PhD students should strive to complete their thesis within 3 years. In addition to carrying out experiments for their thesis at the lab bench, all SGBM students have to complete a curriculum which should take up less than 20% of their time. This is to ensure an excellent all-round education. Each PhD student is supervised individually.

Track 1 students (i.e. funded by the school) start by performing **three rotations of one month each**. At the end of this period they have a discussion with the management in order to decide in which of these three laboratories they will perform their PhD.

Within maximum 6 months of starting their doctoral work, the PhD students (track 1 and track 2 alike) write a thesis proposal, and assemble a **thesis committee** to which they submit their thesis proposal. Thereafter there are yearly thesis committee meetings. Preceding each thesis committee meeting the students draft a short progress report in order to submit it to the committee members.

In the monthly reunions students present their own work and learn to discuss it in a multidisciplinary context.

SGBM students have a wide range of seminars, lectures, practical courses and soft skill courses to choose from. These different sections should be checked regularly for updates.

Information regarding the MD/PhD program can be found under [Application/Requirements](#).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>1st Year</th>
<th>2nd Year</th>
<th>3rd Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar and Lectures</td>
<td>Regular attendance of seminars, workshops, and lectures</td>
<td>Participate in the seminar/lecture on an individual project</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Soft Skills Courses</td>
<td>Develop presentation, research, and interpersonal skills</td>
<td>Participate in the interdisciplinary team</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Courses</td>
<td>Gain hands-on experience in a laboratory setting</td>
<td>Conduct research</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Requirements**
- **Semester 1:** Initial meeting with project advisor
- **Semester 2:** Final project progress meeting
- **Semester 3:** Final project defense meeting
- **Semester 4:** Final project defense meeting
- **Semester 5:** Final project defense meeting

**Additional Course Activities**
- Regular attendance of workshops on research methodology
- Participation in the annual multidisciplinary conference, public lecture, and seminar
- Conduct research in a laboratory setting
- Complete a final project defense meeting