

## ADMISSION OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS TO THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES AND HEALTH

Admission is granted according to the following procedures:

1. **An eligibility procedure**, during which the application files of all candidates are examined.

It will be decided:

- i. which candidates are retained for an oral audition and thus eligible for funding from the Ministry of Higher Education, Research (MESR),
- ii. which candidates cannot apply for funding from the ministry, but are eligible for conducting a thesis if they obtain funding from other sources and
- iii. which candidates are not retained and cannot perform a thesis in the perimeter of the Doctoral School of Life Sciences and Health.

2. **An admission procedure** during which the candidates corresponding to criteria (i) and (ii) above will find a thesis director with a funded project in a laboratory of the perimeter of the Doctoral School of Life Sciences and Health. Candidates who will have obtained funding from the MESR will be able to freely choose amongst all thesis topics that will have been listed on the website of the Doctoral School of Life Sciences and Health.

### I. Admission

#### a. Application

All students holding a Master's degree regardless of the place of graduation can apply. Applicants applying for funding from the Ministry of Higher Education, Research (MESR) must hold a Master's degree by the date of the oral audition (at the end of June or beginning of July).

**Candidates selected by thesis supervisors, on a subject financed by another organization, are not forced to hold a Master's degree in July. However, they must provide their certificate of Master graduation when enrolling at the University.**

#### b. Eligibility procedure

This procedure includes:

**Examination of an application file:** This file, a template for which can be downloaded from the website of the Doctoral School, includes the presentation of the complete university course with grades and rankings during the various stages of the formation.

The file must indicate the research training acquired by the candidate in the form of a brief summary to which supporting documents (transcripts of the entire course (Bachelor, Master1, Master2 (First term or two terms if Masters degree obtained) and student's international or national University ranking, copies of diplomas, (Bachelor, Masters degree) CV and research experience (numbers of months, publications, reports, mobility), cover letter (500 words max), reference letter (at least one), Masters dissertation will be attached.

In addition, the candidate must indicate, regardless of preference, a maximum of 2 topics selected among the thesis topics proposed by the Doctoral School.

The application files are examined by the Scientific and Pedagogical Council (SPC) of the Doctoral School, taking into account the quality of the course and of the research training.

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<https://doctorat.u-bordeaux.fr/>

Candidates whose files correspond to the criteria described above may, **if authorized by the Scientific and Pedagogical Council (SPC) of the Doctoral School:**

- present the oral auditions to compete for a doctoral contract of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research (MESR),
- or
- find an agreement with a thesis director, whose topic is financed by other sources, to enroll in a doctorate.

### Applicants applying for a doctoral contract MESR must undergo an oral audition

The audition takes place in front of a jury (subdivided into multidisciplinary sub-juries), organized under the responsibility of the SPC of the Doctoral School, and comprising members of the University of Bordeaux and external members if necessary.

The 25-minute oral audition consists of 2 parts:

- ✓ **Presentation (10 minutes):**  
Presentation of the candidate, his/her background and the two main topics of his/her thesis.
- ✓ **Questions and discussion with the jury (15 minutes):**  
Questions will focus on the candidate's presentation, motivation, past research experience, and a discussion of his or her selected projects.

After completion of the oral auditions, the jury will establish the list of eligible candidates in order of merit in a plenary session.

Candidates declared eligible at the end of the oral audition and not being able to benefit from a doctoral contract of the Ministry (MESR), will be authorized to enroll in a doctorate if they find a thesis director whose thesis topic is financed for the duration of three years.

### c. Admission procedure

- ✓ Candidates who are eligible for the oral auditions and whose ranking entitles them to benefit from a doctoral contract of the Ministry may have interviews with several thesis directors whose topic has been posted on the site of the doctoral school.
- ✓ Candidates whose application has been retained by the Council of the doctoral school and who do not present the oral auditions will be able to enroll in a doctorate provided that:
  - i. they have obtained personal funding (doctoral contract dedicated to the person or employees (research organizations, hospital, etc. ..) to carry out a thesis in agreement with a thesis director,
  - ii. the agreement of a supervisor whose topic has received funding from organizations or charities (posted on the website of the doctoral school in May or later according to the date funding will be obtained through various calls).

At the end of interviews in between candidates and thesis directors, each director will submit to the Doctoral School the list of candidates he / she chooses, ranked in order of preference.

*A candidate is declared admitted by the Doctoral School after an agreement with a supervisor and provided that funding has been obtained.*

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## II. Selection of Thesis Topics and Funding of Doctoral Students

### a. Selection of thesis topics

Supervisors with an Accreditation to direct a thesis (HDR) or an Authorization to direct a Thesis (ADT), the latter of which can only be used once, must upload their thesis topics on the ADUM website. The Doctoral School examines all thesis topics taking into account the scientific quality and the ability to supervise a thesis by the director. The final list of thesis topics is posted on the website of the doctoral school in May.

### b. Funding of PhD students

PhD students admitted to the Doctoral School can be funded in several ways.

- ✓ The ministerial doctoral contracts available to the doctoral school are awarded to candidates in order of merit after an oral examination.
- ✓ Other doctoral contracts are awarded in partnership with certain institutions (Region, INSERM, INRAE, etc.). They are marked on topics according to the nature of the themes supported by these institutions.
- ✓ An important number of topics have public or private funding that was obtained by thesis directors

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