

Tropical Agrobiology and Bioresource Management (TABM)

Doctoral Degree Board Meeting Report

21. 11. 2025

The TABM Doctoral Degree Board meeting took place on 21st November 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in room 313 FTA building. The following members of the Board were present.

Present members:

prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmánová, Ph.D.
prof. Ing. Jan Banout, Ph.D.
RNDr. Jiří Černý, Ph.D.
doc. RNDr. David Honys, Ph.D.
Ing. Jiban Kumar, Ph.D.
Ing. Olga Leuner, Ph.D.
prof. Ing. Bohdan Lojka, Ph.D.
doc. Ing. Zbyněk Polesný, Ph.D.
doc. Ing. Hynek Roubík, Ph.D.
prof. Mgr. Ing. Markéta Sedmíková, Ph.D.
Ing. Iva Viehmannová, Ph.D.

Apologies:

doc. Ing. Jaroslav Havlík, Ph.D.
doc. Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Ph.D.
doc. Ing. Pavel Klouček, Ph.D.
Ing. Martin Kulma, Ph.D.
prof. Lukáš Kratochvíl, Ph.D.
doc. Tertia Kokošková, Ph.D.
prof. RNDr. Irena Valterová, CSc.

Guest:

doc. Ing. Johana Rondevaldová, PhD.

Secretary:

Ing. Vendula Ludvíková, Ph.D.

Minute taker:

Ing. Barbora Motýlová

Programme of TABM Doctoral Degree Board:

1. Opening (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmánová, Ph.D.)
2. Information from the last Doctoral Degree Board meeting 05.03.2025 (prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejcmánová, Ph.D.,)
3. Information about changes in Study and Scholarships Rules and credit system
4. Reports from the attestations of PhD students from September 2025 (by representatives of individual departments) and proposals for the withdrawal or reduction of doctoral scholarships based on students' annual assessments.
5. Approval of Individual Study Plans of first-year doctoral students
6. Approval of changes in Individual Study Plans (Adrish Dutta, Jhonnell Villegas)
7. Miscellaneous

1. Opening

Prof. Pavla Hejčmanová welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting.

2. Information from the last Doctoral Degree Board meeting 05.03.2025

A summary of previous meeting with emphasis on discussed issues was presented, including a review of attestation reports and checks of methodologies and Individual Study Plans (ISPs). The Board recommended that both students and supervisors carefully verify ISPs and criteria given for progress report to have all fulfilled before respective attestations take place. New examiners for state doctoral examinations and new dissertation topics were approved, and an amendment to the Higher Education Act was also discussed.

3. Information about changes in Study and Scholarships Rules and credit system

Doc. Ing. Johana Rondevaldová, Ph.D. – FTA Vice Dean for Science and Research – outlined the key updates:

- Updates to the Study and Examination Regulations, the Scholarship Regulations, and their faculty-level specifications were introduced.
- Students now receive a doctoral study income; however, sanctions may be applied in cases of non-compliance.
- With the increased financial support for doctoral students, the Degree Board will assume greater responsibility regarding attestations. It was therefore discussed that the Board may operate in a two-step system: 1) Per rollam approval of attestations, 2) In-person meetings for detailed follow-up, including discussion of potential reductions in the study income
- The maximum period of study may now be extended by one additional year, but this requires an application to the Dean and fulfilment of specified conditions, such as obtaining 120 credits.
- It was clarified that the graduation rate is not calculated differently for students finishing within the standard or extended study period; both are reported equally.
- Regarding credits and recognition of internships, an updated directive is forthcoming. Students should not be awarded excessive credits, and upper limits will be introduced. Credits for internships may now be awarded more than once, allowing recognition of two separate internships.

Prof. Hejčmanová encouraged members to read the documents. They will be distributed to supervisors and doctoral students.

Prof. Sedmíková asked how international conference participation would be financed for students.

Doc. Rondevaldová explained that funding has long been available through various grants, and the faculty continues to organise the MCYR conference, which is free of charge for students.

Prof. Hejčmanová added that this funding support had not been formally documented in previous regulations and also noted that international conferences are held within the Czech Republic as well. Overall, this represents only a minor change for the faculty, except that the requirement for students to attend a conference in their first year has now been removed.

Questions submitted by doc. Ceacero were read by Prof. Hejčmanová and answered:

- It was clarified that if the head of department and the supervisor disagree regarding a student's attestation, the head of department holds the primary responsibility, with the final decision made by the Degree Board.
- doc. Ceacero also expressed concern that the required number of credits may be inequitable for three-year versus four-year programmes; however, the system must be structured to ensure that students in three-year programmes still retain the possibility to apply for an extension. The reason for different number of credits is given by different time-demand of studies and rules are proportionally the same.

- There was also an ongoing discussion about inconsistencies between Czech and English terminology—particularly the distinction between co-supervisor and consultant, or the translation of “s výtkou” (“with a warning”). It was emphasised that English versions of documents are unofficial translations, however Board agrees that terminology should be unified across all English-language materials and asked the administration office for doing so.

