

Vienna School of Mathematics

Study Regulations

November 2019

1. INTRODUCTION

The Vienna School of Mathematics (VSM) is a joint graduate school of the mathematics faculties of the University of Vienna (UW) and the TU Wien. The VSM is devoted to top-level PhD education in all branches of mathematics. It fosters intra- and interdisciplinary scientific cooperation and networking among students and advisors and aims at increasing the international visibility of the Vienna area as a center for mathematics.

All student members of the VSM have to be enrolled as regular PhD students at either UW or TU Wien and have to follow the regulations of the curriculum of the doctoral program as well as the code of conduct and the rules of best scientific practice of the respective institution. The VSM imposes additional rules that student members have to comply with in order to receive a certificate from the VSM and be included into the list of alumni of the VSM upon completion of their study.

2. ADMISSION

The VSM regularly announces positions via its website and runs competitions among candidates for these positions. Candidates who are successful in these competitions will automatically become student members of the VSM as soon as they are admitted to the doctoral program of the institution that administrates the position. Other doctoral students at UW and TU Wien can be admitted as student members by the Executive Board of the VSM upon proposal by their advisors.

Student members of the VSM have to participate regularly, at least once per year on average, in the events of the Vienna School of Mathematics (summer schools, winter schools, student retreats, VSM related workshops, VSM lectures, etc.), among which at least in one summer or winter school. They are also encouraged to contribute to the administration of the VSM and to participate in the mentoring program of the VSM. However, the membership in the VSM will initially be temporary for one year, after which students should complete the qualifying presentation as described below. This deadline may be extended by up to six month by the Executive Board of the VSM upon a common request from the student and the advisor.

3. THE QUALIFYING PRESENTATION

During the first year of the doctoral study, students and advisors have to formulate a PhD thesis project and define its aims. The project is then publicly presented and evaluated by the VSM. At the University of Vienna, this will be done via the public presentation in front of the Doctoral Advisory Board of the Faculty of Mathematics as required by the curriculum. Registration for this presentation requires students to provide a written description of the thesis project. The Executive Board of the VSM will ensure

that, independently of the composition of this Advisory Board, a sufficient number of representatives of the VSM will be present during the presentations of student members of the VSM. Upon approval of the thesis project and the advisor by the Doctoral Advisory Board and positive evaluation by the Executive Board of the VSM, a student's membership in the VSM will be prolonged until the end of the PhD study. According to the curriculum of the UW, student and advisor sign a dissertation agreement, which in particular can contain information on the required course work.

At the TU Wien, the qualifying presentations are organized directly by the VSM. To register for such presentation, students have to provide a short report on the research conducted during the first period of their membership and a plan for the rest of their study. After the presentation, the Executive Board decides about the continuation of the membership for the second period, which will last until the end of the PhD study. The Executive Board may decide that the presentation has to be repeated during the 18-month period.

4. THE RESEARCH PHASE OF THE STUDY

During the research phase of the study, students prepare a thesis as required by the curriculum. In addition, they do the course work as specified in the curriculum (a total of 24 ECTS at UW and of 18 ECTS at TU Wien) and, if applicable, in the doctoral agreement. Student members are required to regularly participate in the activities of the VSM and contribute to its administration. Advisors are encouraged to make their academic network accessible for their students and help them select academic activities beyond the ones offered in Vienna. In particular, students are encouraged to participate in international conferences and to submit their research work to peer-reviewed journals and/or conference proceedings, guided by the advisors. In addition to the advisor, a mentor provided by the VSM is a primary contact person for each student member in case of problems.

The progress of the thesis project of each student member is monitored by the VSM on an annual basis. At UW, this is done by submitting a copy of the yearly progress report (which formally is an annex to the dissertation agreement) required by the curriculum to the Executive Board. At TU Wien, each VSM student submits either an annual report to the Executive Board or gives a presentation of her/his work per year.

5. THE FINAL PHASE OF THE STUDY

Towards the end of the thesis project, referees for the thesis have to be chosen following the rules of the relevant curriculum. The choice of referees is based on a suggestion by the student and the advisor. For VSM doctoral student members, it is requested that this suggestion is submitted to the Executive Board of the VSM for approval beforehand. The PhD defense is organized according to the applicable curriculum. The VSM requests that at least one of the referees also acts as an examiner for the defense.

After successful completion of the doctoral study according to the rules of the applicable curriculum, the whole PhD project is evaluated by the Executive Board of the VSM. In

case of a positive result, doctoral students receive a certificate from the VSM and are included into the list of alumni of the VSM, which is made available on the website.