

## STUDIES

### **HOW MANY COURSE CREDITS DOES A PHD HAVE TO OBTAIN?**

Students need to acquire at least 12 ECTS credits.

### **CAN THE COURSES BE AT BOTH UZH AND ETH?**

Yes, students can take up courses offered at other universities. Please see more information on the mobility program here: <https://www.uzh.ch/cmsssl/en/studies/application/chmobilityout.html>.

### **HOW MANY ECTS CREDITS SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM ALL THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES (BLOCK COURSES, AIM WEEK ETC.)?**

A total of 12 ECTS credits are needed but there is no minimum ECTS per category (the numbers provided in the regulation are an indication of how many credit points a course of this category usually provides). It is also possible to obtain ECTS credits via e.g., active participation at scientific conferences, if approved by the PhD supervisor.

### **CAN I TAKE ONLY BLOCK COURSES OR ALSO THE STANDARD SEMESTER COURSES GIVEN IN THE COURSE CATALOGUE AS A PART OF 12 ECTS REQUIRED?**

In principle any course is possible. It has to be endorsed by the PhD supervisor and the program director.

### **JOURNAL CLUB: SHOULD I ATTEND IT THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE PERIOD OF MY PHD STUDIES? IF WE DON'T HAVE A JOURNAL CLUB IN MY CURRENT GROUP, HOW CAN I JOIN IT?**

There are no strict obligations about Journal Clubs but a good communication with the PhD supervisor and the program director is a must.

### **AM I ENTITLED TO ANY ECTS CREDITS FOR MY PARTICIPATION AT THE ANNUAL PHD RETREAT ORGANIZED BY ICS?**

Participation in our retreat does not entitle you to gain ECTS credits. If you, however, had a presentation, ask your supervisor about receiving ECTS points for your contribution.



## **I HAVE TO COMPLETE ADDITIONAL COURSES IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF MY PHD STUDIES AS MY MASTER WAS ONLY 1 YEAR AND I OBTAINED 30 ECTS. DO I HAVE TO PASS EXAMS OR ONLY ATTEND THE LECTURE?**

Information on assessment is included in each course description in the course catalogue in the tab "requirements".

## **I HAVE ATTENDED A SUMMER SCHOOL AND GAVE A TALK. WILL THIS BE CONSIDERED AS TEACHING DUTIES?**

Teaching only within our faculty (MNF) is recognized. Any teaching activity outside of MNF is a great experience for students but will not count as a fulfilled requirement.

## **HOW MANY TEACHING HOURS DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE?**

The number of TA hours is different for different programs. On average, 100-120 hours of teaching within our faculty (MNF) must be completed..

## **HOW CAN I SIGN UP FOR TEACHING?**


Before a new semester begins, the PhD program coordinator informs all enrolled PhD students about available courses. During a dedicated meeting, students learn more about the nature of teaching a particular course and make their choice.


## **FOR THE BLOCK COURSE THAT I NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN, DOES IT NEED TO BE FROM THE INSTITUTE OF COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE? I AM PURSUING MY PH.D. UNDER A PROFESSOR ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF QUANTITATIVE BIOMEDICINE AND THE BLOCK COURSE HE IS OFFERING IS A PART OF THE LIFE SCIENCE GRADUATE PROGRAM.**

In principle, any course is possible as long as it is offered by our faculty (MNF). It has to be endorsed by the PhD supervisor and the program director.

## **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHING DUTIES?**

Generally, you can support any course where you have some knowledge already. Your task will be to assist a professor as well as his students, evaluate exams etc.





**I AM A MEDICAL STUDENT AND WILL RECEIVE MY MD DEGREE SOON. I HAVE FOUND A PROFESSOR WHO AGREED TO SUPERVISE MY RESEARCH. WILL I BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PH.D. AFTER OBTAINING AN MD DEGREE? I DON'T HAVE A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE BUT I OBTAINED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE. I THINK I SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR PH.D. BECAUSE MD IS A HIGHER DEGREE, RIGHT?**

Master degree is a must to apply, Bachelor will not be sufficient. There is a PhD program dedicated to people like you: "MD PhD program" (<https://www.med.uzh.ch/en/doctoralprograms/MDPhD.html>). You will certainly need to obtain some additional ECTS points on top of the required 12 ECTS.

**I AM BOTH A RESEARCH ASSISTANT AND A PH.D. STUDENT AT ZHAW (ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES) AND UNINE (UNIVERSITY OF NEUCHATEL). I AM ALSO A MEMBER OF THE PH.D. NETWORK IN DATA SCIENCE WHICH BOTH UNINE AND UZH ARE A PART OF. YOUR COURSE "ESC 401 HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING" IS RELATED TO MY FIELD OF STUDY. SINCE I AM A MEMBER OF THE PH.D. NETWORK IN DATA SCIENCE, CAN I TAKE THIS COURSE?**


Since you are enrolled at a Swiss university, you can attend modules offered at UZH. It is important that you complete a formal process of enrollment to the program in order to receive ECTS once you have finished. Please see more information here:  
<https://www.uzh.ch/cmsssl/en/studies/application/chmobilityin.html>.

**CAN THE TRANSFERABLE SKILLS COURSES BE USED AS CREDITS IN OUR DATA SCIENCE PHD PROGRAM? IF SO, DO WE HAVE A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF COURSES THAT CAN BE USED AS CREDITS?**

Yes, such courses certainly count to 12 ECTS. Please note that no more than half of the points (i.e. 6) can come from transferable skills courses.

