



Guidelines of the programm Integrative Molecular Medicine

(adopted from Doktoratsordnung MNF – Teil B: Integrative Molecular Medicine (imMed))

The comprehensive study and understanding of organ functions in health and disease requires multidisciplinary approaches and extensive networking. The PhD Program in Integrative Molecular Medicine (imMed) offers students a scientific environment that combines basic and clinical research and offers a broad range of advanced training opportunities. The research groups affiliated with imMed apply state-of-the-art technologies to address complex biomedical questions on a molecular, cellular and systemic level.

Admission

The PhD program is open to PhD candidates applying through the Life Science Zürich Graduate School (track I) and to PhD students to be registered at the University of Zürich (UZH) or at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich (ETH), whose thesis supervisor is member of the imMed program (track II).

Track II students must apply to the PhD program within 3 months after starting their PhD project. Applications are reviewed by the commission of the imMed PhD program, which includes five principal investigators and one PhD student representative. Interviews for track I candidates are scheduled twice a year and for track II candidates four times a year. The commission of the imMed PhD program decides on the admission to the PhD program.

Application to the imMed PhD program is possible only once. Candidates previously rejected by two other PhD programs of the Life Science Zürich Graduate School cannot apply anymore to the imMed PhD program.

The Thesis Committee

Within six months of the start of the PhD, the thesis supervisor appoints a thesis committee. The thesis committee consists of four members, including at least two persons having the promotion right ("Promotionsrecht") at the MNF. An external scientist (not affiliated to UZH) is mandatory for each thesis committee. The thesis supervisor can chair the thesis committee.

The PhD Thesis

The PhD thesis normally takes 3 to 4 years. During this time, the PhD student should be author of at least 2 peer-reviewed original publications, with at least 1 publication as first author. The progress of the PhD thesis has to be discussed yearly at dedicated thesis committee meetings.

Thesis Committee Meetings

During the course of the thesis work, the PhD student will be guided by the thesis committee; meetings are scheduled at approx. 6 months, 1.5 years, 2.5 years, and if necessary 3.5 years of the PhD. At each meeting, the chairperson of the thesis committee writes minutes, which have to be signed by all attendees and submitted within a week to the imMed PhD program.

The first meeting (may be replaced by an E-mail exchange) shall include:

- Discussion of the project outline (=Doktoratsvereinbarung, siehe DO § 11), which has to be submitted to the imMed PhD program by the PhD student within six months after the beginning of the PhD thesis;



- Designation of a topic related to the thesis work that will be examined at the next meeting. This shall correspond to several chapters of a textbook or reviews relevant to the PhD project (typically ~100 pages).

The further meetings shall include:

- Discussion of the written interim report submitted at least two weeks in advance;
- Discussion of the planned work for the next twelve months;
- Examination of the prepared topic (30 min) and definition of the topic to prepare for the next meeting. At the last thesis committee meeting, i.e. at the 2.5 year- or 3.5 year-meeting, the examination of the prepared topics completes the mandatory module “Integrated knowledge in biomedicine”, which has to be passed to submit the PhD thesis. If the candidate fails the module examination, a new date has to be convened by the thesis committee to repeat the examination within three months.
- Verification of the graduate courses attended.

Doctoral Examination

Upon completion of the PhD thesis, the PhD student submits a digital copy of the PhD thesis to the imMed PhD program. In parallel, the PhD student has to register the thesis at the office of Student Affairs through the homepage of the Faculty of Science according to DO § 17.

The public defense and the doctoral examination (= Befragung according to PO § 24.2) take place between four and twelve weeks after the submission of the PhD thesis to the PhD program.

Thesis Circulation

The PhD thesis must be reviewed and accepted by a circle of at least four scientists comprising at least two members of the Faculty of Science. The circulation of the thesis must be completed within two to four weeks after submission of the thesis according to PO § 21.

Curriculum

During the thesis, the PhD student has to collect at least 12 ECTS-credits by attending courses organized by the Life Science Zürich Graduate School or additional courses offered by the UZH and ETH. The selection of courses attended by the PhD student has to be approved at the beginning of the thesis by the thesis committee. Changes in the course selection have to be discussed during thesis committee meetings and approved by the committee.

