University of Zurich[UZH]

Faculty of Science

Regulations for the Doctoral Program Evolutionary Biology

Version July 1, 2013

I. General Information

1. The goal of the doctoral program Evolutionary Biology is to offer PhD students a structured environment for the study of the interdisciplinary field of Evolutionary Biology, which conveys research expertise as well as transferrable skills for careers within and outside academia.
2. PhD students generally take 4 years to complete the doctoral program Evolutionary Biology. The following requirements must be completed in order to graduate:
   - Earning of 12 ECTS Credits in accordance with the program's curricular requirements.
   - Participation in at least one retreat.
   - Annual meetings of the doctoral committee as called for by the MNF Doctoral Program Regulations.
   - Composition and successful defense of a dissertation.
   - Fulfillment of other requirements of the University of Zurich or ETH Zurich.
3. The doctoral degree is imparted by the University of Zurich or the ETH Zurich.
4. The PhD program Evolutionary Biology is part of the Life Science Zurich Graduate School (LSZGS).

II. Admission

1. Candidates must have a master's or an equivalent degree when beginning their dissertation. Their master's studies need not necessarily be completed at the time of their application or admissions interviews.
2. Track I: Online Application on the LSZGS Website
   The application deadlines are on July 1st and December 1st. Visits to the laboratories and admissions interviews are conducted over the course of three days in February (week 6) and September (week 36). The program coordinator lets the candidates know the results of their application within four weeks of the end of the application period.

   The admissions interviews take place on the first day, while the visits to the laboratories are spread over the course of the three days. During this three-day period, the applicants have the opportunity to meet with the research group leaders with open PhD positions.

   Applicants and research group leaders should submit their list of preferences to the program coordinator by the following Tuesday.

   The matching of candidates to research group leaders is conducted simultaneously for all PhD programs according to the rules set by the Life Science Zurich Graduate School.
3. Track II: Direct Application to a Research Group Leader
   Applicants also have the option to apply directly to a research group leader, who can accept them as a doctoral candidate.

   To be admitted to the Evolutionary Biology PhD Program, PhD students must be interviewed and deemed qualified for admission to the program by at least two

members of the program (one of which must have the right to confer PhDs at MNF). An acceptance letter will be sent by the program coordinator.

4. The program's official language is English. The admissions committee uses the interview to determine whether a candidate's English abilities suffice for communication in science.

III. Structure of the Doctoral Program

1. Curricular Portion

Module/Course	**ECTS Credits**
Transferrable skills: Scientific Writing, Teaching Skills, additional points from other courses (not including language courses)	min. 4
BIO 554 Topics in Evolutionary Biology	1
Modules (in consultation with the doctoral committee): Subject specific lectures and courses	min. 5
Participation in conventions and workshops with a personal contribution	max. 2
Total	min. 12

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 addition to teaching at the institutes (teaching bachelor and master's students, monitoring and grading exams, mentoring master's students, etc.), candidates may also teach at the Science Education Center (in the subject areas Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Geography).

   Realization 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" (www.biologie.uzh/studium/Doktorat.html).

3. Doctoral Committee
   The doctoral committee should consist of at least three members, two of which have the right to confer PhDs at MNF. At the very least, the direct PhD advisor must be a member of the doctoral program Evolutionary Biology.

   Within 6 months of beginning their doctorate, PhD students should select the members of their doctoral committee in consultation with their PhD advisor. The doctoral agreement between the PhD student and their doctoral committee must be completed within 6 months.

   PhD students are responsible for organizing the doctoral committee's annual meetings. All committee members should aim to be present.

   During the first meeting, PhD students present and defend their research proposal. During subsequent meetings, they present their progress and results. Their direct PhD advisor sends the form, which is prepared for the meetings, to the program coordinator.

   In the case of an unsatisfactory performance, doctoral students can repeat the doctoral committee meeting and defense of their research proposal after three months. If they fail a second time, they will be expelled from the program.

IV. Doctoral Degree

1. Cumulative Dissertation and Circulation Round
   The doctoral committee is responsible for determining specific requirements for cumulative dissertations (number and breadth of publications, primary authorship, publication status, etc.) and selecting the circulation round.
2. Confidentiality (According to LSZGS Regulations)
   An important aspect of the doctoral program is the exchange of scientific data and results between the various institutes at both 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 or disclosing data prematurely.