



University of  
Zurich <sup>UZH</sup>

**ETH** zürich



University  
of Basel

Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

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# Guidelines 2022 to the PSC PhD Program Plant Sciences

Contact: [psc\\_phdprogram@ethz.ch](mailto:psc_phdprogram@ethz.ch) | Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center | Tannenstrasse 1,  
TAN D5.1 | 8092 Zurich, Switzerland

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# 1 PSC PhD Program in Plant Sciences

## 1.1 Benefits

Welcome to the PhD Program in Plant Sciences of the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center (PSC). Within the PSC PhD Program in Plant Sciences, you are embedded in a lively and international community of about 600 researchers. As a graduate student, you make research your absolute priority. You will be also expected to develop into an independent researcher, able to publish, present and communicate your work to a variety of audiences, including the public. You need to develop skills to write successful grant proposals, be aware of your responsibilities as a researcher, to collaborate with other researchers and to build up your own scientific network.

The PSC PhD Program in Plant Sciences supports you in acquiring all those skills. PSC training provides an introduction to conceptual and technical approaches in research and also techniques at the forefront of plant sciences. The PSC qualification framework aims to build transferable skills and competencies for a successful career in science and beyond. Completion of a structured PhD Program is expected by many potential future employers, both inside and outside academia. The guidelines should help you to plan your doctoral studies and tailor your training to your needs. The guide outlines the professional skills and interdisciplinary research competences you should develop during your doctoral studies (see competence matrix in Section 3). In the Course Catalogue, we present the wide range of workshops. To be awarded with the PSC PhD Program Certification, you must complete 12 ECTS during your 3-year doctoral study.

An opportunity to develop management skills is participating in our international PSC PhD symposium as part of the organization committee. (Bi-annual organized by doctoral students.)

## 1.2 Governance of the Program

The program is part of Life Science Zurich Graduate School (LSZGS). It is lead by one representative of PSC principal investigators (PI, director), PSC head of studies and the PSC PhD program coordinator. Two times per year, there is a board meeting of PhD programs at LSZGS.

Each PhD program has the opportunity to elect one student's representative, giving the doctoral students a voice for decisions. The doctoral representatives from all LSZGS PhD programs elect four representatives who have voting rights during the board meetings of the LSZGS. The election will be reconfirmed every year.

## 2 Admissions, Registration and Regulations

### 2.1 Admission to the PSC PhD Program

The PhD Program is open to you if your research group has a membership within the PSC (overview of members: [www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/aboutus/people.html](http://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/aboutus/people.html)).

All PSC doctoral students must be enrolled at the University of Zurich (UZH), ETH Zurich (ETHZ) or at the University of Basel (UNIBAS). The candidate is conditionally accepted to the PhD Program after requirements are fulfilled. Final acceptance depends on the formal admission requirements of the UZH, ETHZ or UNIBAS.

There are two tracks to join the PSC PhD Program. Track I covers recruitment via the Life Science Zurich Graduate School (LSZGS). Track II concerns direct applications to the Principle Investigator (PI). To ensure an equal application process of Track I and Track II, both tracks require a formal admission interview between PI and their future doctoral students, in accordance with the rules of the LSZGS (as of January 2013). The interview should be conducted in presence of at least one other PI or faculty member, and the supervisor should fill out an interview protocol to be submitted to the program office. Contact your supervisor if you are a Track II student. Please find further information here: (<https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/registration.html>)

### 2.2 Registration for the PSC PhD Program

All necessary documents (incl. an overview of all necessary processes) can be downloaded on our webpage: <http://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/teaching/procedures.html>

All students can register for the PSC PhD Program of their choice by filling in the registration form provided on our webpage **within 3 months after start of your PhD**. We will then send you a welcome package with all necessary documents.

Registered doctoral students of the different home institutions (ETHZ and UZH MNF) are requested to use independent data and document management systems. At these databases you need to upload all the documents for certifying the progress of your studies (e.g. thesis committee meeting protocols, certificates of courses, etc.).

ETHZ/UNIBAS → **Dissertation Go (DissGo)**: <https://www.dissgo.uzh.ch/login>  
 You will receive your login after having sent the registration form for the PhD Program. Thereby, <https://myStudies.ethz.ch> is the central application for all students to administrate their studies, but separate from DissGo.

