If you wish to complete a doctorate in D-PHYS you must fulfil certain requirements – in addition to your actual research – before you are permitted to undergo the doctoral examination. Please see our website for further information on doctoral studies, and the details below.

CHRONOLOGICAL PROGRESSION

a) 12 months after registering for doctoral studies:

Submission of the research plan

The research plan must be submitted to the D-PHYS Doctoral Administration Office within 12 months of enrolment. Extensions of this deadline require the approval of the doctoral committee. For further information please see the Rectorate web page http://www.rektorat.ethz.ch/

b) 3 months (ca.) before the planned doctoral examination:

Approval of examiners and co-examiners

Co-examiners must be approved by the Head of Department if they are not ETH Zurich professors (full, associate, assistant or SNF professors). Privatdozenten [private lecturers], titular professors and professors retired for more than one year at the time of the examination must also be approved. The family name, first name, university with department and the email address of each co-examiner must be submitted to the D-PHYS Doctoral Administration Office (doktorat@phys.ethz.ch). Examiners must be informed in good time that all reports must reach the D-PHYS Doctoral Administration Office 3 days before the doctoral examination. The title of the dissertation need not be definite at this point.

c) 1 month (ca.) before the planned doctoral examination:

The date of the examination should be established in consultation with examiners and the chair. Please contact the assistant of the chair, which is responsible for the appointment assignment. The examination room is organised by the D-PHYS Doctoral Administration Office.

Months with even numbers: Chair: Prof. Gian Michele Graf
(as a rule Tuesday afternoons) Contact person: Nadia Orlando
Tel. 32577, Email: orlandon@itp.phys.ethz.ch

Months with odd numbers: Chair: Prof. Jérôme Faist
Contact person: Erna Hug
Tel. 32089, Email: hug@phys.ethz.ch

d) 3 weeks (ca.) before the examination

Registration for the examination/ Confirmation of course attendance

The completed form “Registration for Doctoral Examination” and the credits from the course attendance confirmation sheet and/or mystudies must be confirmed by the D-PHYS Doctoral Administration Office. At least 12 credits are required (including 4 from outside the discipline). Not only classical courses count, but also participation in summer schools, talks given, etc. Please see also the detailed stipulations of D-PHYS regarding doctoral studies. Normally it is good practice for the examiners and co-examiners to receive a version of the thesis in advance which differs only minimally from the thesis submitted for the examination. The version operative for the examination is the version submitted to the Doctoral Administration Office of the Rectorate (see below).
e) 12 working days before the examination at the latest:

Definitive registration of the examination with the Doctoral Administration Office of the Rectorate, ETH Zentrum. Candidates may only register for the doctoral examination with the agreement of the examiner and in consultation with the co-examiners and the departmental Study Administration Office. The following documents must be delivered to the Doctoral Administration Office of the Rectorate:

- Completed registration form with all confirmations
- Copy of the thesis operative for the examination
- Separate author CV

f) 10 days before the examination:

The D-PHYS Doctoral Administration Office sends out the official invitation to the examination with the request that the reviews be submitted. The reviews of examiners and co-examiners must be received 3 working days before the examination at the latest (by PDF, email or post). The originals of the reviews may be brought to the examination in person.

g) Examination procedure (as per the Department Conference ruling of 28.02.2014):

• The entire examination lasts at least 1 hour.
• The 20-to-30-minute talk at the beginning of the doctoral examination is in principle open to the public. (The Chair may decide otherwise, however)
• The part of the examination after the talk is NOT open to the public.
• Both the committee and the invited D-PHYS professors may ask questions.

Note:
The thesis is approved at the Department Conference which follows the doctoral examination. The title and content of the thesis may no longer be changed after the Department Conference. If the examination date is close to (e.g., 2-3 weeks before) the Department Conference, the doctoral candidate must be informed. Here it is possible to postpone approval to the next but one Departmental Conference. The Departmental Conference makes its decision on the basis of the examination committee’s report and recommendation regarding conferral or refusal of the doctoral degree. The doctoral degree is conferred at the graduation ceremony after deposit copies and an electronic copy of the doctoral thesis have been delivered.