

## **Brief outline of the “new” doctoral training programme (started following September 2016)**

Minimum 240 credits must be completed in the doctoral training, and the period of training is eight semesters. Doctoral training comprises two stages: the first four semesters constitute the “training and research” stage and the second four semesters constitute the “research and dissertation” stage. At the end of the fourth semester, as a conclusion of the training and research stage and as a precondition for starting the research and dissertation stage, the PhD student shall take a complex exam, which measures and evaluates academic and research progress. Within three years of the complex exam the PhD student shall submit a doctoral dissertation.

During his or her studies a PhD student may obtain training, research and teaching credits.

### **Training module**

During the training period a doctoral student shall collect minimum 60, but maximum 100 credits by attending courses and consultations. (Training credit)

In the training and research stage the module comprises compulsory and elective course-units, while in the research and dissertation stage it comprises optional course-units.

### **Research module**

During the period of organized training a doctoral student shall collect minimum 140 credits by his or her research activity (Research credit).

The module comprises compulsory and elective course-units in both the “training and research” and the “research and dissertation” stage.

### **Teaching module**

During the entire period of organized training a student shall be granted maximum 40 credits for the teaching activity carried out by him or her (Teaching credit).

In this module the student may be awarded credit only for optional course-units during the whole period of training.

### **The absolutorium**

The higher education institution shall grant an absolutorium to the PhD student who has completed all the credits required in the doctoral training. Requirements for the granting of the absolutorium: a) completing the appropriate proportions of credits prescribed for doctoral training pursuant to Section 41 (during the training period a doctoral student shall collect minimum 60, but maximum 100 credits by attending lectures and consultations. (Training credit), during the period of organized training a doctoral student shall collect minimum 140 credits by his or her research activity (Research credit), during the entire period of organized training a student shall be granted maximum 40 credits for the teaching activity carried out by him or her. (Teaching credit); b) the value index of the doctoral student’s academic publications shall equal or exceed 20 points on application of the method of calculation laid down in Annex 3 to the Doctoral Regulations; c) a successful preliminary debate.

### **The doctoral dissertation**

The doctoral dissertation is a summary of the results of the doctoral candidate's scientific research activity running to minimum 10 and maximum 15 author's sheets (one sheet: 40,000 characters including spaces and punctuation marks).

### **The preliminary debate**

Prior to the public defence, the doctoral candidate shall present his or her dissertation at a preliminary debate organized and held by the Faculty department competent in the topic. Eligibility requirements for the preliminary debate: a) completing the appropriate proportions of compulsory credits prescribed for the doctoral training (Doctoral Regulations, Section 41); b) the value index of the doctoral student's scientific publications shall equal or exceed 20 points (based on Annex 3 to the Doctoral Regulations); c) the doctoral dissertation shall be in a state of readiness of approximately 90%, which shall be certified by the supervisor.

### **The public defence**

The dissertation may be submitted to the Doctoral Council for public debate only with the approval of the supervisor. The order of conduct of the public debate is regulated by the Doctoral Regulations.

The classification of the defence takes place as follows: if in relation to the maximum score that may be achieved the score received is a) under 60%: the classification of the defence is insufficiente, no degree may be awarded. b) 60 - 70%: the classification of the defence is rite, c) 70.1 -85%: the classification of the defence is cum laude, d) 85.1 - 100%: the classification of the defence is summa cum laude

### **Requirements for awarding the doctoral (PhD) degree:**

- a) Obtaining an absolutorium within the framework of organized training.
- b) Proving knowledge of two foreign languages by passing two complex (oral and written) state-accredited/recognized – or equivalent - language exams at intermediate and elementary levels respectively, or by a university or college degree in a foreign language, or by a professional translator's certificate. The language in which the student has passed an intermediate level exam must be a foreign language that is necessary for the academic research of the doctoral research topic, or if the study of the topic does not require any special knowledge of a foreign language, English, German, French, Russian, Spanish and Italian may be accepted.
- c) Successful defence of the doctoral dissertation during a public debate.

### **Doctoral training may also be completed by individual preparation.**

The aim of individual preparation is to enable professionals with considerable teaching experience gained in a higher education institution and/or research experience gained in a research institute of the Academy of Sciences as well as documented academic achievements to obtain a doctoral (PhD) degree without participating in a doctoral training course.

An independent study schedule may only be granted to an applicant whose publication performance reaches 15 points on application of the method of calculation laid down in Annex 3 to the Doctoral Regulations or who can certify his or her foreign language knowledge as indicated in Section 36 (1) point d) of the Doctoral Regulations (proof of knowledge of two foreign languages by passing two complex (oral and written) state-accredited/recognized – or equivalent - language exams at intermediate and elementary levels respectively, or by a university or college degree in a foreign language, or by a professional translator's certificate. The language in which the student has passed an intermediate level exam must be a foreign language that is necessary for the academic research of the doctoral research topic, or if the study of the topic does not require any special knowledge of a foreign language, English, German, French, Russian, Spanish and Italian may be accepted).

A student preparing individually is granted exemption only from completing study requirements, otherwise he or she is to meet all requirements laid down for the award of the doctoral (PhD) degree.

A doctoral candidate preparing individually does not acquire a student status with the University; he or she does not receive a student card or registration book; he or she does not receive any financial provision for students; he or she shall only pay a one-off admission fee. The PhD student preparing individually for the granting of the degree can pursue his or her studies exclusively in the form of non-state-funded training as a fee-paying student.

Rules relating to application and the admissions procedure are duly applicable in this case as well. In this case the student status is created by the student's application for the complex exam and the granting of his or her application.

In the case of persons preparing individually, the doctoral procedure is initiated based on the person's application for the complex exam and the granting of that application. By the admission the higher education institution recognizes the minimum credits set as a requirement for eligibility to take the complex exam, with the proviso that upon application further credits may also be recognized based on the knowledge and competences acquired preliminarily by the person. By the successful completion of the complex exam the credits defined in Section 45 (1) point a) of the Doctoral Regulations (the student must have completed minimum 100 credits by the end of the term time of the fourth semester, of which minimum 60 credits must have been completed from the training module and minimum 40 credits from the research module) are deemed as completed.