UZH MNF → **StudentAdmin**: <https://studentadmin.mnf.uzh.ch/>  
 You will receive your login after successful matriculation at the UZH.

## University of Zurich (UZH), Faculty of Science (MNF)

All doctoral students must register for a structured PhD Program. PSC can only accept the registration after we have received the signed registration form and the signed protocol from the admission interviews. Templates for both documents are available here:

<https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/procedures.html>

Furthermore, doctoral students must register to the UZH MNF by using the following link: Registration Doctoral Studies

<http://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium/phd/anmeldung.html>.

For more information on the Graduate Schools and Doctoral Studies at the MNF, please visit the following website <http://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium.html>.

## ETH Zurich (ETHZ)

PhD students must be registered by the PI to the ETHZ Admission for Doctorate first (<https://www.ethz.ch/en/doctorate/registration-admission.html>). The PhD program in Plant Sciences has been accepted as a structured program at the D-USYS and D-BIOL. As such it supports doctoral students to acquire the 12 ECTS within their regular doctoral studies (mandatory for all doctoral students).

PSC can only accept the registration after we have received the signed registration form and the signed protocol from the admission interviews. Templates for both documents are available here: <https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/procedures.html>

## University of Basel (UNIBAS)

Doctoral students must register to the UNIBAS, Philosophisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät by using the following link:

<https://philnat.unibas.ch/de/forschung/promotionphd/immatrikulation-ab-hs-2016-registered-fall-semester-2016-or-later/>.

### 2.3 Institution-specific regulations during your PhD study

You need to carry out your doctoral studies in accordance with the regulations of your home institution (ETHZ, UZH or UniBasel), where the host laboratory is academically affiliated and the research work is carried out. **Please refer to the regulations for doctoral students of ETHZ, UZH or UniBasel in first and of your home department/faculty in second level.** In the third level, you need to comply with the regulations of the PhD Program that are aligned with the regulations at the host organisations. On our website you'll find an overview table as a checklist of documents to be submitted during your doctoral studies: <https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/procedures.html>

Here a brief summary of some of the relevant regulations at the three partner institutions:

## University of Zurich (UZH), Faculty of Science (MNF)

For more information on the Graduate Schools and Doctoral Studies at the MNF, please visit the following website <http://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium.html>.

**Teaching requirements:** The doctoral student must complete the “Planning teaching hours” form from the Department (Fachbereich) of Biology for the fulfilment of a **minimum of 150 teaching hours and maximum of 420 hours**, considering additional Department-dependent regulations. Planned teaching activities need to be submitted to UZH MNF StudentAdmin. Please consult the following website for details of the teaching requirements: <https://www.biologie.uzh.ch/de/Studium/Doktorat.html>.

**Thesis Committee:** The doctoral student and the supervisor select the thesis committee **six months after the beginning of the PhD project**. The composition of the committee has to be as following: at least three members, including the supervisor. Two members of the committee (including the chairperson) are from the MNF with “Promotionsrecht” (Professors with the right to confer a PhD). The thesis committee composition **must be communicated to the program office** and the UZH MNF via UZH MNF StudentAdmin. Members with “Promotionsrecht” can be consulted on the following website: <https://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/fakultaet/fakultaetsangehoerige/promotionsrechtler.html>.

The first Thesis Committee meeting should be held **6 – 12 months after the beginning of the PhD**. Subsequent meetings are held at least every 12 months. At least three members of the thesis committee (including thesis supervisor) have to be present. Participation of external members can also be arranged by using video conference systems. It is the responsibility of the doctoral student to set up the composition of the thesis committee, arrange the yearly thesis committee meetings, and document the activities. The thesis committee meeting protocol, signed by all participants, is to be submitted to UZH MNF StudentAdmin **within eight weeks after the meeting** took place.

The doctoral candidate can be disqualified by the Dean of Studies, if the thesis committee finds at the yearly meeting that the progress of the PhD candidate is not sufficient.

