University of Zurich[UZH]

Faculty of Science

Regulations for the Doctoral Program Science and Policy (PSC Science & Policy)

Version July 1, 2013

I. General Information

1. The doctoral program Science and Policy at the University of Zurich, ETH Zurich and University of Basel fosters its PhD students research qualifications in various scientific fields and helps them to acquire transferrable skills for careers within and outside academia with a focus on learning to convey scientific findings at the intersection between implementation and politics.
2. The program is run by the Life Science Zurich Graduate School (LSZGS), a joint organization belonging to UZH and ETHZ.
3. The doctoral studies are regulated according to the Ordinance for Obtaining a Doctoral Degree (PVO) at the respective institution[1] and the Doctoral Program Regulation at the respective faculty[2] or department[3], where students matriculated for their doctorate.
4. The following requirements must be fulfilled to graduate from the doctoral program Science and Policy:
   - Composition and successful defense of a dissertation containing original research.
   - Earning of 12 ECTS Credits that fulfill the curricular requirements.
   - Completion of all the relevant conditions and additional requirements set by the institute or department where the student matriculated.
5. The doctoral degree is awarded by the respective institution (University of Zurich, ETH Zurich or University of Basel).

II. Admission

1. Candidates must have a master's or an equivalent degree. Candidates in plant sciences can be accepted to the program over one of two tracks.
2. Track I: Online application on the LSZGS website
   There are two application deadlines per year: July 1st and December 1st. A successful application depends on LSZGS's admissions criteria and the admissions interview. A three day interview period takes place in February (week 6) and September (week 36). A transcript should be made of the interview and signed by all in attendance. Details on the selection and admissions process can be found in the LSZGS's corresponding

[1] Universität Zürich (Verordnung über die Promotion an der Mathematisch-naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Zürich vom 31. Januar 2011), Universität Basel (Promotionsordnung der Philosophisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Basel vom 16. Dezember 2003) oder ETH Zürich (Verordnung über das Doktorat an der Eidgenössischen Technischen Hochschule Zürich vom 1. Juli 2008)

[2] University of Zurich: Faculty of Science

[3] ETH Zürich: Departement of Biology, Department of Environmental Systems Sciences; University of Basel: Department of Environmental Sciences

regulations. If candidates are selected, they must also find a research group leader with the right to confer PhDs at one of the participant institutions who will be their advisor before they can be admitted to the program over track I.

3. Track II: Direct application to a research group leader
   For admission over track II, a direct application and a formal interview with a research group leader with the right to confer PhDs at one of the participant institutions who is a member of the program as well as one other research group leader or faculty member. A transcript should be made of the interview and signed by all in attendance. Candidates must submit a written application to the program within 3 months of beginning their doctorate (matriculation) with the understanding of the research group leader responsible for their dissertation. This should be submitted to the program coordinator together with a transcript of the interview.
4. Candidates from other fields in the natural sciences: They can only be admitted directly over track II. Candidates must submit a written application to the program within 3 months of beginning their doctorate (matriculation) with the understanding of the research group leader responsible for their dissertation.
5. In the application submitted to the program coordinator, candidates should include a CV and a cover letter, which explains their motives in seeking further education at the intersection between Science and Policy.
6. Candidates must demonstrate advanced English skills.
7. All candidates must matriculate at the university where the research group in which they are working is located. Conferral of a doctoral degree is determined by the respective university.

III. Structure of the Doctoral Program

1. Curricular Portion

By the time students apply for their PhD defense, they must have earned at least 12 ECTS Credits. One ECTS credit corresponds to approximately 30 hours of work.

Module/Course	**ECTS Credits**
Compulsory modules: Block courses A – E in Science & Policy; four out of five courses: Course A: Evidence-based Policymaking in Plant Sciences Course B: Stakeholder Engagement Course C: Communicating Science Course D: Building Political Support Course E: Contributing to a Policy Action Plan	8
Core elective modules: Lectures in Political Science and related disciplines according to the list of selections	min. 1
Elective modules: Participation in a scientific conference relevant to the intersection of Science and Policy with a personal contribution.	1
Remaining ECTS Credits are freely electable from the following*: Courses in transferrable skill offered by the Life Science Zurich Graduate School and the doctoral programs additional courses and events	2-3
Total	min. 12

* With the understanding of the PhD advisor and/or the doctoral committee.

Active participation during the entire course is necessary for earning ECTS credits. Participation involves an individual record of achievement, e.g. by completing homework assignments, a presentation or a report during the course.

Successfully graduating from the doctoral program Science and Policy will be attested by a joint certificate from the three participant institutions. The certificate will be presented once all the program's requirements have been fulfilled and the responsible university has awarded a doctorate.

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 in the lab (practical trainings in advanced courses), grading exams and problem sets, teaching at the Science Education Center.

   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 Agreement

   The research group leader 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 of the faculty or department where the student matriculated.

   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 the meetings and should be signed by the committee members.

   A signed doctoral agreement between the research group leader and the PhD student should be submitted during the first 6 months of the doctorate if a doctoral agreement is required at the respective faculty or department.

IV. Doctoral Degree

Confidentiality

An important aspect of the doctoral program is the exchange of scientific data and results between the various institutes at the participant universities. 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.