

Statutes of the Doctoral School of Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology

Section 1: Objectives and Guidelines of the Doctoral School of Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology

(1) The objective of the Doctoral School of Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology is to carry out interdisciplinary in-depth scientific doctoral education within the interuniversity framework of NAWI Graz.

(2) The Doctoral School of Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology awards the academic degree of Doctor of Engineering Sciences (abbreviated to “Dr. techn.”) or the academic degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences (abbreviated to “Dr. rer. nat.”). These academic degrees are internationally equivalent to a PhD. The assignment to either engineering or natural sciences depends on the topic of the doctoral thesis.

Section 2: Qualification Profile

Graduates of the Doctoral School of Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology at the Graz University of Technology are qualified to undertake both basic and applied research independently and at a high scientific level. They have a broad scientific base and a well-founded specialised knowledge in the field of molecular and applied biosciences. Furthermore, they are qualified to successfully undertake and co-ordinate interdisciplinary and application-oriented work and to assume a leadership role.

Section 3: Members of the Doctoral School of Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology

(1) Institutes of the Graz University of Technology

The Doctoral School of Molecular Biosciences and Biotechnology comprises the following institutes:

- 6480 Institute of Biochemistry
- 6490 Institute of Foodstuffs Chemistry and Engineering
- 6490 Institute of Biotechnology and Biochemical Engineering
- 6530 Institute of Environmental Biotechnology
- 6530 Institute of Molecular Biotechnology.

(2) Teaching Staff

The authorised teachers of this institute are members of the teaching staff of the Doctoral School and act as supervisors of scientific doctoral theses carried out in the framework of this doctoral school. According to requirements and the development of the Doctoral School, working groups (authorised teaching staff) of other institutes of

Graz University of Technology or other universities can be admitted as associate members of the Doctoral School. This takes place by means of a proposal of the participating institutes and by means of a resolution of the co-ordination team.

(3) Students – Doctoral Candidates

All students who have been admitted to the doctoral programme at this doctoral school and who are actively enrolled are members. The co-ordination team maintains a current list of all participating doctoral candidates.

Section 4: Governing Body

The Doctoral School is represented by a co-ordination team taken from the members of the Doctoral School and consists of one representative from each of the following: professors, mid-level faculty members and students (each with one deputy). Based on proposals from the members and in agreement with the governing body responsible for the doctoral studies curriculum, the team puts together the list of courses and assumes the tasks laid down in the curriculum for doctoral programmes.

Section 5: General Provisions

As a general rule, the provisions valid for the Graz University of Technology also apply to the curricula of the doctoral programmes (Dr. techn., Dr. rer. nat.).

Section 6: Specific Provisions

To ensure an excellent doctoral education in accordance with international standards, the following measures and procedures are laid down in addition to the general provisions laid down in Section 5:

(1) For the purposes of a prominent international profile and collaboration, advertisements for the available doctoral positions are to be published at regular intervals. Furthermore, students should be admitted in the framework of an appropriate selection procedure.

(2) In general, it is endeavoured to publish the results of doctoral theses in international refereed journals. The submission of a first publication is usually viewed as a minimum requirement. Furthermore, the presentation of results at international conferences is desirable.

(3) The taught component of the doctoral training must fulfil in total a minimum of 14 semester hours per week (SHW) according to Section 6 of the curricula for the doctoral programme “engineering sciences” or “natural sciences”, respectively, at the Graz University of Technology. Courses are to be selected from the following areas:

a) *subject-specific specialised education* taking into account special methodological knowledge (including teaching activity) in the amount of 10 SHW. The subject catalogue

of the subject-specific specialised education comprises all courses (with the exception of those of the bachelor's programme) offered by the admitted institutes of the Doctoral School and which are approved by the Dean of Studies. A list of suitable courses is made by the co-ordination team according to Section 4 and made public. The co-ordination team can also place on this list courses offered by institutes which have not been admitted to this doctoral school, if members of the Doctoral School so propose, and with the agreement of the governing body responsible for the doctoral studies curriculum. Credit for completed course examinations at recognised post-secondary educational institutions in Austria and abroad, colleges, universities, university or extramural research facilities (such as summer schools or special courses) can be awarded by the curriculum committee for doctoral studies. Courses which have already been accredited in the master's or diploma programme cannot be chosen.

b) "Scientific communication" to the amount of 2 SHW ("Seminar for doctoral candidates"). A suitable programme consisting of joint science days, lecture series and subject-specific events is organised by the Doctoral School.

c) "Tutorial" to the amount of 2 SHW.

(4) To guarantee the optimum scientific supervision of doctoral thesis work, it is intended to designate a "thesis committee". Apart from the planned supervisor according to Section 4(2) of the curricula for the doctoral programme "engineering sciences" or "natural sciences", respectively, at the Graz University of Technology, this should also comprise at least one further qualified scientist.

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