All templates are available at:

<https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/procedures.html>

For details see: <http://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium/reglemente.html#4>

**Exam Registration and Doctoral Examination:** The final degree is conferred by your home institution. For your registration to the examination, have a look at: <https://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studium/phd/checkliste-fuer-doktorierende.html>

## ETH Zurich

**Supervision: All doctoral students that have started the PhD after 01.01.2022 have to follow the new regulations of ETH Zurich.**

Doctoral students at ETH are supervised by at least two persons. The (1) official supervisor of the doctoral thesis (professor at the Department) and (2) the second advisor (an adjunct professor or Privatdozent/in, provided that (a) she or he works full-time at the ETH, and (b) both institutes have agreed). The second supervisor must be defined latest till submission of the doctoral plan. The doctoral administration (doktorat@ethz.ch) must be notified of the second advisor before the aptitude colloquium. Doctoral students have the right throughout the doctoral study to request another person to be available for additional professional or nonprofessional advice and support as needed.

Information about your doctoral studies at ETHZ and particular requirements of different ETHZ departments are available here:

<https://ethz.ch/students/en/doctorate.html>

<https://ethz.ch/en/doctorate/legal-basis.html>.

Template for registration of second supervisor is available here:

<https://ethz.ch/students/en/doctorate/second-advisor.html>

## Departments D-USYS and D-BIOL

### **Doctoral Plan (replaces Research Plan):**

A written research proposal, including the research plan and teaching requirements, is to be defined minimum 15 working days before the Aptitude Colloquium (D-USYS) and latest 10 months (D-BIOL) after registration. Should a thesis be carried out outside the ETHZ domain, it should be specified in the doctoral plan. The Doctoral Plan needs to be submitted to the aptitude committee and the doctoral studies panel (Deadline, see ETHZ MyStudies). Afterwards, the Doctoral Plan (pdf) needs to be uploaded to DissGo.

**Aptitude Colloquium:** The aptitude colloquium is an oral defense of the research plan to be held latest 12 months after registration. The defense lasts around 60 minutes including a presentation by the doctoral student (max 30 minutes) and a discussion between the doctoral student and the aptitude committee about the doctoral plan. The aptitude committee is composed by the chairperson and the Thesis Committee. The chairperson must be (a) a member of the doctoral studies panel (Doktorratsausschuss) or (b) a person appointed by the doctoral studies panel who must be a full or associate professor at ETH department. The PhD-Student is responsible to organize the Aptitude Colloquium, which can be conducted with partial or full physical presence of the aptitude committee and the doctoral student or entirely by video conference.

Information on the Doctoral Plan and Aptitude Colloquium:

<https://ethz.ch/students/en/doctorate/doktoratsplan.html>

<https://ethz.ch/en/doctorate/legal-basis.html>

Information for submission of the Doctoral Plan:

D-BIOL: <https://biol.ethz.ch/en/doctoral-studies/doktoratsplan---eignungskolloquium.html>

D-USYS: <https://usys.ethz.ch/en/doctorate.html>

**Thesis Committee:** The doctoral student and the supervisors select the thesis committee **six months** after the beginning of the project.

The committee has minimum three members: the official thesis supervisor (professor at the department), the second advisor (professor, adjunct professor or Privatdozent of the department), and if applicable an active professors or senior scientist who is independent from the ETH Zürich, as well as the direct supervisor (if not the same as official thesis supervisor).

The thesis committee composition must be communicated to the PSC program office in the Doctoral Agreement which has to be send to the program coordinator.

The first committee meeting should be held 6 – 12 months after the beginning of the PhD. Subsequent meetings are held every 12 months. It is the responsibility of the doctoral student to set up the thesis committee, arrange the yearly thesis committee meetings, and document the activities. Participation of external members can also be arranged by using video conference systems.

The thesis committee meeting protocol must be signed by all members of the thesis committee and the doctoral student. It needs to be submitted to DissGo within 8 weeks after the meeting took place.

All templates are available at:

<https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/procedures.html>

D-BIOL: <https://www.biol.ethz.ch/en/doctoral-studies.html>

D-USYS: <https://www.usys.ethz.ch/en/doctorate.html>

**Exam Registration and Doctoral Examination:** The final degree is conferred by your home institution. For your registration at the doctoral administration, have a look at: <https://ethz.ch/students/en/doctorate/doktorpruefung.html>



## UNIBAS, Philosophisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät

**Thesis Committee:** The doctoral committee consists of a First Supervisor, a Second Supervisor, external members (e.g. experts and other experts, subject to application). The thesis committee composition must be communicated to the PhD Program office by submitting the Doctoral Agreement (i.e. UNIBAS Doktoratsvereinbarung) to DissGo.

