

Ph.D. Curriculum in Statistical Physics

DIDACTIC REGULATIONS

Art. 1 - Limit of validity

The current regulation applies to the Ph.D. curriculum in Statistical Physics (denoted in the following as SP curriculum) in addition to and in accordance with the general regulation of all the SISSA Ph.D. curricula.

Art. 2 - Duration of the Curriculum

The Ph.D. curriculum lasts four years. In exceptional cases, the duration can be reduced to three years, upon the approval of the board of professors ("collegio dei docenti" in Italian).

Art. 3 - Admission to the Curriculum

1. Admission to the SP curriculum occurs in accordance with what is stated by the statute of the school and by the general didactic regulation. The entrance exam is taken in English and consists in an evaluation of the academic curriculum of all the applicants and in an interview of the applicants with sufficient academic qualifications. The scope of the exam is to assess the inclination of the candidate to conduct scientific research.

2. At the end of the exam session, the committee ranks the interviewed candidates. The board of professors, after approving the documents of the selection committee, proposes to the Senate of SISSA the above ranking for approval. The number of available fellowships and the details of the selection procedures can vary from year to year and is decided by the Senate.

3. A limited number of fellowships might be available for ICTP diploma students, in the framework of a joint ICTP/SISSA Ph.D. fellowship. The admission procedures for the ICTP/SISSA Ph.D. fellowship are determined by the board of professors and can vary from year to year.

Art. 4 - Obligations

1. Every year the board of professors decides the schedule of the courses and assigns a number of credits to each course. A mark larger than or equal to twenty-four over thirty (24/30) is required to pass an exam.

2. The academic year (denoted year in what follows) starts on October 1 and ends on September 30. The admission to the second year requires that, within the end of the first year, the student passes the exams of a number of courses which total a certain minimum number of credits, which is decided by the board of professors before the beginning of the year. The average score of all the exams taken, weighted according to their credits, must be larger than or equal to twenty-seven over thirty (27/30). Upon approval of the board of professors, students are allowed to attend and take exams of courses offered by other SISSA Ph.D. curricula. The board of professors will decide the number of credits to be assigned to these external courses.

3. Within the end of the first year, after having successfully collected all the required credits as specified above, each student chooses one or more SISSA professors as advisors for her/his

research activity. This choice must be approved by the board of professors. Upon approval of the board of professors, advisors of other Ph.D. curricula or external to SISSA can be chosen. In these cases, the board of professors will nominate one of its members as the internal tutor, in order to guarantee that the research project and its developments comply with SISSA standards.

4. Within the end of the second year and after having passed a progress report on their research project in front of the board of professors, students are admitted to the third year. The admission to the fourth year is subject to the approval of the board of professors following the presentation of a progress report by the student.

5. If a student turns out to be unable to comply with SISSA quality standards of research and performance and to reach the scientific maturity to successfully conclude the Ph.D. project, the board of professors might offer the student the possibility to conclude the course of studies by granting her/him a Magister Scientiae degree.

Art. 5. Philosophiae Doctor Exam

1. Upon approval by the advisor(s), the board of professors selects at least two external referees for the Ph.D. thesis of each candidate.

2. The board of professors schedules the Ph.D. defense and, for each candidate, nominates the members of the committee.

3. Students are admitted to the Ph.D. defense upon the approval of the external referees.

4. The students that successfully defend their thesis in front of the committee will earn the Ph.D. degree.