

Admission to the Ph.D. program (Status: 04.04.2024)

The admission to the International Graduate School of Biosciences (IGB) Ph.D. program is possible throughout the year. Finding a Ph.D. thesis supervisor who is a member of the IGB is the first prerequisite for admission. Admission then follows these steps:

1st Application for acceptance as Ph.D. candidate:

- Official letter directed to the head of the IGB Ph.D. examination board (Prof. Dr. R. Tollrian) stating your request for acceptance as a Ph.D. candidate. The letter should include the title of the research project, the name of the group providing the working place
- Ph.D. supervision agreement (see form sheet) signed by yourself and your first Ph.D. thesis supervisor (IGB member).
- Curriculum vitae
- Higher education entrance qualification
- Graduation documents (Bachelor and Master Degree or equivalent); **minimum grade (Master): “good”**
- For foreign, non-German speaking students: Certificate about a German test (DSH or Testdaf) or a certificate about sufficient language skills in English (confirmed by the first supervisor)

All documents (pdf) have to be submitted via email (igb@rub.de).

2nd Preliminary admission to the IGB Ph.D. program as a Ph.D. candidate and enrollment in the IGB Ph.D. program at the student administration office.

3rd Defining a second supervisor (also IGB member):

Please note that the second supervisor should not belong to the same department as your first Ph.D. thesis supervisor. The second supervisor has to sign the Ph.D. supervision agreement as well. At least one of the two supervisors has to be habilitated or a (junior) professor and has to be a member of the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology of the RUB.

4th Defense of the Ph.D. thesis proposal to the IGB:

Your Ph.D. thesis proposal should be defended in front of IGB members within the first 6 months of preliminary admission to the IGB Ph.D. program. Both supervisors should be present. There are four dates each year in which you can defend your Ph.D. thesis proposal. Applicants should submit an abstract describing the aims of their research project (less than 1 page) to the dean's office (igb@rub.de) by the application deadline (about 3 weeks before the defense). The abstract must be signed by your first and second Ph.D. thesis supervisor. Additionally, the completely signed Ph.D. supervision agreement has to be submitted at the same date.

5th Admission to the IGB Ph.D. program as a Ph.D. candidate is completed with the successful defense of your thesis proposal.

6th One year after defending your thesis proposal you need to inform your second supervisor of your progress. He/She needs to certify that he/she agrees to the further approach.

Additional requirements for completion of the IGB Ph.D. program:

At the time of thesis submission, Ph.D. students must have obtained at least 12 CP from IGB-approved modules which were attended during their Ph.D. program. For more detailed information please see the information sheet “Obtaining credit points in the International Graduate School of Biosciences”.