The first **Thesis Committee Meeting** should be held 6 – 12 months after the beginning of the doctoral studies. Subsequent meetings take place at least once a year. The signed thesis committee meeting protocol (i.e. UNIBAS Doktoratsvereinbarung) has to be submitted to DissGo **within eight weeks after the meeting took place**. You can find the templates for the protocol on the following webpage of the PSC:

<https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/procedures.html>

For further description, please refer to:

[https://philnat.unibas.ch/fileadmin/user\\_upload/philnat/3\\_Forschung/14.12.21\\_II\\_Doctoral\\_studies\\_-\\_Guidelines\\_Version\\_11.2021\\_english.pdf](https://philnat.unibas.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/philnat/3_Forschung/14.12.21_II_Doctoral_studies_-_Guidelines_Version_11.2021_english.pdf)

**Exam Registration and Doctoral Examination:** The final degree is conferred by your home institution. Please study the document provided by the faculty:

<https://philnat.unibas.ch/de/forschung/promotionphd/immatrikulation-ab-hs-2016-registered-fall-semester-2016-or-later/>

### 2.4 Admission to Courses

We accept PhD students from LSZGS programs into our courses, provided that spaces are available. PSC students registered in the PSC PhD Programs (i.e. Plant Sciences or Science & Policy) have enrolment priority. For PhD students registered in LSZGS programs, all courses of the PSC PhD Programs are fully recognized. PhD students select their individual course work in agreement with their PhD supervisor or their PhD thesis committee.

### 2.5 Confidentiality

It is an important goal that the participants of the PhD Program exchange their scientific results between different institutes and their host institution. Any such results shall be kept strictly confidential by all participants of the program and shall not be disclosed to persons outside of the program as long as the results are not published by the author/originator of the results. No participant of the PhD Program shall use any scientific result to the detriment of one of the host institutions. In particular, no participant shall impair a host institution's right to seek protection for intellectual property contained in such results by a way of a premature publication or other premature disclosure of results.

## 3 Curriculum, Certification, Course Catalogue

### 3.1 Curriculum

The PSC PhD Program in Plant Sciences allow to acquire 12 ECTS (at ETH Zurich and University of Zurich) and 18 ECTS at University of Basel to complete their regular doctoral studies:

- In total, 12 credits (ECTS) acquired from lectures, courses, workshops or summer schools that are accredited in our regular curriculum. 1 ECTS is equal to 25-30 learning hours (this equals either a lecture of 1 hour per week during one semester or a full two- to three-day workshop including homework and preparatory work).
- Mandatory course participation during one semester in the colloquium "Challenges in Plant Sciences" (2 ECTS). If you have already participated in the colloquium during your Master's studies you can choose your 12 ECTS freely from other courses organized or accredited by the PSC.
- At ETH Zurich: 1 ECTS through visitation of 1 course on research integrity. At University of Zurich: In minimum the LSZG "Introductory Lecture to Good Scientific Practice and Scientific Integrity" must be visited (see below).
- 1 ECTS can be earned for active participation at international conferences, presentation and posters, but needs a confirmed accreditation through the PSC office. <https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/procedures.html>
- Maximum of 1 ECTS can be accredited for active participation in committees at ETHZ. For UZH students participation in the UZH Green Lab can be accredited.
- 1 ECTS can be earned for active participation in one of the GreenLabs projects (for UZH students), refer to the PSC website for detailed information: <https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/coursecatalogue.html>

**University of Basel:** Doctoral students must complete mandatory and elective course work to acquire 18 ECTS. Participants need to accomplish additionally 6 ECTS to the curriculum specified above: Choice of seminars, colloquia and lectures at University of Basel (Promotionsfach - Botanik).

**Course on Research Integrity:** All students of University of Zurich and University of Basel have to visit the LSZGS introduction event "Introductory Lecture to Good Scientific Practice and Scientific Integrity" (2 hours, no ECTS). Within the event you will sign the declaration of "Good scientific practice" that will become a part of your DissGo (ETHZ, UNIBAS) or MNF StudentAdmin (UZH) documents. Please, register via the LSZGS website: <https://www.lifescience-graduateschool.uzh.ch/en/courses.html>.

All doctoral students of ETH Zurich have to visit a course on “Research Integrity” at ETH Zurich (1 ECTS). The PhD program in Plant Sciences is offering this course in spring term, however all research integrity courses hosted by your department are also accepted.

