

MD/PhD Programme of the Faculty of Biology of the University of Duisburg-Essen

Initial Interest

Any medical candidate seriously interested in pursuing this academic path should make a preliminary appointment with Prof. Dr. Ralf Küppers (ralf.kueppers@uk-essen.de, tel. 0201 723 3384) to ensure he/she meets the requirements for admission to the Faculty of Biology's doctoral proceedings.

Requirements

As laid down by the University of Duisburg-Essen's Faculty Board of Biology, medical candidates wishing to submit a doctoral thesis to the Faculty of Biology for examination to be awarded a PhD in biology/biomedical science must have completed the following:

Requirement	Grade
Preliminary Medical Examination (<i>Physikum</i>), or, if already passed, the 2 nd <i>Staatsexamen</i> (or equivalent)	1 or 2 #
Doctor of Medicine (MD)	<i>magna</i> or <i>summa cum laude</i>
A total of 300 hours of academic training on one of the following programs officially recognized by the Faculty of Biology's Doctoral Committee:	
1. Full three-year participation as an associate member on one of the graduate programs (<i>Graduiererkolleg</i>) or collaborative research centres (SFB/CRC) which are accepted by the PhD committee for obtaining the qualification points (see PhD guidelines)* 2. Full three-year participation as a full member on one of the BIOME courses, which are listed on the BIOME homepage (https://www.uni-due.de/biome/)*	*Successful pass of four 15-30 min oral examinations on selected biomedical themes by an examiner who is a member of the Faculty of Biology, a lecturer in a graduate program/BIOME, and/or official supervisor of PhD students. Possible in either the German or English language.

BIOME's "*Transplantation Medicine*" and "*Clinical Research*" cores are one-year courses. Two further years of training can be acquired by joining one of the other BIOME cores thereafter.

The PhD committee decides on justified exceptions.

Updated October 2025

The said three-year BIOME/RTG MD/PhD programme mentioned above (*) has been broken down as follows:

BIOME's MD/PhD Academic Training Programme	
1.	Full three year participation in the BIOME/RTG programme: Lectures (57 hours) (19 per year x 3 years) Seminars (57 hours) Annual Retreat (48 hours) (2 days x 8 hours/day x 3 retreats)
2.	A practical exchange in another lab for the period of 2 weeks (80 hours) (10 working days x 8 hours/day)
3.	Participation at one international biomedical scientific conference with a written report of the meeting and slide presentation of the highlights of the conference at a group seminar (35 hours) (3 day meeting of 8 hours/day plus 9 hours for preparing the report and presentation)
4.	Completion of three soft skills workshops (24 hours)
Total: 301 hours in three years	

Doctoral Funding

On 18.10.2012 the Faculty Board of Medicine agreed to fund three MD/PhD candidates with a 50% TV-L E 13 post each for two years from the IFORES fund. It is expected that these candidates' supervisors use their own departmental research budgets to match and cover the costs of the other 50% of each of these posts.

	First Year	Second and Third Years	
	MD Year	Faculty of Medicine	Candidate's Supervisor (Departmental Budget)
Candidate 1	Unpaid	50% TV-L E 13 for two years	50% TV-L E 13 for two years
Candidate 2	Unpaid	50% TV-L E 13 for two years	50% TV-L E 13 for two years
Candidate 3	Unpaid	50% TV-L E 13 for two years	50% TV-L E 13 for two years

Habilitation

The MD/PhD programme is not an alternative to "*Habilitation*" for medical doctors.