Doctoral Degree in the Life Sciences - Dr. rer. nat.

For whom?
The Dr. rer. nat. (Doctoral Degree in Life Sciences) is for doctoral candidates with a qualifying degree in the life sciences. You must have achieved a grade, which allows you to carry out a doctoral research project at one of the life science faculties of the LMU.

Supervision
Supervision of the doctoral research project can only be carried out by an authorised supervisor, who has a doctoral degree in the life sciences.

Acceptance as a doctoral candidate
Before commencing work on your doctoral research project, all candidates must apply for acceptance as a doctoral candidate. The application must contain the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae
- Certificate of good conduct (Führungszeugnis) or current certificate of enrolment or proof, that exmatriculation was a maximum of 3 months ago
- Confirmation of employer
- Proof of final examination in the natural sciences from the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Statistics, the Faculty of Physics, the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, the Faculty of Biology or the Faculty of Geosciences (certified copy)
- Attestation that minimum grade needed was achieved
- Confirmation of successfully completed predoctoral examination - if required

The Doctoral Committee decides on the acceptance of doctoral candidates and appoints a supervisor according to the candidate’s proposal (§6, Examination Regulations).

The doctoral supervision agreement must be filled out, dated and signed upon appointment of a supervisor by the Doctoral Committee, and handed in to the Medical Faculty’s Doctoral Office. It will remain there until the candidate applies for admittance to the final doctoral examination.

Pre-doctoral Examination
The students who are only eligible for a doctorate at the relevant faculty after having completed a pre-doctoral examination, can complete the pre-doctoral examination according to either the examination regulations of this faculty (§3, paragraph 1) or to those at the Medical Faculty (§4).

I. Pre-doctoral examination at the Medical Faculty
In a pre-doctoral examination, the candidate must show knowledge and skills which will lead to a successful completion of the doctorate.

For admittance to the pre-doctoral examination, the candidate must hand in a written application to the Doctoral Committee, naming a major and two minor subjects.
The candidate proposes an examiner for the chosen major and minors to the Doctoral Committee.

The application must contain the following documents:

- A short curriculum vitae in English or German, giving information on the candidate’s education and potentially on an occupation held;
- Proof of a final examination in a relevant degree from the natural sciences at the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Statistics, the Faculty of Physics, the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, the Faculty of Biology or the Faculty of Geosciences;
- Proof of a certain minimum grade which is needed according to the examination regulations of the candidate’s degree, in order to continue with a doctorate;
- A certificate of good conduct (unless the candidate is currently employed in civil service) and for international candidates, respective proof.

II. Further procedure for the pre-doctoral examination

II.1. Appointment of main and co-examiners

The Doctoral Committee determines three examiners and appoints one of them as chairperson. The Doctoral Committee is not bound to the suggestions made by the candidate.

II.2. Date / invitation

The chairperson determines an examination date and invites the candidate at least eight weeks before the specified date, stating the names of the examiners.

II.3. Procedure

The pre-doctoral examination is an oral examination and has a duration of 30 to 45 minutes, spanning the candidate’s chosen major and minor subjects. The minor subjects must be suitable for the doctoral research project.

A certificate is issued on the successfully completed predoctoral examination.

Doctoral examination

I. Application for admission to the doctoral examination

The application for admission to the final doctoral examination for a doctoral degree in the natural sciences can be handed in upon fulfilment of the admission requirements.

Complete applications can be submitted to the Doctoral Office (Promotionsbüro) either

- personally during the office hours (Tuesdays from 09:00 – 12:00, Wednesdays from 13:00 – 16:00),
- by an authorised person during office hours, or
- via mail.

Together with the application form, please hand in the following documents:

1. Thesis (4-fold) bound in DIN A4 with an incorporated current curriculum vitae in German or English. The thesis must also include a summary in German or English.
2. An electronic version of the thesis (1-fold, PDF-format, max. 5 MB!) must be handed in with the bound copies of the thesis.
3. The affidavit must be incorporated in the bound version of the thesis and signed personally by the doctoral candidate.
4. A signed confirmation that the bound version is in accordance with the electronic version (PDF-format) of the thesis.
5. Confirmation co-authors (Form: „Cumulative Dissertation“)
Only applicable when handing in a cumulative dissertation.
6. Confirmation of having worked at a scientific or clinical institution of the Medical Faculty under the supervision of a habilitated member, who has a doctoral degree in the natural sciences.
7. The original doctoral supervision agreement (which was deposited in the doctoral office upon acceptance as a doctoral candidate)
8. Form „Münchener Universitätsgesellschaft“
9. If applicable, statement of having carried out external studies.

II. Further procedure
II.1. Assessment of the submitted thesis
Once the application for admittance to the final doctoral examination has been handed in to the Doctoral Office with all necessary documents, the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee will assign the supervisor with the first expert evaluation and a second member of the examination committee (who must also have a doctoral degree in the natural sciences) with a second evaluation.

Upon receipt of these two evaluations, the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee will circulate both the thesis and the evaluations amongst the members of the Examination Committee, with a request for opinions.

The thesis is accepted, if the evaluations and opinions of the Examination Committee members recommend a grading with „rite“ = 3 (sufficient) or better.

The Doctoral Committee can return the thesis once for revision.

II.2. Oral defence
Upon completion of the thesis assessment, the doctoral procedure is continued with an oral defence. Time and place of the oral defence are determined by the Doctoral Committee. The candidate is notified of this at least two weeks prior to the oral defence.

During the oral defence, the candidate gives a 30 minute presentation on the results of the thesis. This is followed by a scientific discussion which is led by the chairperson of the Examination Committee.

III. Completion of the doctoral examination
Within one year after the oral defence, the candidate must deliver six bound copies and one digital copy of the thesis, as well as two forms for the delivery of electronic dissertations, to the “Publikationsdienste Dissertationen” of the University Library. File format and data medium are determined by the University Library. The curriculum vitae does not need to be included in the bound or the electronic versions of the statutory copies.

If the statutory copies are not delivered within the period prescribed, all rights acquired by the successful completion of the examination procedure expire.

For all information regarding the submission of statutory copies to the University Library, please see http://www.en.ub.uni-muenchen.de/writing/thesis-submission/index.html

Doctor's certificate
The doctor’s certificate is only issued upon submission of the statutory copies and can be received from the Doctoral Office the earliest 4 weeks upon delivery of the statutory copies. The supervisor can hand out the certificate upon request. The doctoral candidate also receives an enclosure with the certificate, giving required information on how to go about governmental administrative procedures.
Doctor's degree

The use of title of „Doctor“ is only authorised upon receiving the Doctoral degree.

Please note: Regulations and individual circumstances dictate the course and length of your doctoral procedure. Please refrain from making inquiries about the course of the doctoral procedure. We cannot give out information on the expected date of the oral defence.

Downloads

- Promotionsordnung Dr. rer. nat. (84 KByte)