



Directive 2023/01

GSEM PhD Program

This document presents the set of guidelines that will apply to our PhD programs from the academic year 2023-24. Programs will be composed of three components.

Component 1: training

Each PhD program will entail 24 ECTS credits of relevant course work within the first two years of the program. Scientific committees will identify how the credits will be assigned. This can be for instance the outcome of PhD classes exams taken within the GSEM or elsewhere (for example, training courses in Gerzensee, advanced Summer Schools, SFI courses, or other advanced courses attended in other institutions).

Scientific committees, if appropriate for the training in their discipline, can also recommend to their students specific sessions on teaching and communication skills (see for instance UNIGE offer). If the workload and the performance assessment of these sessions is appropriate, these can be considered for credits in their training component.

Component 2: State of research advancement seminar

Before the end of the 7th semester students will have identified of their contribution to existing related literature (research gap) as well as the data and methodologies needed to conduct the analysis.

PhD Students must present the state of the advancement of the research contribution in a brown bag seminar (or equivalent event such as a PhD research day) to their respective Institute. This will allow the student to obtain valuable feedback (from the scientific committee and the audience) that will be of use in the development of the thesis. The seminar will also provide the student with an opportunity to train on how to address an academic audience, handle questions in an academic seminar etc. After the presentation, a written evaluation by the PhD supervisor and validated by Scientific Committee will be provided to the student.

Component 3. Private viva

By the end of 9th semester, the PhD candidate will submit the PhD thesis for a private examination. The thesis examination will be held by a jury composed by both GSEM and external experts. In this setting the candidate will have to present in detail her/his work and respond to questions as well as incorporate comments offered by the jury before the public defense.

Directive validée par le collège des professeur-es de la GSEM du 27 avril 2023.