

Application for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in the Life Science Faculty

Initially, PhD student candidates apply directly to the departmental faculty members (group leaders). If the faculty person and student agree that there is a good match, then the candidate makes a formal application to the departmental doctoral committee.

The following items are submitted to the departmental office:

1. Application form.
2. Curriculum vitae including publication list.
3. Transcripts from the BSc and MSc degrees or equivalents (Official transcripts are not required if the applicant can obtain online transcripts).
4. Copy of the MSc degree or an official letter indicating.
5. MSc thesis abstract.
6. Two letters of recommendation, preferably one from the MSc thesis advisor.
7. Letter of acceptance by the intended PhD advisor.

The departmental office will schedule an interview on the applicant's behalf with the departmental doctoral committee. The committee will evaluate the applicant and inform him/her of the committee's decision, soon after the interview process.

Requirements for admission to the department

Completion of a M.Sc. or equivalent in the natural sciences (exact or life) with an average not lower than 80. Where applicable, the minimal grade for the M.Sc. thesis is 85.

General Information

All PhD students receive funding i.e. a stipend. Many, but not all, also are partially employed as teaching assistants for departmental undergraduate courses.

The faculty provides an option for a direct PhD program. The initial requirements for this option are equivalent to application for the M.Sc.

Upon acceptance of the candidate, he/she can begin his/her studies immediately. In principle, start dates for doctoral studies can be at any time of the year.

After one year, the student is expected to submit a research proposal which is reviewed by a committee formed to track the student's progress. The proposal submission may be delayed up to another year but must be submitted before the end of the student's second year, otherwise he/she may not continue. The student may submit his doctoral thesis after his/her third year but most students finish by the end of the fourth or fifth year. The stipend may not continue beyond the fifth year.

Further information is available in the [Yedion \(Hebrew\)](#).

The current PhD committee chairman is Prof Adi Avni the Graduate School secretary is Nurit Rosenman (NuritR@tauex.tau.ac.il). Please feel welcome to contact her for more details.

The departmental doctoral training program has 3 stages: (i) development of a research plan; (ii) execution of the research plan; (iii) summary of the research findings in the form of a doctoral thesis/dissertation. Required course work is described here.

Stage I culminates with the submission of a research proposal whose format is listed below.

Doctoral research proposal:

The proposal should be submitted 12 months after initiation of training.

1. Title page (submission date, title in Hebrew and English, student name, adviser name, adviser signature)
2. Abstract (1 page maximum)
3. Scientific background
4. Research aims and significance
5. Detailed plan for the proposed research
 - Experimental design describing in brief methods used
 - Preliminary results
6. References

Sections 2 through 5 will not be more than 10 pages. Preliminary results may be placed in the Scientific Background section, as per the wish of the student. However, it must be clearly delineated as a separate section. Results obtained by the student versus as yet unpublished results obtained by a previous student must be clearly indicated.

Line spacing of 1.5 lines. Figures can be no more than 6 pages.

The proposal is examined by a 3 member committee comprising one representative from the department doctoral committee and two other faculty persons, expert in the relevant field. At least one member must be from another department. The committee composition must be approved by the faculty doctoral committee.

The committee files a written evaluation of the proposal, formally approving it. A copy of this evaluation is distributed to the mentor, student and relevant university parties. It is incumbent upon the student to ensure that this evaluation is filed.

To monitor the student's progress during stage II, the student must prepare a progress report and meet with his/her committee. The report format is listed below.

Progress reports:

Progress report 1 should be submitted 12-18 months after submission of the research proposal. We expect to enforce this deadline.

Progress report 2 (final) should be submitted towards the end of the student's fourth year or in the fifth year.

1. Title page (as above)
2. Abstract (1 page maximum)
3. Research aims (taken from proposal)
4. Results
5. Discussion
6. Future plans (relevant for the first progress report)
7. References

Sections 2 through 5 will not be more than 6 pages.

Line spacing of 1.5. If there has been a publication, this document should be included with the report.

For both progress reports, the committee files a written evaluation. A copy of this evaluation is distributed to the mentor, student and relevant university parties. It is incumbent upon the student to ensure that this evaluation is filed.

Formal committee approval is required in order to advance to the third training stage, i.e. writing the thesis.

Students must submit a final printed copy of the report to the dept. administrative aide (Rachel Paz).

In addition to writing the doctoral thesis, the student must present his/her findings in a public seminar with the current departmental doctoral committee chair in attendance.