

Ph.D. Curriculum on Theoretical Particle Physics

DIDACTIC REGULATIONS

Art. 1 - Limit of validity

The current regulation disciplines the specific operation of the Ph.D. curriculum on Theoretical Particle Physics (denoted in the following TPP curriculum), in addition to and in accordance with the general regulation that disciplines the operation of all the SISSA Ph.D. curricula.

Art. 2 Duration of the Curriculum

The Ph.D. curriculum regularly takes place in four years. In exceptional cases the duration can be reduced to three years, upon the approval of the board of professors ("collegio dei docenti" in italian).

Art. 3 - Admission to the Curriculum

1. Admission to the TPP curriculum occurs in accordance with what established by the statute of the school and by the general didactic regulation. The examination takes place in english and consists in titles evaluation, an oral and a written test. The examination is supposed to verify and evaluate the inclination of the candidate to perform scientific research.

2. At the end of the examination, the committee ranks the suitable candidates. The board of professors, once approved the documents of the committee, proposes to the senate of SISSA the rank above for approval. The number of available fellowships and the details of the selection procedures can vary from year to year and is decided by the senate.

3. The admission procedures for the general preselection are determined by the board of professors and can vary from year to year.

4. A limited number of fellowships might be available for ICTP diploma students, in the framework of a joint ICTP/SISSA Ph.D. fellowship. The admission procedures for the ICTP/SISSA Ph.D. fellowship are determined by the board of professors and can vary from year to year.

Art. 4 - Obligations of Study

1. Every year the board of professors decides the schedule of the courses and assigns

to each course a given number of credits. The exam committees of each course are formed by at least two members of the board of professors, including the responsible of the course. A score equal or greater than twenty-four (24) over thirty (30) is required to pass the exam.

2. The academic year (denoted year in what follows) starts on October 1 and ends on September 30. The admission to the second year requires that within the first year each student passes the exams associated to a number of courses for a given minimum number of credits, decided by the board of professors before the beginning of the year. The average score in the exams, weighted by their credits, must be equal or greater to twenty-seven (27) over thirty (30). In well-motivated cases, the board of professors can approve to a scholar to take exams on courses offered by other SISSA Ph.D. curricula. The board of professors will decide the number of credits to assign to the external courses. The number of credits which can be earned with non TPP courses will not be higher than the 30% of the total.

3. The candidates selected through the preselection procedure or the joint ICTP/SISSA Ph.D. fellowship have to pass a qualifying exam within the end of the first year. The committee is formed by at least three professors, one of which external to SISSA.

4. Within the end of the first year, after having successfully collected all required credits as explained above, the board of professors selects one or more advisors to follow each student in her/his research studies. Upon permission of the board of professors, advisors of other Ph.D. curricula or external to SISSA can be chosen. In these cases, a member of the board of professors will be selected as tutor, in order to guarantee the correct development of the research project, in accordance with the required standards.

5. Within the end of the second year and after having passed a progress report on their research project in front of the board of professors, students are admitted to the third year. The same procedure applies at the end of the third year in order to be admitted to the fourth year.

6. In the unfortunate circumstance that a student is judged not to be able to reach a sufficiently high level of performance to let her/him conclude the PhD project with reward, the board of professors might offer the possibility to conclude the course of studies with a Magister degree.

Art. 5. Philosophiae Doctor Exam

1. Upon approval by the advisor(s), the board of professors selects at least two external referees for each candidate.

2. The board of professors fixes the date for the Ph.D. defence and selects the proper committee for each candidate.
3. Students are admitted to the Ph.D. defence upon the approval of the external referees.
4. The Ph.D. title is assigned to the students after having successfully passed the defence in front of the committee.