

3) Research groups and doctoral programs

There are two different ways to obtain a Ph.D. (Dr. rer.nat.) from our Department. You can work on your individual doctoral project in one of our research groups or in the framework of a structured doctoral program joining different research groups. The main differences between these two ways are listed in the table below.

	research group	doctoral program
requirements	only formal eligibility criteria	additional criteria may apply
time of application	anytime	typically fixed deadlines
supervisor	any professor of the Department of Biology	only members of the doctoral program
duration	(3 to) 3.5 years	3 (to 3.5) years
course work	typically none	depending on study program
fellowships	typically none	typically available

Find out whether there is a structured doctoral program at our Department in your research area of interest. A list of current programs can be found [here](#) (*Link zu Doctoral Programs*). If such a program exists, make yourself familiar with it on its website to decide whether you want to try and become a member of this program.