

Date 13.08.2025

## INFORMATION FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DOCTORAL PROCESS

AS PROVIDED BY THE DOCTORAL REGULATIONS OF THE FACULTY OF BIOLOGY OF 30 OCTOBER 2019  
with Amendment order of 04 August 2020

### How to apply for admission to doctoral study:

1. Familiarise yourself with the latest version of the doctoral regulations well in advance. You can download these from the website of the Faculty of Biology.  
<https://www.uni-muenster.de/Biologie/en/Promovieren/Promotionspruefungsamt/Promotionsordnungen.html>
2. Select the members of your doctoral committee (three professors or academic staff who hold a habilitation) who will supervise your work during the doctoral process. (§ 5)
  - The doctoral committee is comprised of your principal supervisor, who is responsible for assigning the dissertation topic, and two additional members.
  - At least two members of the committee must hold postdoctoral qualification from a natural science faculty (Dr. rer. nat.) or equivalent qualification.
  - At least one member of the committee must belong to the Faculty of Biology (coordinating member).
3. When starting on your dissertation (within six months), apply for admission to doctoral study by submitting your university degree certificate (original and copy, or authenticated copy) and your CV to the Doctoral Examinations Office (see application forms on the website).  
If you are an international doctoral candidate, we also require authenticated translations of these documents in either German or English!  
[https://www.uni-muenster.de/Biologie/en/Promovieren/Promotionspruefungsamt/Anmeldung\\_zur\\_Promotion.html](https://www.uni-muenster.de/Biologie/en/Promovieren/Promotionspruefungsamt/Anmeldung_zur_Promotion.html)
4. All doctoral candidates must belong to a structured doctoral programme (SDP). If you cannot confirm membership in one of the other SDPs in the Faculty of Biology (e.g. CiM/IMPRS, OCC, MGSE, EvoPAD, SFB 1348), you will be automatically assigned membership to the SDP BioSciences. The regulations/statutes of your SDP will contain other relevant provisions as well, particularly with respect to the required doctoral supervision agreement and other specific requirements of your doctoral programme.  
During your doctoral programme, you are required to provide teaching assistance in courses totalling five hours of instruction per week (SWS). These courses are offered at the Faculty of Biology in modules of the bachelor's programme in biosciences (BSc) or in the advanced master's modules (MSc).  
Please note that during the doctoral period, you must be officially enrolled for at least six semesters in the doctoral programme of biology at the University of Münster. Enrolment at the university as a doctoral student is only possible after admission by the faculty of Biology!  
Annual doctoral committee meetings are mandatory and must be documented!  
The doctoral supervision agreement must be submitted (usually together with your application for admission to doctoral study) no later than six months after commencing your doctoral dissertation § 2 (6).
5. If you plan to submit a cumulative dissertation, please be sure to read the corresponding provisions in § 8 (3).