



ACCREDITATION DECISION

After the external programme evaluation implemented by the High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres) in October 2018, and according to the accreditation criteria adopted by the Hcéres Board on March 26th, 2018,

The Life Sciences PhD Program Skoltech - Russia is fully accredited for 5 years (March 2019 - March 2024)

Paris, March 12th, 2019
Michel Cosnard, Hcéres President

Hcéres is full member of



Hcéres is duly registered by



The accreditation decision issued by Hcéres shall not grant any rights whatsoever, whether in France or abroad. The decision to accredit an institution confers an accreditation label and does not infer recognition in France of the qualifications issued by the accredited institution. The Hcéres accreditation process therefore has no impact on the process of having the qualifications of accredited institutions recognised in France.



ACCREDITATION DECISION

Life Sciences PhD program

Skoltech - Russia

March 2019

SCOPE OF THE ACCREDITATION GRANTED BY HCÉRES

Hcéres has built its evaluation process based on a set of objectives that higher education institution PhD programmes must pursue to ensure recognised quality within France and Europe. These objectives are divided up into four fields among which are the accreditation criteria.

As for the "External Evaluation Standards", the accreditation criteria have been specifically designed for foreign PhD programmes. The accreditation criteria were adopted by the Board on December 2017 and are available on the Hcéres website (hceres.fr).

The accreditation committee, meeting his accreditation decision, has wholly taken into account the final evaluation report of the PhD programme. This accreditation decision is the result of a collegial and reasoned process.

The accreditation decision issued by Hcéres shall not grant any rights whatsoever, whether in France or abroad. The decision on PhD programme accreditation confers an accreditation label and does not infer recognition of the accredited qualifications. The Hcéres accreditation process therefore has no impact on the qualifications recognition process in France.

FULFILLMENT OF THE ACCREDITATION CRITERIA

AREA 1: THE POSITIONING OF THE DOCTORATE

Accreditation criterion

The positioning, the content and the objectives of the doctorate are clearly defined. Its interactions with the stakeholders (lead institution(s), foreign partners, socio-economic environment) are formally set out and effective. Its links with the research units and the institution's scientific policy are effective.

Criterion assessment

The Life Sciences PhD Program is well defined. It is perfectly integrated into the general strategy of Skoltech Institute of Science and Technology and it participates as a part of this Institute in creating excellence in research and teaching. The distinctive features of the Life Sciences PhD program are likewise well defined and have been clearly presented to the panel of experts. Thematic and international orientations and international internship mobility program are well integrated into curricula that allow students to obtain training at the highest international level.

This PhD program is perfectly characterized and identifiable within the Skoltech Institute and more generally in the Russian Academic environment.

AREA 2: ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DOCTORATE

Accreditation criterion

The Life Sciences PhD program is part of the Center of Life Sciences (CLS) and it is very well organized with excellent administrative support from the Department of Education (DoE) and the Doctoral Study Office. Quality control is provided by integrating student feedback and internal communication of faculty and administrative offices. The recruitment of students is perfectly organized in a two-step procedure and the funding in terms of fellowships is clearly advertised and executed, including annual reviewing and adjustment of the amount of stipends according to students' achievements.

Criterion assessment

The organization of the PhD program is flawless. It is organized based on meritocratic values that are in full agreement with the institution's and PhD program's aim to become one of the leading research and teaching institutions in Russia and the world.

AREA 3: SUPERVISION AND TRAINING FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Accreditation criterion

The supervision and training of PhD students is exemplary. The supervision includes the participation of three distinct Skoltech constituents: administration, faculty and students. Several committees are involved in accompanying the student during his/her thesis: Doctoral Study Office; Life Sciences Doctoral Program committee; Individual Doctoral Program committees; Disciplinary board; PhD Defense Jurys. These committees assure close guidance of the students. In addition, an extensive high quality teaching offer is presented to students from which they can compose their personalized curricula. In addition, all students are required to conduct research in a leading European or American University, under the supervision of international co-mentor. This assures adherence (compliance) to international standards of PhD training.

Criterion assessment

The supervision and training of students is conducted at highest international levels.

AREA 4: INTEGRATION OF DOCTORS INTO THE JOB MARKET

Accreditation criterion

A concluding assessment of this criterion cannot yet be provided, due to early age of the program. First PhD graduates left the Life Sciences Centre in 2017 and are for the major part employed by Skoltech Institute. However, the administrative part in charge of helping students to enter professional life after their PhD thesis is in place. Specific problems with respect to the job market have been identified and the Skoltech team works on their part to facilitate the integration of their doctors into the job market.

Criterion assessment

Four out of five Skoltech Life Sciences PhD's graduates have not yet been integrated into the Russian job market. Instead they have stayed at Skoltech. This concerns the first cohort of graduates. However, the recent establishment of an administrative infrastructure for integration into the job market could reduce the above limitation, therefore allowing more doctors to be integrated in the job market in the future.

FINAL ASSESSMENT

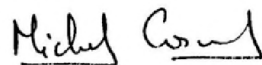
Considering the accreditation criteria analysis detailed above, the accreditation committee issues the following decision:

“Five-year unreserved accreditation decision”

and draws attention to the various recommendations made by the committee of experts in its evaluation report.

SIGNATURE

For Hcéres and on behalf of



Michel COSNARD,

President

Date: Paris, March 12th, 2019

The evaluation reports of Hceres
are available online : www.hceres.com

Evaluation of clusters of higher education and research institutions
Evaluation of higher education and research institutions
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