

University of Pécs

Doctoral Regulations

Effective from April 25, 2025

EXCERPT

Chapter I.

General Provisions

Scope of the regulations

Section 1 (1) The scope of these regulations extends to the University Doctoral Council (hereinafter: UDC), which organizes and supervises doctoral training; the scientific/artistic field-specific doctoral councils (hereinafter: doctoral councils, abbreviated: DC); the doctoral schools; the lecturers and researchers participating in the training and doctoral degree award procedure; the employees responsible for the administration of the doctoral training and management of academic affairs (hereinafter: doctoral administration); students enrolled in doctoral training who have a student status with the University (hereinafter: doctoral students); individual preparatory candidates; doctoral candidates; and doctoral aspirants.

(2) Provisions related to student benefits and fees associated with the doctoral training, reclassification, and the fees for the doctoral degree award procedure are governed by the Code of Charges and Benefits (hereinafter: Code of Charges and Benefits), which forms Annex 6 of the Statutes of the University of Pécs.

(3) Issues concerning the student status of doctoral students, as well as their rights and obligations not addressed by these regulations, are governed by the University's Organizational and Operational Regulations and its annexes, particularly the Code of Studies and Examinations (hereinafter: Code of Studies and Examinations).

(4) Within the framework of these regulations, supplementary regulations and procedural rules are issued by the doctoral councils. The detailed operational rules of each doctoral school are set out in their own internal regulations.

(5) The University shall publish the Doctoral Regulations on its website. The doctoral schools shall publish their internal regulations both on their own websites and in the National Doctoral Database (hereinafter: ODT database), available at <http://doktori.hu>

The purpose of doctoral training

Section 2 Doctoral training represents the highest level of academic education at the university. Its objective is to enable candidates to acquire the ability to conduct independent and creative work in their specific field of science or the arts, to attain advanced scientific or artistic knowledge, and to be capable of the innovative application of scientific or artistic methods. The candidate must demonstrate this capability through scientific publications, artistic works, presentations, and a doctoral dissertation.

Chapter II.

Organizational framework of doctoral training

Section 3 (1) The organization of doctoral training and the conferral of the doctoral degree (hereinafter: doctoral procedure) fall under the authority of the UDC.

(2) The University conducts doctoral training within accredited doctoral schools holding valid operating licenses. Within this framework, and based on the successful completion of the doctoral procedure, it awards the highest university degree, defined in Section 16 (4) of the Act on National Higher Education (Nftv.), namely the PhD (Doctor of Philosophy), DLA (Doctor of Liberal Arts), or DBA (Doctor of Business Administration) degree (hereinafter collectively: doctoral degree). The list of doctoral schools registered by the Educational Authority (OH) is provided in Annex 1.

(3) Doctoral training is conducted within the framework of educational, research, and reporting activities, either in individual or group-based formats, aligned with the characteristics of the scientific or artistic field and tailored to the needs of the doctoral student.

(4) The doctoral degree certifies advanced knowledge in a specific field of science or the arts, the achievement of new scientific or artistic results in that area, and the candidate's ability to conduct independent research.

Doctoral Schools

Section 4 (1) The educational and research framework of the doctoral training is provided by the accredited doctoral schools.

Instructors of the Doctoral School

Section 7 (2) Within the framework of doctoral training, the instructors of the doctoral school may announce doctoral research topics.

The supervisor

Section 8 (1) The supervisor of a doctoral topic is a university instructor or researcher holding a PhD or DLA degree, whose topic proposal has been approved by the council of the doctoral school, and who – based on this approval – is responsible for guiding and assisting the doctoral student in their studies and research work, as well as preparing doctoral students, candidates, and doctoral aspirants for obtaining a scientific degree. In the field of business and management sciences, as well as in business doctoral programs, individuals holding a Doctor of Business Administration degree may also serve as supervisors.

(2) The supervisor shall

- a) announce the doctoral research topic,
- b) certify the completion of research tasks by signing the doctoral student's academic record book or recording the completion in the Neptun higher education information system (hereinafter: ES),
- c) periodically evaluate the doctoral student's reports and provide feedback on their performance, in accordance with the doctoral school's regulations,
- d) assist the doctoral student or doctoral candidate in preparing the doctoral dissertation and scientific publications,
- e) propose the student's study and research plan and support its implementation.

The University Doctoral Council

Section 9 (1) The responsibilities of the doctoral council defined in Section 16 (5) of the Act on National Higher Education (Nftv.) are carried out by the University Doctoral Council (hereinafter: UDC), established by the Senate.

