The Progress of Studies in Specialization Molecular Medicine

RECRUITMENT

- Standard CEITEC PhD School channels of promotion: Find a PhD, Euraxess, Research Jobs, CEITEC PhD Scholl website, portals of EU-Life alliance
- Direct promotion by supervisors, by students' ambassadors, by management and administration via strategic partnerships
- Social media
- · Printed materials
- Specialized events Education Fairs, MU PhD Info Days, Campus Day, Intro Labs Day
- Specialized seminars for pregradual students

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Two calls per year (spring, autumn)
- The application process step by step is described in details on the CEITEC PhD School website

MENTORING TEAM (TAC)

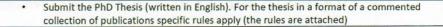
- Every PhD candidate is supervised and mentored by members of Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC)
- TAC has at least three members supervisor + two PIs out of the supervisor's research group, one
 of them should be external (affiliated with another faculty or institution)
- TAC should be constituted by the end of the first semester of study
- TAC should convene at least three times during the candidate's standard study (1st meeting by the end of 2nd semester, 2nd meeting – between 4th and 5th semester, 3rd meeting – during 7th semester
- The outcome of the TAC meeting is a TAC Assessment Report with a summary and recommendation

OMBUDSMAN

- A neutral party who gives informal and confidential assistance to students in resolving supervisorrelated and university-related concerns
- Appointed for students commencing their studies in one academic year, will be their appointed ombudsman throughout their whole period of study.

STUDY

- Every PhD student is assigned to a supervisor, student should specify the PhD project and individual study plan within the first year of study
- Before the defense of PhD thesis, the PhD student must:
 - Fulfil the requirements of an individual study plan
 - Meet the credit requirement set by MU Study and Examination Regulations (240 credits)
 - Pass at least four theoretical subject-area courses (Molecular Medicine, Introduction to Bioinformatics, Advanced Molecular Medicine, Modern Genomic Technologies, Analysis of Sequencing data, etc.)
 - Attend MU Life Sciences Seminar Series (each semester of study)
 - · Attend CEITEC Friday Seminary (during the first two years of study)
 - Pass at least four courses of a common basis/soft skills courses (including English Language and the course FRESHERS)
 - Complete three compulsory TAC Progress Meetings
 - Take active part in teaching commitment (in total 100, up to 150 teaching hours are required during the study) Should the PhD students wish to teach above the 150 hours, they will be financially rewarded for it (however, teaching shall in no way limit the research)
 - Present at least once during their study time the research outcomes at the international conference (poster, presentation etc.)
 - Have at least one first author publication in an international journal with IF. If the journal has
 not IF in Q1 in the given field of study, there should be two more publications, with IF above
 the median for the given field of study, of which student should be the first author or a coauthor.
 - Attend the annual PhD Conference of Biomedical Sciences (the conference is described separately)
 - Attend the annual CEITEC PhD Conference (the conference is described separately)
 - Undergo an internship abroad (with the duration of at least one month)
 - Pass the final Doctoral State Examination (the exam is described separately)



CEITEC PhD CONFERENCE

- The annual CEITEC PhD Conference takes place at the beginning of spring semester (usually in February)
- · The language of the conference is English
- The conference lasts one day, all students of CEITEC PhD School must attend; students in the
 third and fourth year of their study take active part; supervisors, TAC members and members of
 doctoral board and doctoral committees are part of the PhD Committee who checks the
 progress and quality of work of presenting students.
- Students in the third year of study present their research project on the poster, students in the fourth year of study give presentation of their PhD project.

PhD CONFERENCE of Biomedical Sciences

- The annual PhD Conference of Biomedical Sciences takes place during spring semester (usually April / May)
- · The language of the conference is English
- The conference lasts three days; all PhD students of the program Biomedical Sciences must take
 active part at the conference; all PIs and supervisors (including the external members) are part
 of the PhD Committee who checks the progress and quality of work of all students
 DAY ONE poster session:
 - All PhD students present their research project on the poster (the first-year students can briefly sum up the proposed PhD project as discussed with their supervisors)

DAY TWO - presentations + doctoral state exams:

- PhD students in third year of study must present the progress of their PhD project and pass the Doctoral state exam (Doctoral state exam is described separately)
- Students who are later in study (fourth, fifth years present the research project and progress towards the defense)

DAY THREE - presentations + progress exam:

 PhD students in second year must pass the progress exam (based on presentation of their PhD project + discussion)

DOCTORAL STATE EXAM

- The doctoral state exam is compulsory during the third year of study
- The doctoral state exam takes place at the annual PhD Conference of Biomedical Sciences (on the second day)
- It consists of 20 min presentation of PhD project + 20 min discussion which includes general question from Molecular Medicine
- · It is important to touch general molecular medicine questions related to the project and context

PhD THESIS DEFENSE / VIVA VOCE

- The standard defense can only take place after all necessary study duties are fulfilled (see part STUDY)
- · The defense is performed in English and is always public
- The Defense Committee consists of Chairman, Members and two Reviewers. The supervisor can be a member of the committee. At least 2 members are not in employment relationship with MU, one of the reviewer should be from a foreign institution.
- The standard defense consists of 15-20 min. presentation of thesis, summary of reviews + students comments to the reviewer's questions
- · After the presentation and reviews a general discussion is held.
- VIVA VOCE is recommended in case the PhD students does not manage to have a first author
 publication however the research outcomes are of exceptionally high quality (e.g. in case the
 paper is under review or being submitted). In case of Viva Voce:
 - Not only supervisor and reviewers but also mentors need to recommend the thesis for defense
 - · The defense itself goes deeper into the PhD project.
 - The presentation given by student is 30 min. and is expected to have more detailed information on methodology, data collection and specification of the direct input of the PhD student
 - The discussion is min 60 min and consists not only on feedback given by mentors and reviewers but also on direct questions from the Committee following the structure of academic conversation among peers

FOLLOWING THE CAREER TRACK

- The supervisors are expected to help their absolvents find appropriate postdoc positions in order boost their research career
- The Department of Strategy and Science collects the data on where the PhD absolvents go to.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

The following conditions must be met in order to submit a thesis in the form of a collection of papers with commentary:

- This format must be agreed to by the Doctoral program board. The PhD student may request this possibility if he /she has the recommendation of his/her supervisor. The Doctoral board may reject the request even if all conditions are met; however, the rejection must be explained
- A thesis in this format must be based on at least two first author publications, or one
 first author publication and two or more additional publications. If based on one first
 author publication, this publication must be the core of the thesis
- The publications must be in journals ranked above the median in the research field, preferably the first decile or quartile according to IF or AIS
- The publications must all be factually or disciplinarily related and must be commented on as a collection. A collection of thematically unrelated publications cannot be accepted
- The commentary¹ must be at least 20 pages long (size A4², spacing 1.5, letter size 11, not including pictures and citations) and must include:
 - General introduction to the project
 - Hypothesis and aims of the thesis project
 - Specification of the student's share of the work on all results included in publications
 - Summary of the student's outcomes and how they expand knowledge in the related discipline
 - Discussion that gives the context and comments on the outcomes of the collection of publications
 - o Citations that are referred to in the text and pictures, if necessary

¹ The introduction may not consist entirely of text from the publications

² The print version of the thesis does not necessarily need to be size A4. It can be printed in a book size.