilled.

III. Structure of the Doctoral Program

1. Curricular Portion
   Students must earn at least 12 ECTS Credits, in addition to yearly meetings, to complete their dissertation. The MIM program recommends the following distribution:
2. Teaching Assistance

Obtaining a doctoral degree requires students at MNF (UZH) to participate in 100-420 hours of teaching. Implementation 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 and Doctoral Committee Meetings

The doctoral committee should consist of at least three members, two of which (including the head) must have the right to confer PhDs at MNF. The MIM also suggests the following guidelines for the committee’s composition:

- The head (faculty member at MNF or an instructor with the right to confer PhDs at MNF).
- The PhD advisor (as long as he/she is not also the head).
- An external consultant from a related field of research - ideally also a member of the MIM program.
- An expert not involved in the program, whose expertise lie outside the dissertation’s area of focus.

The PhD student and the advisor determine the composition of the doctoral committee and inform the program coordination thereof. The first committee meeting should take place no more than half a year after registration at MNF and should address the student’s research proposal. The research proposal should include a description of the research project as well as milestones and intermediate goals. In addition, a Committee Meeting Report (the form is available at the program coordination) should be completed and signed by all in attendance. This report together with the research proposal will be considered the doctoral agreement.

All meetings take place annually. Students should write a progress report prior to the meetings. A Committee Meeting Report should be completed after every meeting, containing the results of the meeting and signed by all participants.

PhD students are responsible for organizing these meetings. At least two members of the doctoral committee (including the head) must be present. All reports and forms should be uploaded to DissGo.

IV. Doctoral Degree

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