**PSC Summer Schools: Our summer schools allow students to engage in cutting-edge plant science topics and to meet the experts from all over the world. The summer schools address the biggest challenges currently facing science and society. Example topics from recent years are listed here and can be found under following link:**

<https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/pastsummerschool.html>

- 2022 PSC Summer School: Application of Machine Learning in Plant Sciences
- 2021 RESPONSE Summer School: Responsible Research, Innovation and Transformation in Food, Plant and Energy Sciences
- 2018 PSC Summer School: Responsible Research and Innovation in Plant Sciences

Table 1. Curriculum.

Activities	ECTS
<b><u>Compulsory Activity:</u></b> Colloquium “Challenges in Plant Sciences”	2
<b><u>Core Elective Activity:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Courses in all areas of Plant Sciences: Intensive workshops on skills, methods and techniques used in plant science research</li> <li>• Statistical Methods</li> <li>• Transferable Skill Courses (Communicating and Disseminating Science / Professional Conduct in Research / Research Management / Professional and Career Development / Finance, funding and resources etc) organized by PSC or LSZGS</li> </ul>	4 - 10
<b><u>Elective Activity:</u></b> Remainder of 12 ECTS may be chosen from*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in international scientific symposium with own scientific contribution (oral or poster presentation) (max. 1 ECTS)</li> <li>• Engagement in extra-curricular activities in science communication (max 1 ECTS), engagement in green labs (only UZH, max. 2 ECTS)**</li> <li>• Transferable skill course can also be visited at GRACE (UNIBAS), GRC</li> <li>• Organization of PSC PhD Symposium (max. 2 ECTS)</li> </ul>	
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\* With approval from principal investigator or thesis committee.

\*\* At UNIBAS, a total of 18 ECTS are requested.

\*\*\* If you want to get science communication or green lab activities accredited have a look at our specialized guidelines.



## 3.2 Research, Digital and Transferrable Skills

All courses of the PSC have been developed to advance the acquisition of research skills, digital skills and transferable skills that will serve you both in and outside of academia.

Please check the course catalogue at:

<https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/coursecatalogue.html>

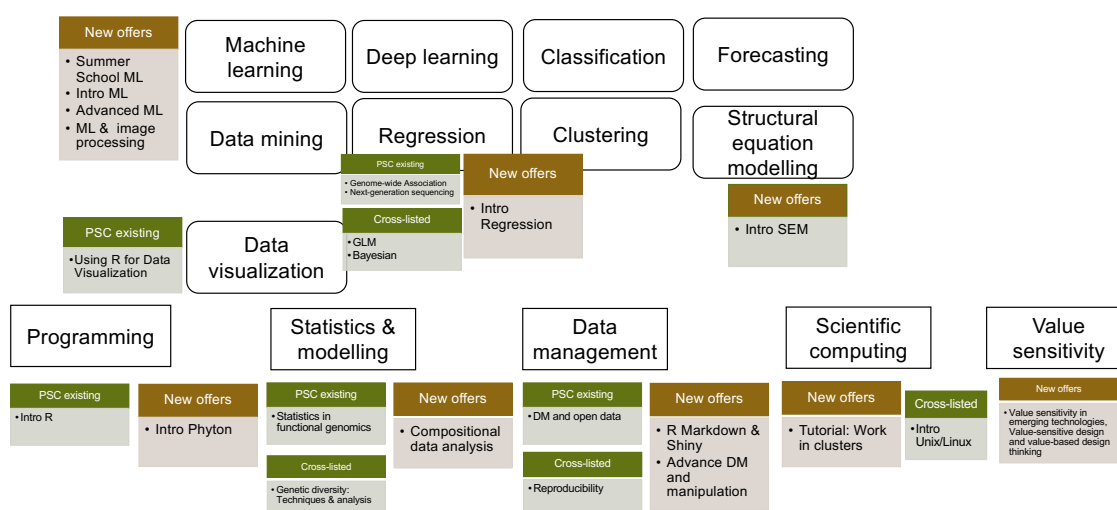
### Technical Skills

Technical skills of the program are developed in all areas from molecular sciences to ecology and system approaches. The courses are developed to allow an understanding and mastering of relevant research methodologies and techniques and their appropriate application within the following topics: Microscopy and 3D microscopy, chlorophyll fluorescence, DNA sequencing, RNA biology, functional genomics, plant phenotyping, microbiomics, QTL analysis, genome-wide association studies, genetic diversity techniques and analysis, plant phylogeny, alpine ecology, introduction to transdisciplinarity and to sustainability etc.

