



Why not shape
the future
of medicine
with us!

Doctorate in Medicine and life sciences (MD-PhD)

GENERAL OUTLINE

Objectives

The Faculty of Biology and Medicine (FBM) of the University of Lausanne (UNIL) in collaboration with Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), offers a Doctorate in Medicine and Science for medical graduates who wish to pursue an academic career as physician-scientists.

The program is under the aegis of the MD-PhD Commission and provides highly motivated medical students interested in understanding human disease with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct research in clinical and basic science.

Although the majority of research projects focus on mechanisms of human disease, they may encompass themes that are as wide-ranging as public health and history of medicine.

Career prospects

- Academic career (University or University hospital)
- Biomedical research
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Biotechnology
- Biomedical engineering
- Public health

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organizers

Faculty of Biology and Medicine (FBM)
and
Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

www.unil.ch/mdphd
<http://phd.epfl.ch/MDPhD>

Degree awarded

Doctorate in Medicine and life sciences (MD-PhD)

Duration

Minimum 3 years

MD-PhD Commission

President: Full Prof. Ivan Stamenkovic

Administration:

Secretary's office
Doctoral School
Quartier UNIL-Sorge
Amphipôle Building - Room 304
1015 Lausanne
Tél. +41 21 692 40 06
md-phd@unil.ch



THE PROGRAM

Two Tracks

Candidates may opt for a Track I or a Track II MD-PhD. Those who choose Track I engage in their doctoral thesis immediately following completion of medical school. Candidates who select Track II complete 2-3 years of clinical training prior to commencing their thesis.

Preparatory Training

Each candidate selected by the MD-PhD Commission must establish a syllabus that prepares them for the type of research that will define their thesis, i.e. basic biomedical, clinical, public health or at the frontier between medicine and social sciences.

The preparatory training requires a minimum of 35 ECTS credits. Of these ECTS credits, 25 must be obtained during the medical studies and are provided by selected courses, seminars, internships and the Master Master Project in an area related to the type of research that the candidate will apply to their doctoral work. The remaining 10 credits - provided by advanced courses in biochemistry, molecular biology, bioinformatics or humanities - are obtained at the very beginning or during the course of the first year of the thesis.

Candidates who wish to pursue a Track II MD-PhD, may complete their credit acquisition during their clinical training prior to engaging in their thesis.

Completion of the preparatory training is a prerequisite for engaging in an MD-PhD thesis.

Doctorate at UNIL / EPFL

MD-PhD candidates may choose between two doctoral programs:

UNIL - in the field of medical and basic life sciences within the competences of the FBM; the Doctorate in Medicine and Sciences (MD-PhD) is granted by the University of Lausanne upon recommendation by the Faculty of Biology and Medicine.

EPFL - in the field of cellular and molecular biology, biotechnology, neurosciences, bio-

medical engineering and other disciplines that comprise the competences of EPFL; this Doctorate in Medicine and Life Sciences (MD-PhD) is granted in collaboration with UNIL and EPFL.

Thesis

The subject of the thesis and the thesis director should be selected as early as possible - typically between the 4th and the 5th year of medical studies for students planning to follow the Track I option. Candidates who choose the Track II option may identify their thesis director and define their project during their residency training, up to three years following completion of their medical studies. The requirements for an MD-PhD thesis correspond to those for a PhD thesis established by the Doctoral School. The minimal duration of an MD-PhD is 3 years, the average being 4 years.

Scholarships

MD-PhD students selected by the MD-PhD Commission may apply for a scholarship of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS). This prestigious scholarship provides salary support for up to 3 years. Candidates are selected in December of every year by the MD-PhD Commission to compete for a scholarship at the national level in May of the following year. Scholarships are limited to students with a Swiss citizenship or who have been established in Switzerland for at least 2 years.

Candidates selected for the national competition who are unsuccessful in obtaining a SAMS scholarship are eligible for a local scholarship. Local scholarships include the «Theodor & Gabriela Kummer Foundation», the «Jürg Tschopp» and the «Leenaards Foundation» scholarships. Selection of candidates for a local scholarship takes place after the results of the national competition have been released and is made by the MD-PhD Commission.

Candidates unable to obtain a scholarship can pursue an MD-PhD degree but must find funding from other sources to complete their Doctorate.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Admission requirements: MD-PhD Program

Candidates must have passed their 1st and following years of the Bachelor in Medicine. Selection criteria include high motivation, scientific commitment and the establishment in due course of an innovative and competitive research project.

Admission requirements: Doctorate MD-PhD

- To be admitted, students must:
- hold a Master degree in Medicine obtained at a Swiss University or a diploma judged to be equivalent by UNIL Admissions Office
 - have completed the preparatory training (Track I or II)

Rules and additional Information:
www.unil.ch/mdphd

Calendar:
www.unil.ch/mdphd

Online registration
www.unil.ch/immat

Registration deadline to the MD-PhD doctorate (Track II)

Before 31 July (autumn semester)
Before 30 November (spring semester)

Candidates requiring a study visa should apply two months prior to above deadlines.

Swiss MD-PhD Association
www.smpa.org

