

Addendum to the PhD Handbook: ECTS Requirements

As of **1st of June** a change of rules for obtaining ECTS points will be put into effect. This addendum states the change of rules to section 5.6.2 “ECTS points” p. 30 in the PhD Handbook revised 2026 until the next revision of the PhD Handbook in January 2027.

What has changed

Several restrictions are removed and replaced by a single new requirement.

The single new requirement that replaces the removed requirements is:

- At least 15 ECTS points must be obtained from PhD courses and/or Summer Schools. Exemptions from this requirement may be granted upon individual application if suitably justified.

The following restrictions will no longer apply:

- A maximum of 10 ECTS from master’s-level courses
- Reduction of master’s-level courses to 2/3 of their nominal ECTS value
- A maximum of 10 ECTS from courses without clearly defined ECTS
- A maximum of 8 ECTS from other study activities without clearly defined ECTS (e.g. conferences, workshops, symposia, reading groups)

Transition Period

The transition aims to ensure fairness for current PhD students while discontinuing the removed ECTS categories.

For those of you who started before 1 June 2026 a set of transitional rules apply:

1. You are expected, where feasible, to adjust future coursework and ECTS planning to align with the new requirement – with the next half-yearly report. Any such adjustment must not disadvantage you or delay completion of the PhD. We are aware that the closer you are to the end of studies you are less likely to be able to re-plan.
2. All coursework approved before the cut-off date remains fully valid and will not be reassessed or recalculated.
3. Coursework that was preapproved but not yet recorded may be resubmitted for approval under the new rules and will be assessed individually. Any coursework initiated after the cut-off date must comply with the new framework.
4. Coursework initiated after the cut-off date is expected to comply with the new rules unless this is a disadvantage to you.

For those PhD students who are admitted *On or After 1 June 2026*

- Are subject to the **new rules in full**, with no transitional exceptions

Implementation and Communication

The updated rules will be incorporated into the next revision of the **PhD Handbook, January 2027**. Until then, this addendum will be made available on the intranet. The changes have been communicated by e-mail to the enrolled PhD students and supervisors at the end of May 2026 and will be announced in readIT on 8 June 2026.