The Progress of Studies in specialization Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

RECRUITMENT

- Recruiting via: Euraxess, FindaPhD, Naturejobs, ResearchGate, EMBO, FENS, Cell therapy, THEunijobs;
- Specialized seminars for pregradual students organized by the PIs and supervisors

APPLICATION PROCESS

• The application process step by step is described in details on the Biology Department website

MENTORSHIP

- every PhD student has 2 mentors other two PIs from Biology Department or external
- the mentors must at least once a year discuss the progress of their mentees
- the mentees may ask the mentors for both professional or personal help they need

STUDY

- Every PhD student is assigned to a supervisor and is asked to specify the PhD project within the first year of study
- ROTATION the PhD students typically apply for a position advertised by a supervisor and join the supervisor 's lab; however, during the first year both the student or the supervisor may find out they would rather try one more laboratory. It is possible during the first year of study only.
- Before the defense of PhD thesis, the PhD students must:
 - Pass 4 theoretical courses (MU Life Sciences Seminars, PREFEKT, Molecular Biology and Genetics etc.)
 - Take active part in teaching commitment of the Department (in total 150 teaching hours are required during the study) Should the PhD students wish to teach above the 150 hours, they will be financially rewarded for it (however, teaching shall in no way limit the research)
 - Present at least once during their study time the research outcomes at the international conference (poster, presentation etc.)
 - Have at least one first author publication in an international journal with IF 2 or higher
 - Pass the annual PhD conference of the Biology department (the conference is described separately)
 - Spend at least one month abroad on a research internship

EXTERNAL SUPERVISORS

- Up to 20% of the supervisor from Biomedical Sciences are external and / or international.
 However, the conditions of study are same whether the PhD students do their PhD project at CEITEC of other research institutes
- The external supervisors are members of PhD Programme board, PhD Committee and can also become mentors

PHD CONFERENCE (PhD Committee)

- The annual PhD conference takes place at the beginning of April
- The language of the conference is English
- The conference lasts three days; all PhD students must take active part at the conference; all Pls
 and supervisors (including the external members) are part of the PhD Committee who checks
 the progress and quality of work of all students

DAY ONE – poster session:

 All PhD students present their research project on the poster (the first-year students can briefly sum up the proposed PhD project as discussed with their supervisors)

DAY TWO - presentations + doctoral state exams:

- PhD students in third year of study must present the progress of their PhD project and pass the Doctoral state exam (Doctoral state exam is described separately)
- Students who are later in study (fourth, fifth years present the research project and progress towards the defense)

DAY THREE – presentations + progress exam:

 PhD students in second year must pass the progress exam (based on presentation of their PhD project + discussion)

DOCTORAL STATE EXAM

- The doctoral state exam is compulsory during the third year of study
- The doctoral state exam takes place at the annual conference (on the second day)
- It consists of 20 min presentation of PhD project + 20 min discussion which includes general
 question from Molecular Biology and Genetics
- · It is important to touch general medical biology questions related to the project and context

PhD THESIS SEFENSE / VIVA VOCE

- The standard defense can only take place after all necessary study duties are done (see part STUDY)
- The defense is always public and the supervisor can be part of Defense Committee
- The thesis is opposed by two reviewers and it is strongly recommended one of them being international
- The standard defense consists of 15-20 min. presentation of thesis, summary of reviews + students comments to the reviewer's questions
- After the presentation and reviews a general discussion is held.
- VIVA VOCE is recommended in case the PhD students does not manage to have a first author
 publication however the research outcomes are of exceptionally high quality (e.g. in case the
 paper is under review or being submitted). In case of Viva Voce:
 - Not only supervisor and reviewers but also mentors need to recommend the thesis for defense
 - The defense itself goes deeper into the PhD project.
 - The presentation given by student is 30 min. and is expected to have more detailed information on methodology, data collection and specification of the direct input of the PhD student
 - The discussion is min 60 min and consists not only on feedback given by mentors and reviewers but also on direct questions from the Committee following the structure of academic conversation among peers



- The supervisors are expected to help their absolvents find appropriate postdoc positions in order boost their research career
- The Department collects the data on where the PhD absolvents go to