**I AM AFFILIATED WITH THE UZH AS A PHD STUDENT AS I AM CARRYING MY RESEARCH ACTIVITY AT SUPSI UNIVERSITY. I AM INTERESTED IN ATTENDING PHD COURSES IN DATA SCIENCE AS WELL AS DEEP LEARNING SUMMER SCHOOL IN SPAIN. DO I NEED TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM MY PHD COMMITTEE BEFORE ENROLLING?**

No formal approval is needed in this case. However, you may want to inform your supervisors about the courses and the summer school you are planning to attend.





## **DO SUMMER SCHOOLS/WINTER SCHOOLS COUNT TOWARDS THE 12 ECTS CREDITS REQUIREMENT IN DATA SCIENCE PROGRAM?**

Yes. However, 6 points must be collected from courses directly related to data science, whereas the other 6 points can be collected for example from transferable skills courses.

## **I AM AN EXTERNAL PHD STUDENT AT UZH, ENROLLED IN THE PHD PROGRAM CARRIED OUT AT ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES ZHAW AND WITH A PHD DEGREE AWARDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH UZH. DO I ALSO NEED TO COMPLETE THE TA ASSIGNMENTS?**

Yes, you have to reach 100-120 (depending on the program) hours of teaching (within MNF) during your whole PhD studies.

## **I AM A DATA SCIENCE PHD STUDENT AT THE UZH. CAN I TAKE COURSES AT THE ETH AS A COMPULSORY COURSEWORK (12 ECTS)? THE COURSES ARE MAINLY COMPUTER SCIENCE/DATA SCIENCE MASTER-LEVEL COURSES.?**

Of course, you can do it. ETH offers a variety of very good courses.

## **FOR MY TEACHING DUTIES, SHOULD I UPDATE THE HOURS AT THE END OF EVERY SEMESTER? DO I NEED TO FILL OUT SOME FORM AND GET IT SIGNED BY MY PROFESSOR INDICATING THE HOURS I HAVE PUT IN?**

It is strongly recommended to update the TA hours on a regular basis. There is a template for you to fill in and your supervisor to sign.


## **THE STUDENT ADMIN TOOL REQUIRES ME TO UPLOAD THE MINUTES OF MY COMMITTEE MEETING. DOES THIS NEED TO BE DONE BY ONE OF THE PROFESSORS (A COMMITTEE MEMBER)?**

You are expected to upload relevant documents to your Student Admin Tool.

## **I AM AN EXTERNAL STUDENT AS MY MAIN CONTRACT AND MY FUNDING COME FROM IBM WHERE I CONDUCT ALL OF MY RESEARCH. DO TEACHING DUTIES APPLY TO ME?**

Yes, you have to reach 100-120 (depending on the program) hours of teaching (within MNF) during your whole PhD studies.





**UNISPITAL ZURICH RECEIVES MORE AND MORE APPLICATIONS FROM MASTER'S STUDENTS WITH BACKGROUND IN COMPUTER SCIENCE; DATA SCIENCE AND MEDICAL IMAGE PROCESSING BECOME ONE OF THE MAIN RESEARCH TOPICS AT UNISPITAL. CAN THOSE APPLICANTS JOIN THE DATA SCIENCE PROGRAM AT UZH?**

Yes, everyone can apply. Basically, the prerequisite is a strong data science/machine learning/statistics background.

**AS A STUDENT AT ZHAW I BELONG TO A PH.D. NETWORK IN DATA SCIENCE WHERE UZH IS A MEMBER OF. CAN I COMPLETE A COURSE AT UZH AND OBTAIN A "CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE" WITH ECTS CREDITS MENTIONED WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE WHOLE PROCESS OF ENROLLING IN THE COURSE?**

You are either enrolled and pass the exam resulting in a certification and ECTS granted, or you attend the course as "Hörer" with no certification. Anyhow, you need to be enrolled.

**SOME PHD PROGRAMS ORGANIZE REGULAR JOURNAL CLUBS. WHAT ARE THEY ABOUT?**

During a Journal Club session, PhD students give a short presentation about an interesting paper in the particular field (for example data science, machine learning, computer vision). This 20-minute part is followed by a 40-minute discussion.

**SOME PHD PROGRAMS ORGANIZE REGULAR PROGRESS REPORTS. WHAT ARE THEY ABOUT?**

During a Progress Report session, PhD students present their current project status, their questions and ideas. This 20-minute part is followed by a 40-minute discussion.

**WHAT IS THE WEEKLY PERCENTAGE OF WORKING HOURS, TEACHING AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES (ON AVERAGE OVER THE YEAR)?**

The employment rate of PhD students is 60% (25.2 hours). In general, 18 hours should be devoted to research, 3 hours to Journal Club and seminars, and 4.2 hours to teaching.





## WHO CAN I CONTACT ABOUT A CERTIFICATION?

All issues related to the certificates are handled by the Students Administration Office (Kanzlei):

<https://www.students.uzh.ch/en/contact.html>

## I STUDY AT UZH BUT NEED TO REGISTER FOR A FEW COURSES AT ETH. HOW DO I DO THIS?

Please see: <https://ethz.ch/en/studies/non-degree-courses/special-students/special-students-university-of-zurich.html>

## I AM CONSIDERING TO TAKE CLASSES IN PHD DATASCIENCE PROGRAMM. DO YOU HAVE A COURSE LIST?

There is no specific list of courses in Data Science.

At <https://www.ics.uzh.ch/en/studying/phd/PhDDataScience.html> you can find a few suggestions under "Featured Courses". You can choose any course related to Data Science offered by UZH or ETH and keep in mind you need to reach 12 ETC points.