### Digital Skills

Currently the PhD program is enhancing the curriculum with courses that are related to digital skills and competencies. The list of competencies will be made visible in autumn 2022. Areas especially in computational skills that the program enhances are in the overview below.

#### PhD education: Expanded curriculum digital skills



ETH zürich

Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

Barbara Templ & Melanie Pąschke

08.07.22

## **Transferable Skills**

Below is a list of skills we expect you to acquire during your PhD Program. Cited and adapted from Joint Skills Statement (2001):

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/graduateschools/transferableskillstraining/jointskillsstatement>

### **Research Skills and Techniques:**

1. The ability to recognize and validate research problems and to formulate and test hypotheses.
2. Original, independent and critical thinking and the ability to develop theoretical concepts.
3. Knowledge of recent advances within your field and in related areas.
4. An understanding of relevant research methodologies and techniques and their appropriate application within your research field.
5. The ability to critically analyse and evaluate your findings and those of others.
6. An ability to summarize, document, report and reflect on your research progress.

### **Understanding the Research Environment and the Scientific Community**

1. A broad understanding of the context, at national and international levels, in which your research will take place.
2. Awareness of issues relating to the rights of other researchers, of research subjects, and of others who may be affected by your research, e.g. confidentiality, ethical issues, attribution, copyright, malpractice, ownership of data and the requirements of the Data Protection Act.
3. Appreciation of standards of good research practice in your institution and/or discipline.
4. An understanding of the relevant health and safety issues and responsible working practices.
5. An understanding of funding processes and evaluation of research.
6. The ability to justify the principles and experimental techniques used in your own research.
7. An understanding of the process of academic or commercial exploitation of research results.

### **Research Management – you will be able to:**

1. Apply effective project management through the setting of research goals, intermediate milestones and prioritization of activities.
2. Design and execute systems for acquisition and collection of information through the effective use of appropriate resources and equipment.
3. Identify and access appropriate bibliographical resources, archives, and other sources of relevant information. Use information technology appropriately for database management, recording and presenting information.

**Personal Effectiveness – you will develop:**

1. A willingness and ability to learn and acquire knowledge.
2. An ability to be creative, innovative and original in your approach to research.
3. Flexibility and open-mindedness.
4. Self-awareness and the ability to identify own training needs.
5. Self-discipline, motivation, and thoroughness.
6. An ability to recognise boundaries and draw upon/use sources of support as appropriate.
7. Show initiative, work independently and be self-reliant.

**Communication Skills – you will learn how to:**

1. Write clearly and in a style appropriate for the purpose, e.g. progress reports, published papers, and PhD thesis.
2. Construct coherent arguments and articulate ideas clearly to a range of audiences, formally and informally through a variety of techniques.
3. Constructively defend research outcomes at seminars and in examinations.
4. Contribute to promoting the public understanding of your research field.
5. Effectively support the learning of others when involved in teaching, mentoring or demonstrating activities.

**Networking and Teamwork – you will:**

1. Develop and maintain co-operative networks and working relationships with supervisors, colleagues and peers, within the institution and the wider research community.
2. Be able to understand your behaviour and its impact on others when working in and contributing to the success of formal and informal teams.
3. Listen, give and receive feedback and respond perceptively to others

**Career Management – you will develop:**

1. An appreciation for the need for and show commitment to continued professional development.
2. Ownership for and manage your career progression, set realistic and achievable career goals, identify and develop ways to improve your employability.
3. Demonstrated insight into the transferable nature of research skills to other work environments and the range of career opportunities within and outside academia.
4. An ability to present your skills, personal attributes and experiences through effective CVs, applications and interviews.

