Program of the International PhD Studies at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences

   1.1 The Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (the Institute) carries out four-year International PhD Studies (the PhD Studies) offering scientific research in the following areas:
      - nanotechnology and physical chemistry of new materials
      - photochemistry, photophysics and molecular spectroscopy
      - physical chemistry of surfaces and interfaces, of solids, of soft matter, and of supramolecular complexes
      - chemical kinetics and catalysis
      - thermodynamics and statistical mechanics
      - quantum chemistry, mathematical modeling of phenomena, and molecular dynamics
      - electrochemistry, including electrode processes, and electrochemical sensors, as well as protection against corrosion
      - astrochemistry.

   1.2 In the course of their studies the PhD Students conduct experimental or theoretical research that aims at preparing their doctoral dissertations. They also participate in seminars and classes providing them with knowledge required to obtain the scientific degree of doctor of philosophy in chemistry (PhD).

2. Course of studies
   2.1 The Scientific Supervisor is in charge of the PhD Student’s scientific research and the course of his/her individual studies.

   2.2 The Scientific Supervisor is appointed by the Scientific Board of the Institute at the request of the PhD Studies Coordinator and after consultation with the Commission for Education of the Scientific Board, further in this document referred to as the Commission.

   2.3 The PhD Student receives a student logbook for entering grades for examinations and courses attended.

   2.4 In order to complete the PhD Studies the student should pass all obligatory examinations, get credits in all obligatory courses and submit the doctoral dissertation with a positive opinion of his/her Dissertation Supervisor.

3. Lectures
   3.1 Before each semester the Commission approves the series of specialist lectures organized by the PhD Studies Coordinator.
3.2 The PhD Student must participate in specialist courses (also outside the Institute) assigned by his/her Scientific Supervisor and approved in the individual student’s program, and to pass final course examinations.

3.3 The Scientific Supervisor may require that the PhD Student attends additional lecture courses.

3.4 The Scientific Board, at the request of the Scientific Supervisor, after the Commission expresses its opinion and the PhD Studies Coordinator approves it, may change the individual student’s program of a PhD Student in special circumstances.

4. Examinations

4.1 During four-year studies the PhD Student must pass three examinations at the end of semester specialist courses that were approved in his/her individual student’s program by the Scientific Board. Each of the courses should include at least 15 lecture hours. The results of the examination are entered into the student logbook (examination record card) of the PhD Student.

4.2 Having completed the second year of studies the PhD Student must take an examination in physical chemistry held by the Commission. The scope of the examination is determined by the Commission.

4.3 The PhD Student who completed his/her master studies in other field than chemistry must pass additional examinations indicated by the Scientific Supervisor in the individual student’s program, consulted with the Commission and approved by the PhD Studies Coordinator.

4.4 Before his/her doctoral dissertation defense the PhD Student must pass all statutory examinations; the doctoral examination in the primary discipline includes examination in physical chemistry with particular emphasis on the specialty area of the doctoral dissertation.

5. Seminars, conferences and symposia

5.1 During his/her studies the PhD Student must actively participate in seminars for PhD Students organized by the PhD Studies Coordinator and at least once a year give a presentation.

5.2 The PhD Student must participate in seminars announced as "for all researchers of the Institute".

5.3 The PhD Student must participate in seminars, scientific conferences and symposia indicated by the Scientific Supervisor.

6. Foreign language classes

The Scientific Supervisor may oblige the PhD Student to attend English language classes and successfully complete this course.

7. Teaching duties

7.1 The PhD Student must teach 60 hours during his/her studies. At the request of the Scientific Supervisor, the PhD Studies Coordinator may change the scope of or release the PhD Student from this obligation.
7.2 The classes are taught at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences – College of Sciences of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw or another university cooperating with the Institute.

8. Reporting

8.1 After each semester the PhD Student must submit to the PhD Studies Coordinator a report showing the progress in fulfilling his/her individual student’s program; the Scientific Supervisor gives his/her opinion on the report.

8.2 In each semester the Scientific Supervisor assesses the progress of the PhD Student’s research work and at the end of each year of study the PhD Studies Coordinator presents this assessment to the Scientific Board.

9. Rules for getting credits for each year of studies

Getting credits for individual years is connected with the acceptance of periodical reports on the progress of the PhD Student’s research work.

In addition:

9.1 A first year PhD Student must pass at least one of three obligatory examinations in specialist lecture courses.

9.2 Getting credits for the second year of studies is conditional on passing jointly two examinations in specialist lecture courses.

9.3 Getting credits for the third year of studies is conditional on passing jointly three examinations in specialist lecture courses.

In addition, a third-year PhD Student must pass the examination in physical chemistry.

In justified cases the deadlines for passing the examinations may be extended at the request of the Scientific Supervisor approved by the PhD Studies Coordinator.

A third year PhD Student must show to the PhD Studies Coordinator his/her own research project concerning issues not directly related to his/her doctoral dissertation. The PhD Student proposes the subject of the project, which is approved by the Scientific Supervisor. The project is evaluated on the basis of a presentation given by the PhD Student at the doctoral seminar and his/her activity in the discussion of the project.

9.4 During the fourth year of the studies the PhD Student should write and submit his/her doctoral dissertation to his/her Dissertation Supervisor. The PhD Student may present the dissertation in English if he/she obtains the PhD Studies Coordinator’s consent given after consultation with the Commission and approval by the Scientific Board.

9.5 The PhD Student who applies for extending his/her PhD Studies beyond the period of four years must:

- pass all the examinations and get credits for all courses included in his/her individual student’s program
- pass the examination in physical chemistry after the second year of the Studies
- teach classes (pt. 7)
- present the results of his/her research at the doctoral seminar.

10. Additional provisions
The conferment procedure for the PhD degree must be initiated no later than in the third year of the studies. The basis for starting the procedure is the progress in realization of the individual student’s program, which allows assuming the timely completion of the PhD Studies.

11. Interim provisions
This Program of the PhD Studies was adopted by the Scientific Board of the Institute at its 231 meeting on 21 January 2008 and approved by the Director of the Institute on 23 January 2008. The Program becomes effective on the date of its signing.