University of Zurich[UZH]

Faculty of Science

Regulations for the Doctoral Program Public Understanding of Science

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I. General Information

1. The doctoral program "Public Understanding of Science" at the Faculty of Science (MNF) at the University of Zurich (UZH) fosters students' research competence in evidence-based and theory-driven science communication and education. The program helps them to acquire transferrable skills for careers within and outside academia with a focus on learning to convey scientific findings to the public.
2. The program is regulated according to the MNF Ordinance for Obtaining a Doctoral Degree (PVO).
3. The following requirements must be fulfilled to graduate from the doctoral program "Public Understanding of Science":
   - Composition and successful defense of a dissertation containing original research.
   - Earning of 12 ECTS credits that fulfil the curricular requirements.
   - Completion of all the relevant conditions and additional requirements set by the Faculty of Science (MNF) at UZH

II. Admission

1. Candidates must have a Master of Science or an equivalent degree with above-average grades when beginning a dissertation.
2. Before beginning their doctorate (matriculation), candidates must apply for admission to the doctoral program with the consent of the research group head who intends to oversee their dissertation.
3. To apply, all candidates must submit their CV and a letter of intent, detailing why they are motivated to continue their education in the public understanding of science, to the program coordinators.
4. The program coordinators determine whether candidates are admitted based on their qualifications, and in certain cases assign additional requirements.

III. Doctoral Program Structure

1. Curricular Portion

Module/Course	ECTS Credits
Compulsory Module: Principles of science and Sustainability Education	3
Elective Modules*: - Environmental and Scientific Communication - Socio-scientific Issues in Science Communication	2

Participation in institute and group seminars/colloquiums/summer schools on science education and/or communication	2
Participation in scientific conferences in the subject area Public Unterstanding of Science with a personal contribution	1
Transferrable Skills	4
Total	12

* Selection available on the program website. Other modules by approval of the program coordinators.

2. Teaching Assistance
   A teaching assistance of at least 100 hours and no more than 420 hours is a component of all doctoral programs at MNF (UZH). In calculating their work hours, PhD students may count hours spent in contact with students as well as preparation and follow-up work.

   The following activities can be counted towards the teaching requirement: supervising bachelor students in practical trainings during lower-level courses, supervising bachelor and master's students' research projects, grading exams and problem sets, teaching at the Science Lab and in schools. A portion of the teaching requirements must be completed in a educational institution (schools, museums, etc.) outside of the university.

   Implementation of the teaching requirement should be conducted in consultation with the the program coordinators.
3. Doctoral Committee and Doctoral Agreement
   The research group head supervising the dissertation and the PhD student determine the composition of the doctoral committee together.

   The composition of the doctoral committee should be determined according to the doctoral program regulations at MNF. The doctoral program regulations also specify how often meetings between the doctoral committee and the PhD student should be held and how they should be executed. A transcript should be kept of these meetings and should be signed by the committee members.

   A signed doctoral agreement between the research group head and the PhD student should be submitted during the first 6 months of the doctorate.

IV. Doctoral Degree

Confidentiality

An important aspect of the doctoral program is the exchange of scientific data and results between the various institutes at institutions of higher learning. Such results should be treated as strictly confidential by all those involved and may not be passed along to individuals outside of the program if they have not yet been published by the author or their initial discoverer. No member of the doctoral program may use scientific results to the disadvantage of the university. In particular, no member may infringe upon the university's right for the protection of its intellectual property by publishing data prematurely.