

Guidelines for the aptitude colloquium at the Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS)

This document is provided to all doctoral students at the beginning of the doctorate by the respective secretariat. It is also available online at [insert link](#)

The guidelines for the aptitude colloquium at the IAS complement the ETH regulations for the doctoral studies (“[Doktoratsverordnung](#)”/“[Doctorate ordinance](#)”, “[Ausführungsbestimmungen des Rektors zur Doktoratsverordnung](#)”) as well as the detailed regulations of the Department Umweltsystemwissenschaften (“[Detailbestimmungen zum Doktorat](#)”/“[Detailed doctorate stipulation](#)”).

The guidelines for the aptitude colloquium are issued by the institute board (“[Institutsleitung](#)”, abbreviated IL) of the IAS.

Validity

These guidelines apply to all internal and external doctoral students whose doctoral thesis supervisor according to the [Doktoratsverordnung / Doctorate ordinance](#) (Art. 5) is a full or associated of the IAS.

Aptitude committee and aptitude colloquium at IAS (in accordance with Art. 5 of the “[Detailbestimmungen zum Doktorat](#)”/“[Detailed doctorate stipulation](#)” of D-USYS)

The aptitude committee evaluates the doctoral student’s research plan and assesses the doctoral student’s progress regarding scientific advance and organizational issues since starting the doctoral studies. The aptitude colloquium should take at most one hour. The composition and duties of the committee are as follows:

- The committee includes a minimum of three persons including the doctoral thesis supervisor, the second advisor, and the chairperson.
- The chairperson of the aptitude colloquium is member of the IL of the IAS, who is appointed either according to an enrolment list managed by the IL, or upon direct request by the doctoral thesis supervisor.
- The committee reviews the research plan of the doctoral student (which should have been submitted to doctoratadministration at least 15 days before the aptitude colloquium) and meets for the aptitude colloquium within twelve months of provisional admission.
- At the aptitude colloquium, the doctoral student presents the research plan (20 minutes) followed by an in-depth discussion and recommendations by the committee. At first, the discussion focuses on the research objectives & hypotheses, approach & methods (including data analysis and statistics), expected results & implications, and additional tasks (such as teaching, group services) described in the doctoral plan. Secondly, the discussion addresses non-subject related aspects such as ethics, research integrity, and good scientific practice.
- The pass or fail of the aptitude colloquium is documented in a protocol to be prepared by the chairperson and submitted to the “[Akademischen Dienste](#)”.