



Regulations For the Doctoral Program General Doctorate

Version December 9, 2013

I. General Regulations

1. A General Doctorate is designed for candidates whose planned research does not fit into any of the PhD programs offered at MNF or who cannot be accepted to a doctoral program due to program specific regulations.
2. The committee for individual doctorates, which is responsible for General Doctorates, is presided over by the Vice Dean of Studies and consists of at least four MNF faculty members, a representative of the Faculty of Medicine and the Vetsuisse Faculty
3. The committee for individual doctorates is responsible for the admission of candidates.

II. Admission

1. The written application for a General Doctorate should be handed in to the Vice Dean of Studies to be passed on to the committee for individual doctorates and must contain the following documents:
 - The candidate's curriculum vitae.
 - The PhD advisor's curriculum vitae if he or she does not possess the right to confer PhDs at MNF.
 - A brief description of the research environment in which the dissertation project will be conducted.
 - A brief description of the intended research project.
 - Proposal for the composition of the doctoral committee.
 - Proposal for the composition of the curricular portion of the doctoral studies.
 - A recommendation letter by the PhD advisor explaining why the candidate is particularly well suited for the intended research project.
 - An explanation as to why the dissertation project should be conducted as a General Doctorate.
2. Candidates must demonstrate proficiency in English.
3. The Vice Dean of Studies will notify the candidate on behalf of the committee for individual doctorates of its decision.

III. Structure of the Doctoral Program

1. Curricular Portion
For the completion of the required 12 ECTS Credits, candidates may attend courses offered in doctoral programs and courses teaching transferrable skills, in addition to regular modules at the MNF and ETH Zurich. Furthermore, ECTS Credits can be awarded for participation in conventions, summer schools and retreats. The PhD advisor and the members of the doctoral committee may determine suitable events.

2. Teaching Assistance

Students in a General Doctorate are obligated to participate in at least 100 hours and no more than 420 hours of teaching. This work should be planned in consultation with the PhD advisor and the doctoral committee. It is possible to teach at the Science Education Center.

3. Doctoral Agreement

The definitive doctoral agreement must be completed within 6 months. It must contain details regarding the dissertation project, the design of the curricular portion and the composition of the Doctoral Committee. A copy of the doctoral agreement should be handed in to the Vice Dean of Studies for review by the committee for individual doctorates. This also applies if changes are made to the doctoral agreement.

4. Doctoral Committee Meetings

The doctoral committee should meet with the PhD student at least once per year to discuss plans for his or her research project, the dissertation's progress and future goals. The student should prepare a research report for the meeting and send it to the members of the doctoral committee. This research report, along with a transcript of the meeting signed by the doctoral committee members, should be submitted to the Vice Dean of Studies for review by the committee for individual doctorates.

IV. Doctoral Degree

The specifications in Part A, Section V regarding a doctoral degree apply here. In addition, students must submit a bound copy of their dissertation to the Vice Dean of Studies for review by the committee for individual promotions when applying for their doctoral defense.