



Doctoral degree from the Faculty of Medicine

General information on the doctoral degree

The doctoral degree from the Faculty of Medicine covers, in addition to the general doctoral degree (the graduation to Doctor of Medicine), two further doctoral programmes: the doctoral program Biomedical Ethics and Law and a biological-natural sciences MD-PhD program, which is offered by the Faculty of Science in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine.

Information on the various study paths

General doctorate: PhD as Doctor of Medicine / Dentistry

People with a university master's degree or an equivalent university qualification in medicine, dentistry or chiropractic medicine plus the Swiss Federal Medical, Dentistry or Chiropractic Diploma are admitted to a doctorate. In addition, people with a medical, dentistry or chiropractic diploma, which is recognised by the Federal Office of Public Health (through the Medical Professions Commission), can also be admitted. In all cases, a member of the faculty (or one of the titular professors, with the right to award a doctorate) has to support the application for a doctorate and declare his/her willingness to supervise the doctoral work.

A further person can be commissioned with supervising the thesis, in order to give regular feedback about the research work. You can find the list of faculty members on our website.

The general doctorate is regulated by the "Regulation regarding the graduation to Doctor of Medicine, to Doctor of Dentistry and to Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine" from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Zurich (Regulation Dr. med. / Dr. med. dent. / Dr. med. chiro.)

Title awarded: Dr. med. (Medical Doctor, MD), Dr. med. dent. (Doctor of Medical Dentistry, DMD), Dr. med. chiro. (Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine, DCM)

Doctoral programme Biomedical Ethics and Law Medical Track (PhD)

Medical Track focuses on biomedical ethics and the interface between ethics, public healthcare law and human rights. Physicians, medical students as well as graduates of other academic disciplines

(physics, biomedicine, among others) with a particular interest in biomedical ethics can apply.

Interested persons should have completed a Master's degree (or equivalent), have proven academic excellence and should have excellent language skills in English (Level C1 according to the specifications of the UZH), because Medical Track is carried out in English. Applicants with overseas qualifications, please contact the Admissions Office for recognition of the degree. The application process also includes an application interview, in addition to submission of the complete application documents to the PhD Programme Commission BmEL/MeF. Two application rounds are performed every year.

Medical Track general takes three years and covers, in addition to the development of a dissertation, the acquisition of 30 ECTS Credits. The courses and intensive seminars performed by national and international experts are supplemented by optional modules, through which the participants can develop their own emphases regarding the methodology and content. A fast-track or the extension of Medical Track is possible if agreed with the PhD Programme Commission BmEL/MeF. Graduates can decide on an academic career path in the area of biomedical ethics; introduce their gained expertise in ethics commissions or from their own medical occupation, as well as influence their professional development through the acquired academic degree.

Title awarded: Dr. sc. med.

MD-PhD programme

The combined MD-PhD programme enables those interested in natural science and particularly qualified medical students (human medicine, dentistry, chiropractic medicine) to prepare a dissertation in the area of the Life Science Zurich Graduate



School (MNF), without a previous natural science Master's degree. The programme is made up of natural science foundation modules (35 ECTS Credits) and 3 – 4 years of research.

Title awarded: Dr. sc. nat.

Study programme

Track I: The MD-PhD programme begins with the natural science foundation modules performed in parallel to the medical Master's course. After its completion, the research work begins, which ends with the dissertation.

Track II: After the medical Master's degree is completed and the acquisition of the medical diploma or a medical diploma recognised by the Federal Office of Public Health, the MD-PhD begins.

Admission

Track I: Applicants must be matriculated at the UZH as medical, dentistry or chiropractic medicine students, and be able to demonstrate at least a good Bachelor's degree in medicine, dentistry or chiropractic medicine.

Track II: Applicants must be able to demonstrate at least a good Master's degree in medicine, dentistry or chiropractic medicine and be in possession of the Swiss Federal Medical Diploma or one from equivalent training. The application must not take place later than three years after the completion of the Master's degree. Together with the application for admission to the MD-PhD programme, applicants must demonstrate that they have a supervisor and a place in one of the laboratories associated with the Life Science Zurich Graduate School.

The interfaculty MD-PhD Commission (IMPK) decides admission to the programme. On request from the IMPK, the study deanery of the Faculty of Science has the final decision regarding admission.

Contact

MD-PhD-Programm:

Prof. Dr. Adriano Aguzzi, President IMPK
Institut of Neuropathology
Schmelzbergstr. 12
CH-8091 Zurich, Switzerland

Administration:

Jacqueline Wiedler
Phone: +41 44 255 85 38
E-Mail: jacqueline.wiedler@usz.ch
<http://www.med.uzh.ch/WeiterundFortbildung/MDPhD.html>

PhD BmEL/Medical Track:

Administration:
Michelle Heimgartner
Pestalozzistrasse 24
CH-8032 Zurich, Switzerland
Phone: +41 44 634 40 81
E-Mail: [heimgartner\(at\)ethik.uzh.ch](mailto:heimgartner(at)ethik.uzh.ch)
<http://www.bmel.uzh.ch/med.html>

General doctorate:

Faculty of Medicine, Dean's Office
Pestalozzistr. 3/5
CH-8091 Zurich, Switzerland

Administration:

Tanja Otto
Phone: +41 44 634 10 69
E-Mail: [tanja.otto\(at\)dekmed.uzh.ch](mailto:tanja.otto(at)dekmed.uzh.ch)
<http://www.med.uzh.ch/Dissertation.html>