

Final thesis in the MD / PhD program “Molecular Medicine”

The final thesis can either be:

- A **cumulative thesis: preferably two, but at least one** original manuscript(s), already published (accepted) papers in peer-reviewed journals (as first author or first author with equal contribution).

Short: One paper should be either accepted or in press. You need only one paper if the impact is above 10. Preferably put the print version in the thesis.

The second paper can be a manuscript. If the second paper of the two is only submitted or in revision, just state “submitted” or “in revision” without stating the particular journal name!

You will put these two papers together.

In addition, you will at least have to write an abstract, introduction (10 - 15 pages) and a discussion (+ outlook).

Please state somewhere in this part (preferably after “Introduction”) what you have done yourself / your main results (as on the papers there are always quite a few different authors). The PhD student’s personal contribution to such publications needs to be clearly identified.

Reviews cannot be counted as publications for a cumulative thesis.

Please note: for copyright reasons you would have to ask the respective journal if you are allowed to include your publications in your thesis and in which form (e. g. concerning figures)!

- A **full thesis** if no papers are published yet (only after discussion with the PhD committee / Prof Behrens): Abstract/Summary, introduction, materials and methods, discussion, outlook, references, own publications, CV, acknowledgements, declaration.

Please do not include any publication (no hybrid form allowed). Just refer to publications in your personal reference list if applicable.

Please indicate clearly in your publication list: the publications submitted or planned!

Copyright: you would have to ask respective journals to allow you to use figures / graphs etc. in your thesis! Please confirm in the declaration!

Artificial Intelligence/ChatGPT: if you are using AI for writing the thesis and for other things, you need to indicate this clearly in your thesis! Please write a short declaration/description e.g. right after the “Abbreviations” section - in both cases if you have used or not used AI.

The thesis should include (see also attachments):

- The front page **see below!**
- Page 2 (information about supervisors, examiners etc.) **see below!**
- Page 3: table of contents
- Appendix:
 1. List of references of the review part of the thesis (MHH prefers the “Cell Format”)
 2. Complete list of own publications
 3. Curriculum vitae (signed)
 4. Declaration (signed) **see below!**

You are kindly requested to submit to Susanne Kruse:

- Initially **at least one printed copy with original signature under declaration (four copies if all examiners/supervisors desire the printed version)** of the thesis (two for the examiners, one for your supervisor, one for the MD / PhD office) + an **electronic version** for a check with plagiarism software.

(please print if required additional copies for co-supervisors to distribute directly to them!).

- **Six final copies** of the thesis after the examination (and after correction of possible mistakes / revisions asked by examiners) + an **electronic version** for the library on CD or stick.

Or

- **New!!!** You only need to give us the **form, three final copies** if you do the online publication + an **electronic version** for the library on CD or stick.

The library gets two printed copies, the PhD office one. You find the form on

https://www.mhh.de/fileadmin/mhh/bibliothek/pdf/erklaerung_neu.pdf

We prefer bound thesis (no spiral) and the first page “see-through”.

Blocking of online publishing

If you do not want your final thesis to be published immediately, please download the “blocking form” from

<https://www.mhh.de/fileadmin/mhh/bibliothek/pdf/AntragSperrvermerkDissertation.pdf>

and hand it in together with your final copies. (more info <https://www.mhh.de/institute-zentren-forschungseinrichtungen/bibliothek/dissertationen>)

Dr. rer. nat. or PhD

You have to decide latest before submission of your thesis if you would like to have an international PhD or German Dr. rer. nat. degree. You please have also to decide on the language (English or German). It is only possible to have one version of the final certificate.

If you choose the Dr. rer. nat. degree (life scientists only), one examiner (preferably external) has to be a life scientist (e. g. Dr. rer. nat.); for a PhD it doesn't matter.

Examiners:

Please decide (together with your supervisor) on and directly approach one internal (region Hannover) and one external examiner. They should be able to evaluate your thesis (in written form and give a mark) as well as be present at the date of the public defence. The examiners should be independent: no co-supervisors please; preferably, they should not appear on your papers (see guidelines examiners).

We reimburse travel costs (**please tell me names of examiners as soon as you have fixed them**). So, please do the initial communication. If we have the names of the examiners, we will do the further correspondence (send the thesis, schedule etc.).

The examiners should be independent: no co-supervisors please; preferably, they should not appear on your papers. We kindly ask also your supervisor (thesis advisory group) to write and evaluation and give a mark too! Evaluations are confidential. So, you are not able to look at them afterwards.

Dates of submission (roughly):

For November exams: first week of September (Friday)

For June exams: first week of April (Friday)

Please note: Deadlines are strict. MD / PhD committee members will check the thesis too. Due to “good scientific practice” guidelines of MHH, PhD theses will be picked randomly for a check with plagiarism detection software and check of primary data. Therefore an electronic version of your thesis is needed.

Final mark:

You can only receive an “excellent” (summa cum laude), if you have publications as first author in press. In addition, four of the five marks (intermediate exam, evaluation supervisor, evaluation internal reviewer, evaluation external reviewer, public defence) need to be “excellent”.

Exception: Some people apply for patents. If you therefore write a monograph, it is well possible to receive an “excellent”. This needs to be discussed with all examiners/supervisors/chairmen involved.

Public defence

You usually get a 1 hour slot (*you only have to be present at your own exam, of course, if there are many defences on one day*). You have 20 min for your presentation, followed by a discussion with mainly the external and internal examiner. There will be a chairperson from the MD / PhD committee.

You are welcome to use the computer of the lecture hall. We will provide a pointer.

After the exam (roughly 50 min altogether), the examiners convene to discuss about the final mark.

We usually ask you and all your guests to leave the lecture hall in case there is an exam directly following yours.

The exam day ends with a small reception in the afternoon, where you will receive a “symbolic” final PhD certificate.



Title

A thesis submitted for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) [or Doctor of Natural Sciences (Dr. rer. nat.)]

in the subject of (e. g.) *Immunology*

by

Name, M. Sc. (e. g.) Biology

April 2025

Hannover Medical School

International MD / PhD program “Molecular Medicine”

at Hannover Biomedical Research School (HBRS)

Department of

(no other logos allowed)

Acknowledged by the MD / PhD committee and head of Hannover Medical School

President: Prof. Dr. Michael P. Manns

Supervisor:

Co-supervisors:

External expert:

Internal expert:

Day of final exam / public defence:

Declaration

Herewith, I confirm that I have written the present PhD thesis myself and independently, in compliance with “the policy of Hannover Medical School on the safeguarding of good scientific practice and procedural rules for dealing with scientific misconduct” and that I have not submitted it at any other university worldwide.

Herewith, I agree that MHH can check my thesis by plagiarism detection software as well as randomly check the primary data. I am aware that in case of suspicion, ombudsman proceedings according to § 9 of MHH 'Guidelines of Hannover Medical School to guarantee good scientific practice and dealing with scientific fraud' will be initiated. During such proceedings, the PhD process is paused.

Herewith, I confirm that I have the copyrights to publish all parts of present and future publications in this thesis.

Hannover, (April 2024)
