



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

## The Vice Rector Doctorate

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## Principles of the Vice Rector Doctorate for deadline extensions for the aptitude colloquium

The first 12 months of the doctorate are to be understood as an academic probationary period. During this time, it should be ensured that the doctoral students know how to define and structure their research project as well as how to organise it efficiently and purposefully. The core task in the first year is therefore to draw up an appropriate doctoral plan.

The aptitude colloquium takes place at the end of the first year of the doctorate. It offers doctoral students the opportunity to place their dissertation project in the current context of academic research and, where appropriate, to present initial results. At the qualifying colloquium, doctoral students defend their doctoral plan. The aptitude colloquium marks the transition from provisional to definitive admission.

Compliance with the deadlines is crucial. This ensures legal certainty for all parties involved. It also promotes and ensures conscientious time management in both the academic and professional environment.

### Principles:

1. In the first year of the doctorate, work should be done towards finalising the doctoral plan and the aptitude colloquium.
2. Extensions of up to two months beyond the 12-month deadline for the aptitude colloquium may be accepted for scheduling reasons.
3. When applying for an extension of the deadline, factual reasons should be explained and documented in detail in writing. The approval of the supervisor of the doctoral thesis and the responsible person or committee of the department is required.
4. Applications for extensions exceeding two months will be considered in the following cases:
  - illness
  - parental leave
  - Change of / withdrawal of the doctoral thesis supervisor.
5. If there are other circumstances, the Vice Rector Doctorate will decide based on the circumstances at hand.