



# Regulations for the Doctoral Program Drug Discovery

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## **I. General Provisions**

1. **Program Aims:** The doctoral program “Drug Discovery” is geared to motivated, talented young academics with a Master's degree in a discipline of the life sciences. It is designed to promote their academic education in the life sciences, particularly in relation to the research and discovery of bioactive compounds, the development of these compounds into drug candidates, and the formulation and testing of such candidates in vitro and in vivo as well as in clinical trials. The program thus prepares graduates for a scholarly career in academic or industrial drug research and development, and in related disciplines.
2. **General:** The doctoral program “Drug Discovery” is offered jointly by the University of Zurich (UZH) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich). At UZH, the program educates doctoral candidates in accordance with the ordinance on obtaining a doctoral degree of the Faculty of Science (Promotionsverordnung der MNF), dated 31 January 2011; at ETH Zurich, the program is conducted in accordance with the ordinance on obtaining a doctoral degree of ETH Zurich (Doktoratsverordnung ETH Zürich), dated 1 July 2008. The program is taught in English.
3. **Management:** The program is directed by an executive committee comprising four to six members, with UZH, ETH Zurich, and the University Hospital Zurich each represented by at least one member. The program coordinator is responsible for managing operational business in consultation with the executive committee.

## **II. Admission**

1. Candidates are admitted to the doctoral program in accordance with the ordinance on obtaining a doctoral degree of the Faculty of Science, UZH, or ETH Zurich .
2. As a rule, candidates apply for admission to the program via the Life Sciences Zurich Graduate School (Track 1). They may also be admitted directly via their future supervisor (Track II). In the latter case, the decision on admission is made following an interview with the future supervisor and at least one additional group leader from the Drug Discovery Network Zurich (DDNZ).
3. To ensure that candidates have the requisite knowledge, the executive committee may issue recommendations that additional courses or lectures be attended.
4. The doctoral committee comprises at least three members: The member of the Faculty or Department responsible for conferral of the doctoral degree, at least one additional group leader from the Drug Discovery Network Zurich (DDNZ), and an external person with knowledge relevant to the doctoral project. If necessary, additional members may be added to the committee.
5. Together with the supervisor, the candidate draws up a doctoral agreement, which is submitted to the executive committee for approval. Candidates must have good knowledge of English. Knowledge of German is of advantage.

### III. Structure of the Doctoral Program

#### 1. Curricular Component

The curricular component consists of at least 12 ECTS credits that are acquired by attending a selection of the following courses:

Module/Course	ECTS Credits
A core lecture on drug discovery (compulsory for all candidates)	3
Courses offered by the departments involved whose content is clearly linked to the subject of drug discovery (e.g. postgraduate course in pharmacology and toxicology, introductory course in laboratory animal science [LTK Module 1], medicinal chemistry, clinical study design)	At least 3
A two-day retreat held every two years (compulsory for all candidates)	1-2
Participation in an international conference, including a presentation	1-2
Soft skills courses offered by UZH and ETH Zurich (e.g. scientific writing)	Up to 2
Total	At least 12

#### 2. Teaching

Appropriate involvement in teaching in accordance with the rules of the Department, the Faculty, or the discipline to which the supervisor belongs. PhD candidates of the Faculty of Science of the University of Zurich must be involved in teaching for a minimum of 100 hours and a maximum of 420 hours. The planned teaching activities are defined by the supervisor and the candidate, and set down in the doctoral agreement. The work can include assisting in courses for students at the Bachelor's and Master's levels, working as a proctor, grading exams, or similar teaching-related activities recognized by the institution in question.

#### 3. Meetings of the Doctoral Committee

The doctoral committee comprises at least the three members specified in Section 2 above. The committee meets with the PhD candidate once a year. The PhD candidate is responsible for organizing meetings. The PhD candidate records resolutions from the meeting in minutes, for the attention of the doctoral committee. A copy of the minutes must be forwarded to the executive committee of the doctoral program.

### IV. Doctoral Degree

The procedures for conferral of doctoral degree comply with the ordinance on obtaining a doctoral degree of the Faculty of Science, UZH, or ETH Zurich .

### V. Current Information on the Program

Current information (members of the executive committee, etc.) can be found on the program's website (<http://www.ddnz.uzh.ch/phd.html>).