

DIDACTIC REGULATIONS

Art. 1 - Limit of validity

This set of regulations apply to the Ph.D. curriculum in Physics and Chemistry of Biological Systems in addition to and in accordance with the general SISSA didactic regulations.

Art. 2 - Duration of the Curriculum

The Ph.D. curriculum lasts four years. In exceptional and motivated cases, a shorter duration can be granted upon approval of the faculty ("collegio dei docenti del dottorato" in Italian) and the relevant governing bodies, as applicable.

Art. 3 - Admission to the Curriculum

1. Admission to the curriculum occurs conforms to the general SISSA didactic regulations and occurs each year through one or more competitive entrance evaluations, the dates and details of which, including the number of SISSA-paid fellowships, are made known weeks in advance through a formal public advertisement (bando). The entrance selections are aimed at evaluating the aptitude of the applicants to carry out scientific research in a multidisciplinary environment.

2. In addition to SISSA-paid PhD fellowships a limited number of externally-funded fellowships might be available occasionally. Applicants to these external fellowships, which include those paid within joint PhD agreements with other institutions, are admitted through a selection procedures that takes into account both the SISSA and Curriculum regulations and, if applicable, those of the funding bodies.

Art. 4 - Obligations

1. Every academic year (denoted year in what follows) faculty sets the calendar of the courses and selects those with compulsory attendance. In addition to the compulsory courses, each first year student is required to attend an additional course chosen among those offered by a SISSA Ph.D. curriculum different from Physics and Chemistry of Biological Systems. A grade larger than or equal to twenty-four over thirty (24/30) is required to pass each exam.

2. After completion of the courses, each student indicates one or more SISSA faculty members of the PhD as possible advisors for her/his research activity. The faculty makes the final assignment of the advisors by balancing the students' indications as well as the supervision load of the faculty members (who typically take no more than one new supervisee per year) and also by taking into account the appropriateness of a student's background for the perspective research project. Each year, the number of assigned SISSA advisors has to match the number of SISSA-funded fellowships, and cannot be smaller than it. Each year, a number external advisors equal to the number of externally-paid fellowships are allowed. In such cases, the external advisors are the principal investigators responsible for the external funds or are otherwise members of the partner institution funding the fellowships.

3. The admission to the second year requires that, within the end of the first year, the student: (i) passes all the exams of the required courses with an average score not smaller than twenty-seven over thirty (27/30) and (ii) has made satisfactory progress on the initial research project. The evaluation of the latter is based on a public oral presentation during the yearly progress reports.

4. To be admitted to the second and successive years, each student must have made a satisfactory progress on the research activity. The latter is evaluated with a public oral presentation of the research results during the yearly progress reports. The presentations are evaluated for quality of the results, completeness and accessibility and effectiveness of the presentation.

5. The outcome of the yearly progress reports (admitted, non-admitted, conditionally admitted) is communicated individually by e-mail to the students within a few days along with a short evaluation summary.

6. In case a student is not admitted to the next year or if a student's research performance falls short of the expected quality standards, the faculty might offer the student the possibility to conclude the course of studies by granting her/him a Magister Scientiae degree.

6. PhD students should attend all seminars organised and advertised by the Molecular and Statistical Biophysics group. The list of seminars is advertised on the PhD calendar. Seminars of particular relevance are advertised as compulsory and a justification for not attending them should be sought in advance, and only for exceptional reasons, from the PhD programme coordinator.

Art. 5. Philosophiae Doctor Exam

1. The faculty, taking into account the indications of the advisors, appoints at least two external examiners for the Ph.D. thesis of each candidate.

2. The faculty schedules the Ph.D. defence and appoints the members of the evaluation committee for each candidate.

3. Students are admitted to the Ph.D. defence conditioned to the overall positive evaluation of the PhD thesis given by the external examiners.

4. The students that successfully defend their thesis in front of the committee will earn the Ph.D. degree.