### 3.3 PSC PhD Certification

The PSC issues a PhD Program certification (= diploma supplement incl. a transcript of all records) after all requirements have been fulfilled and the Doctoral Degree Certificate of your home university has been awarded. Successful completion is based on the following criteria (see also point 3. Curriculum):

- 12 credits (ECTS) acquired during doctoral term from lectures, courses and workshops. 1 ECTS is equal to either a lecture of 1 hour per week during one semester or a full two- to three-day workshop including homework or preparatory work (=30 learning hours).
- 6 ECTS from courses that are either organized or accredited by the PhD Program in Plant Sciences. We fully accredit the following courses: courses organized by the PSC. ([www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/teaching/phdplantscience/courses.html](http://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/teaching/phdplantscience/courses.html)) or the LSZGS ([www.lifescience-graduateschool.ch/index.php?id=11](http://www.lifescience-graduateschool.ch/index.php?id=11)).
- 6 ECTS may be acquired in courses outside of our own program, for example from the PhD Programs associated within the Swiss Plant Science Web ([www.swissplantscienceweb.ch/education/phd-programs/](http://www.swissplantscienceweb.ch/education/phd-programs/)) or other national and international PhD courses. Note all ECTS acquired outside of UZH, UNIBAS, ETHZ and associated PhD Programs need a confirmed accreditation through the PSC office. Fill the form for accreditation of external ECTS: <https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/phdplantscience/procedures.html>
- 1 ECTS can be earned for active presentations at international conferences, presentation and posters. Please contact the coordination office to receive the adequate template.
- Active participation in the colloquium "Challenges in Plant Sciences" (2 ECTS) during one semester is mandatory for the PSC PhD Certification in Plant Sciences. You are advised to participate in the colloquium at the beginning of your PhD studies. If you have already participated in the colloquium during your Master's studies you can choose your 12 ECTS freely from other courses organized or accredited by the PSC.
- 4 ECTS should be acquired in the area of transferable skills.
- It is possible to obtain credit points through the organization of the PSC PhD symposium (3 ECTS).

Note that, all ECTS acquired outside of UZH, UNIBAS, ETHZ or associated PhD Programs need a confirmed accreditation through the PSC office. Fill the form to get the accreditation of external ECTS:

<https://www.plantsciences.uzh.ch/en/teaching/phdsciencepolicy/procedures.html>

**For receiving the PSC PhD Program certificate, please upload all Certificates (pdfs) of training activities to DissGo (ETHZ, UNIBAS) or UZH MNF StudentAdmin (UZH) and send a copy of your Doctoral Degree Certificate to the PhD Program coordinator via E-Mail (pdf).**



## 4 Reimbursement of Travel Expenses

Doctoral students from University of Basel (UNIBAS) enrolled in our programs can ask for reimbursement of their travel (bus or train ticket, 2<sup>nd</sup> class) to PSC, ETHZ, UZH or other national training events. Contact Maura Ellenberger (Unibas, [maura.ellenberger@unibas.ch](mailto:maura.ellenberger@unibas.ch)). Please keep original ticket/receipt for reimbursement.

## 5 Legal basis for the PhD Program regulations at the home institutions

### UZH

- Verordnung über die Promotion an der Mathematisch-naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Zürich (Promotionsverordnung) vom 31. Januar 2011.
- Doktoratsordnung für die Promotion an der Mathematisch-naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Zürich vom 13.12.2012.

### ETHZ

- Ordinance on Doctoral Studies at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zurich of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021 (Version: 01. Jan 2022) (<https://rechtssammlung.sp.ethz.ch/Dokumente/340.31en.pdf>).
- D-USYS: Department of Environmental Systems Science (D-USYS) Detailed regulations for Doctoral Studies D-USYS (as of 01 Januar 2022).
- D-BIOL: Department Biology (D-BIOL) Detailed Regulations for Individual Doctoral Studies D-BIOL (as of 27 Januar 2022).
- Detailed regulations for individual doctoral studies (further ETH Departments) are available online: <https://ethz.ch/en/doctorate/legal-basis.html>.

### UNIBAS

- Promotionsordnung der Philosophisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Basel vom 15. September 2015 ([https://www.unibas.ch/dam/Oeffentliche-Dokumente/Rechtserlasse\\_LegalRegulations/Phil.-Nat.Fakultaet\\_FacultyofScience/Promotion\\_Doctorate/446\\_730\\_P\\_Phil\\_Nat\\_00.pdf](https://www.unibas.ch/dam/Oeffentliche-Dokumente/Rechtserlasse_LegalRegulations/Phil.-Nat.Fakultaet_FacultyofScience/Promotion_Doctorate/446_730_P_Phil_Nat_00.pdf)).