Detailed regulations for Doctoral Studies at D-USYS

The Department of Environmental Systems Science decided at the departmental conference in completion of the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zürich of 1 July 2008 and the Rector’s Implementation Provisions of 1 September 2008:

Art. 1
General regulations
1 The doctoral students discuss the continuing education programme of their doctoral studies with the supervisor. The supervisor and the doctoral student compile a thematically adapted doctoral programme.
2 For doctoral studies outside of the ETH domain, a qualitative equivalent doctoral programme must be compiled, which is individually adapted to the situation.

Art. 2
Objective, form and requirements (see ODS Art. 22 and Art. 23)
1 The educational activities are approved as credits. (One credit corresponds to a workload of between 25 - 30 working hours). 12 credits are required, of which at least one third has to be acquired outside of the research field.
2 To acquire credits the doctoral student must prove a personal contribution.
3 Doctoral students who finish their doctoral thesis in less than three years, have to acquire proportionally less credits.

Art. 3
Elective courses for the acquirement of credits
1 All offered courses according to the actual semester programme and courses of further training “teaching certificate” at Swiss Universities (entire ETH domain and Universities). The “teaching certificate” can acquire a maximum of 4 credits.
2 Providing the supervisor agrees, 1 credit may be awarded for each examination that a doctoral student is required to pass for admission.
3 Credits may be awarded for any language courses meeting the requirements of the ‘Weisung Pflichtwahlfach D-GESS’.
4 Further education courses and advanced studies, summer schools and intensive courses in Switzerland and abroad organized by accredited universities and research institutions.
5 For the visit of courses with limited attendance, admission cannot be granted. Generally the enrolment and attendance fee due, is paid by the doctoral student.

Art. 4
Acquirement of credits outside of courses
Credits can also be acquired by performance outside of courses. Possibilities are:
- Presentations (lecture, poster) at scientific events, such as conferences, symposiums, workshops. A maximum of 4 credits can be acquired.
- Participation in the organisation of scientific events, review activity, information meetings, or as collaboration in a commission within the department or the ETH Zurich. A maximum of 2 credits can be acquired.
- Contributions at colloquia and seminars are also worth 2 credits maximum.

Art. 5
Not creditable courses and performances
1 Seminar lectures, which took place for the admission of the doctoral student, cannot be credited for the doctoral studies.
2 Courses, which have been attended as part of the Bachelor-/Master programme can also not credit.
3 Not creditable is the visit of courses without the evidence of personal contribution.
Art. 6
Modality of the confirmation of acquired credit points
For ETH courses the fulfilment of the performance assessment as per course catalogue is mandatory, only electronically issued credits are accepted. On the confirmation sheet for doctoral students, only courses which cannot be enrolled under “myStudies” will be confirmed.

Art. 7
Control of the required credits
It is the responsibility of the supervisor of the dissertation to monitor the acquirement of the credits for the doctoral studies. The supervision of the documents must be ensured to fulfil the rules, this is confirmed by the supervisor before the doctoral student can register for the Doctoral exam by signing the Transcript of Records/Course Attendance Confirmation Sheets.

Art. 8
Proof of acquiring credits for doctoral studies
The study course coordinator (specialisation Agricultural Sciences), the departmental secretariat (specialisation Environmental Sciences) respectively confirms the obtained necessary 12 credits for the doctoral studies on the form “Registration for the Doctoral Examination” based on the signatures of the supervisor (Art. 7) on the transcript of records and on every confirmation sheet for doctoral students.

Art. 9
Exception regulations
Should there be uncertainty regarding the application of the provided guidelines, the management of the department (head of the department or doctoral committee) will make a decision in cooperation with the supervisor.

Art. 10
Transition rules

Approved at the departmental conference of the D-USYS on: 02.03.2012
Approved from the rector on: 02.03.2012 (Effektive Date)