



# Regulations for the Doctoral Program Biomolecular Structure and Mechanism (BSM)

Version July 1, 2013

## **I. General Regulations**

1. The doctoral program BSM offers a structured environment for MSc graduates intending to complete a PhD in structural biology with a focus on structure and function relationships.
2. This program is coordinated by the Life Science Zurich Graduate School (LSZGS), a joint organization of the University of Zurich (UZH) and ETH Zurich.
3. The doctoral studies follow the regulations set by the Ordinance for Obtaining a Doctoral Degree and the Doctoral Program Regulations at MNF. Conferral of a PhD depends on the following requirements:
  - Composition and successful defense of a dissertation containing original research.
  - Completion of 12 ECTS Credits.
  - Fulfillment of all relevant conditions and requirements set by the MNF.
4. The doctoral degree is awarded by UZH.

## **II. Admission**

1. The admissions requirements for a doctorate are specified in the Ordinance for Obtaining a Doctoral Degree §§5-7 and the following. Candidates are accepted into the program over two tracks.
2. Track I: Online Application on the LSZGS Website  
Successful application based on the LSZGS admissions committee for doctoral program's selection criteria and an interview with the head of a research group who has the right to confer PhDs at MNF and is participating in the program. Details regarding the selection and admissions process in each of the Graduate School's PhD programs are described in the corresponding LSZGS regulations. Once applicants have advanced through the selection process and found a research group leader willing to be their PhD advisor, they will be admitted into the program out of track I.
3. Track II: Direct Application to a Research Group Leader  
Direct application and interview with a research group leader who has the right to confer PhDs at MNF and is participating in the program. With the understanding of the research group leader functioning as their PhD advisor, candidates in track II must submit an application for admission to one of the LSZGS's PhD programs within 6 months of beginning their doctorate (matriculation). The respective PhD programs determine the admissions process.

## **III. Structure of the Doctoral Program**

1. Curricular Portion  
Students must earn at least 12 ECTS Credits before scheduling their PhD defense. One ECTS Credit is equivalent to 30 hours of work. Coursework completed to fulfill any

conditions or requirements is exempt. Students can earn the required ECTS Credits by participating in courses and scientific conventions.

Events, which belong to the program's curriculum:

Module/Course	ECTS Credits
Lectures and specialized lectures offered by UZH and ETHZ*	according to VVZ (at least 7 ECTS Credits)*
Course "Methods in Structural Biology" (LSZGS)	1
Course "Scientific Writing" (LSZGS)	1
Course in transferrable skill offered by Graduate Schools	according to VVZ (1-2)
Participation in a scientific convention with a personal contribution	1-2
Total	min. 12

\* Upon consultation with the PhD advisor or the doctoral committee.

## 2. Teaching Assistance

Obtaining a doctoral degree requires students to participate in 100-420 hours of teaching. In addition to teaching hours, hours spent in preparing and processing lessons are counted towards work hours. Teaching load and assignment to particular courses is handled by the institute according to need. The following is counted toward teaching hours: supervising bachelor students in practical training labs in their lower-level courses, supervising bachelor and master's students during research projects in the laboratory (advanced practical training), scoring exams and problem sets.

## IV. Doctoral Degree

### 1. Cumulative Dissertation

The doctoral committee is responsible for determining the specific requirements of a cumulative dissertation (number and extent of publications, primary authorship, publication status, etc.)

### 2. Circulation Round

The circulation round contains at least two people with experience in the general field of research and is selected by the PhD advisor in consultation with the members of the doctoral committee.