Courses, modules, events	ECTS-credits
Mandatory module: Integrated knowledge in biomedicine	2
Graduate courses of UZH/ETH (technical skills)	max. 8
Graduate courses of UZH/ETH (transferable skills)	max. 4
Graduate courses at external academic institutions	max. 4
Grant proposal as main applicant (minimally CHF 20'000 requested, 2	max. 2



ECTS-credits per proposal)	
Poster and oral presentations at international conferences (1 ECTS-credits per poster/presentation)	max. 2
Total	min. 12

Teaching activities

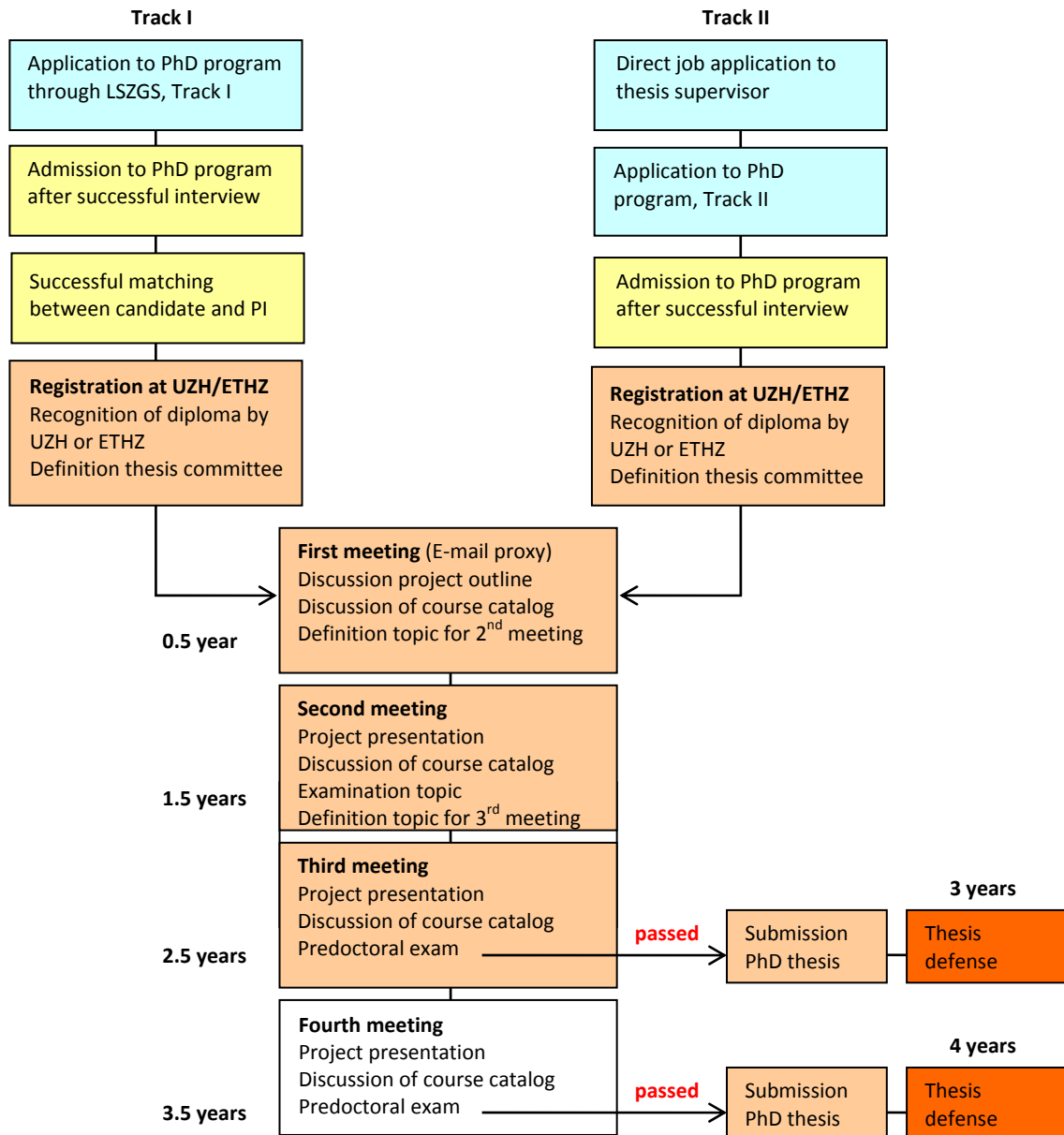
All PhD students registered at the Faculty of Science (UZH) have to achieve between 100 and 420 hours of teaching during their PhD thesis. The required teaching activities are coordinated by the Office of Biology Studies based on the guidelines "Teaching requirement for PhD students" (see www.biologie.uzh.ch/Studium/Doktorat.html).

Director Doctoral Program: Prof. Thierry Hennet

Coordinator/Administrator Doctoral Program: Heidi Preisig



Summary illustration of the PhD thesis



Zurich, July 1, 2013

My signature below confirms that I have read and understood the
 a) Directives for the PhD Program in Integrative Molecular Medicine (imMed)
 b) Information Sheet on the Treatment of Plagiarism of the Lehrkommission, UZH

Date

Name / First Name (blockletters)

Signature PhD Student