International PhD course in Structural Biology

1. Students attending the PhD course in Structural Biology are expected to be physically present at CERM for the whole duration of the PhD course to perform their research activity, except when on leave at other research labs, provided the leave is approved by the tutor and the Board of the Teachers as part of their training activity. Stages outside CERM are encouraged when framed within the research activities foreseen by the research project of the student. Periods of absence for any other reason are allowed provided they are agreed with the tutor. Normally these periods should not exceed a total of 4 weeks/year.
2. Students are entitled to attend schools or conferences, after agreeing with the tutor, using the budget made available to cover mobility expenses. The mobility budget should be used both for attending schools and conferences, and for covering accommodation and travel costs of research periods abroad. It is recommended that the student tries to obtain a grant to decrease the impact on the total budget.
3. Students have to obtain 60 credits (CFU) each year (180 in total) according to the following yearly distribution:

FIRST Year

ACTIVITY	**CFU**
Teaching activities	16
Subject-Specific Teaching	13
Cross-Curricular Teaching (Soft Skills)	3
Individual Research and Training	44

SECOND Year

ACTIVITY	**CFU**
Teaching activities	12
Subject-Specific Teaching	9
Cross-Curricular Teaching (Soft Skills)	3
Individual Research and Training	48

THIRD Year

ACTIVITY	**CFU**
Teaching activities	2
Subject-Specific Teaching	2
Cross-Curricular Teaching (Soft Skills)	-
Individual Research and Training	28
Doctoral Thesis and Final Examination	30

4. CFU from teaching activities:
    a. 1 CFU corresponds to 6 hours of lesson. Credits are granted upon achievement of a positive evaluation at the final examination and attendance to at least 75% of the hours of lessons.
    b. 6 out of the 30 CFU have to be granted from the attendance of courses on the complementary skills.
    c. A maximum of 6 of the 30 CFU can be granted from the attendance of research seminars.
    d. At least 18 of the 30 CFU have to be granted from the attendance of courses organized in the frame of our doctorate or from attendance of courses organized by other doctorates of the University of Florence, according to the student teaching plan.
5. At the beginning of the PhD course, the students have to submit a research project on the proposed activities. At the beginning of each year, the students should also provide a plan of their teaching activities **regarding courses offered by the PhD programme,** to be agreed by their tutor and approved by the Board of the Teachers.
6. Every month, the PhD students should upload on the web site of the doctorate a copy of their laboratory notebook. Protocols, procedures, manuals, etc. developed within the research projects, should also be uploaded by the students upon finalization.
7. After 6 and 18 months from the beginning of the PhD course, students are asked to provide a scientific report (in English) on the research activity performed in the last 6 months in an organized manner. The reports will be evaluated by the Board of the Teachers.
8. At the end of each year, students are asked to provide the annual PhD Progress Report **(by September 30th),** with signatures of the lecturers of the attended seminars.

    At the end of the first and second years, they are also asked to give an oral presentation of the research activities performed in the year **(at the beginning of October).** A Committee will judge the written and oral presentations. A positive judgment of the scientific and teaching activities is necessary for admission to the following year.
9. At the end of the course, students should be co-authors of at least three publications on international scientific journals, or, if less, have produced results that will warrant such publications.

The PhD students are also invited to prepare and constantly update a PPT presentation to be used as a basis for:

1) Discussion of the work in progress with their tutor.

2) Presentations of their research work.

3) Discussion of their research with visiting professors.

4) The annual reports of their research activity to the PhD Committee.

5) The final thesis.