

## Guidelines for the Aptitude Colloquium

All doctoral students must subject themselves to a discussion in an aptitude colloquium within 12 months of provisional admission.

### Before the Aptitude Colloquium

Four weeks before the aptitude colloquium or the latest, within 11 months after the provisional admission, the doctoral student has to submit an electronic copy of the doctoral plan to the supervisor, the second advisor, and [the D-INFK doctoral administration](#).

In agreement with the doctoral student, the supervisor must appoint the second advisor at the latest by the time the doctoral plan is submitted. However, it is strongly recommended to do this as early as possible.

Six months after the provisional admission, the D-INFK doctoral administration assigns a chair for the aptitude colloquium and informs the doctoral student accordingly. The doctoral student [sets the date](#) of the colloquium in agreement with the supervisor, the second advisor and the chair and [informs](#) the D-INFK doctoral administration.

There are three options for the colloquium can take place:

- Presence: all participants are physically present.
- Videoconferencing (hybrid): one or more members participate online. Two-way audio and video communication must be guaranteed during the entire aptitude colloquium. The supervisor is responsible for the proper functioning of the video connection.
- Zoom or Microsoft Teams: All members participate online. Two-way audio and video communication must be guaranteed during the entire aptitude colloquium. The supervisor is responsible for the proper functioning of the video connection.

The aptitude committee comprises the supervisor, the second advisor, and a representative of the department who must be a member of the D-INFK Professors' Conference as chair.

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## The Aptitude Colloquium

The aptitude colloquium consists of the doctoral student's presentation of the research proposal of 20 minutes, followed by a discussion session during which the aptitude committee asks questions. The aptitude colloquium lasts at least 45 minutes.

The committee assesses the doctoral student's suitability for conducting independent research and writing a doctoral thesis. The focus is on the proposed research area described in the doctorate plan. During the colloquium, the aptitude committee may also interrogate the other points listed in the doctorate plan.

The aptitude colloquium must consist of the committee and the doctoral student. It is up to the discretion of the supervisor to open the examination to further guests, for example, to academic employees and official guests of the group or institute in which the doctoral student is integrated.

## After the Aptitude Colloquium

After the assessment, the members of the aptitude colloquium decide the outcome and declare it as "passed" or "failed." A failed assessment may be repeated once. Any repetition must take place within three months of the release of the result of the first attempt. If the aptitude colloquium is failed twice, the Office of Academic Services will initiate the deregistration process.

Doctoral students are admitted definitively to the doctorate if they pass the aptitude colloquium.

<https://ethz.ch/students/en/doctorate/doktoratsplan.html>

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