4. Reports from the attestations of PhD students

KTPA (reported by prof. Bohdan Lojka)

Total number of students: 11

- 4 students continue in their studies
- 4 students continue with an admonition
- 2 students interrupted
- 1 student was terminated

Issues occurred mainly in higher years, often due to missing publications or postponed exam completion. Another reason is that achievements are not reported in the UIS system. Supervisors should ensure that all completed tasks and examinations are properly recorded in the system.

KUT (reported by prof. Jan Banout)

- 1 student continues in his study
- 1 student is currently interrupted

KCHZPT (reported by prof. Pavla Hejcmanová)

Total number of students: 32

- 16 students continue in their studies
- 2 students continue with an admonition
- 10 students interrupted
- 2 students – terminated

An overview of PhD students at the moment:

A total of 65 students in the UIS, incl. those with interrupted studies: KTPA 30, KCHZTP 32, KUT 1, KER 1.

A total of 18 supervisors of students on the list.

A brief discussion took place regarding supervisor capacities. The new directive sets a maximum of six doctoral students per supervisor as rule (not recommendation only). In exceptional cases—such as demonstrably outstanding research performance—the Dean may request an exemption from the Vice-Rector. It was also debated whether students with interrupted studies should be included in this limit. Departments were reminded to ensure that supervisors do not exceed the permitted number of students during the admissions process.

5. Approval of Individual Study Plans of first-year doctoral students

A total of 11 ISPs were reviewed.

- **Andrej Skok – approved**; location of research should be specified.
- **Anežka Malá – approved**.
- **Anna Dvořáková – approved after correction**; “Other tasks” must be rewritten in English.
- **Ariana Vicari – approved**.

- **Emmanuella Lekete** – approved after correction; course “Management of Research” must be moved to the summer semester.
- **Jakub Abelard Pospíšil** – approved.
- **Jakub Dvořák** – approved.
- **Juliana Walterová** – approved.

In addition, there are five students who were previously enrolled in our doctoral programme but did not complete their studies within the required period. They have been re-admitted and are enrolled in the first year. Most of them request recognition of courses completed during their previous enrolment. However, a discussion arose regarding whether publications and conference participations from their former studies can also be recognised, and whether it would appear problematic if such students were to complete the doctoral programme within a single year. A recommendation was given that Vice Dean for Science and Research consults these questions with Legal Department of CZU.

These students were:

Onyedika Emmanuel Okpala

- Changing research proposal; should prepare a new methodology.
- Requested recognition of all previously completed courses.
- Proposal:
 - recognise all courses except Methodology of Dissertation Thesis - should be completed anew.
 - Distribute ISP tasks over three years (not one year).
 - Planned defence must be moved beyond 2026.
- Issue of recognising publications produced before the start of the new study programme requires legal consultation.

Decision: ISP not approved. Student must revise the plan for a realistic 3-year study duration. Publication recognition will be referred to the legal department.

Pavlo Fialkovski

- The dissertation topic is insufficiently developed and should be expanded to 150–250 words.
- The student is currently in Ukraine due to the ongoing war, which prevented him from completing his previous studies.
- He requests recognition of previously completed courses and possibly also his publications.
- The courses can likely be recognised; however, the recognition of publications remains uncertain and will be discussed with the legal department. Therefore, publication obligations should be placed in later years of the ISP — there is no issue if he completes them earlier, and this approach provides sufficient time to determine whether the publications can or cannot be recognised.

Decision: ISP not approved; could be approved per rollam after revisions.

Pavla Bryxová

- Recommendation to move Research Proposal to the summer semester.

Decision: Will be approved after moving Research Proposal

Julia Werle

- ISP not submitted.

Ingrid Faltová

- ISP not submitted.

General notes

- A question was raised regarding the formatting of dissertation titles—specifically whether all words should begin with a capital letter. It was noted that no unified standard exists.
- Although new students do not take a state doctoral examination, the study system still requires state-exam-related courses to be entered. It was therefore recommended to use neutral placeholders such as SDZ 1, SDZ 2, and SDZ 3.
- The issue of recognising publications from previous doctoral enrolments for re-admitted students will be further consulted with the legal department.

6. Approval of changes in Individual Study Plans (Adrish Dutta, Jhonnell Villegas)

- **Jhonnell Villegas – change of courses; approved.**
- **Adrish Dutta – change of dissertation topic title;** discussion on whether a new research proposal is needed; **approved.**

7. Miscellaneous

- Several newly admitted students have not yet arrived due to various reasons (e.g., pending visas, delayed enrolment). Their Individual Study Plans will be submitted and approved later, most likely per rollam.
- It was emphasised that students and supervisors should receive timely information regarding any required revisions to ISPs. Supervisors are encouraged to regularly check whether ISPs have been approved by the Degree Board.



prof. RNDr. Pavla Hejmanová, Ph.D.

Chairperson of DDB TABM