Powers and responsibilities of the UDC

Section 11 The UDC shall

- j) decide on the requirements of the complex examination, and on the conferral, recognition (nostrification), and revocation of the doctoral degree – with the exception of the conferral, recognition, and revocation of the degree, these powers may be delegated to the doctoral councils;

k) determine the list of languages that may be accepted as the first foreign language within the framework of foreign language requirements for obtaining the doctoral degree – this authority may also be delegated to the doctoral councils;

l) decide on requests for closed defenses – this authority may also be delegated to the doctoral councils.

Doctoral Councils in the fields of science and the arts

Section 13 (1) At the University, doctoral councils operate at the levels of discipline, field of science, and field of the arts. ...

(2) In the course of its operation, the doctoral council shall:

h) decide on the initiation of the doctoral degree award procedures and on the subjects of the doctoral complex examination,

i) make decisions regarding admission,

j) determine the requirements for admission of doctoral candidates, and the detailed rules regarding the submission of applications and the admission procedure. These powers may be delegated to the doctoral schools,

(3) Within the scope of authority delegated by the UDC, the doctoral council shall:

a) decide on the requirements of the complex examination,

b) appoint, upon the proposal of the doctoral schools, the members of the admissions committee, the complex examination board, the examination board, the reviewers, and establish the complex examination board and the final examination board,

d) define the list of foreign languages that may be accepted as the first foreign language requirement for doctoral degree acquisition,

e) decide on requests submitted by doctoral candidates for a closed defense of the dissertation,

Legal remedy

Section 14 In accordance with Section 57 of the National Higher Education Act (Nftv.), the doctoral student may seek legal remedy against any decision, action, or omission by the University within fifteen days from the date of notification, or if unavailable, from the date the student became aware of it. The procedure follows the provisions set out in Section

12 of the Code of Studies and Examinations (Annex 5 to the Statutes of the University of Pécs).

Chapter III.

Procedure for the establishment of a Doctoral School

Section 15 (1) Doctoral training may only be conducted within the framework of an established doctoral school. ...

Chapter IV.

Doctoral training

Section 21 (1) Doctoral training and the award of the doctoral degree:

- a) are conducted in Hungarian, but the University may announce and run doctoral programmes and conduct degree procedures in a foreign language, provided they are registered with the Educational Authority,
- b) may be pursued in full-time or part-time formats, including correspondence training registered with the Educational Authority,
- c) may be conducted in state-funded or self-funded form within the framework of organised doctoral training,
- d) may be pursued in a business doctoral programme,
- e) may be pursued within the framework of an international joint doctoral programme.

(2) ... For doctoral students who began their studies in the 2016/2017 academic year or later, the duration of organised doctoral training is eight semesters. During this time, students must earn 120 credits in the training and research phase and 120 credits in the research and dissertation phase – a total of 240 credits is required.

(2a) In business doctoral programmes and international joint doctoral programmes, students must obtain at least 180 credits, and the training period must last at least six semesters. The internal regulations of the doctoral school define the duration of the training and research phase and the research and dissertation phase, as well as the credits to be earned in each phase.

(3) An individual admitted to an organised doctoral training programme or as an individual preparatory student (hereinafter: doctoral student) enters into a student legal relationship with the University. This legal relationship is established upon enrolment. The

doctoral student must complete the enrolment process by the last day of the first month of the semester following the admission decision. Upon enrolment, the doctoral administration issues a student record sheet and ensures that the student's data is recorded in the ES.

(4) At the time of enrolment, the doctoral student must sign a declaration stating that they have read the University's doctoral regulations and the recommended curriculum of the doctoral school, and that they are aware of their rights and obligations based on these documents. The doctoral student may request a student ID card upon enrolment. The student must also register and continuously update their data in the ODT database.

(5) No new enrolment is required during the period of student legal status. However, the doctoral student must register at the beginning of each semester in the ES or declare their intention to continue their studies to the doctoral administration, which will record the student's status for the given semester in the ES.

(6) If the doctoral student declares that they do not wish to fulfill their student obligations in the following semester, or if they do not register for the next training period, their student status shall be suspended. The uninterrupted suspension of student status may not exceed two semesters. The suspension of student status may last up to six semesters in the case of childbirth. According to the provisions of the study and examination regulations, the student may suspend their student status on multiple occasions. The total duration of suspension of student status during the doctoral training may not exceed eight semesters for students who began their studies in the academic year 2016/2017 or later, except in the case of suspension due to childbirth. During the degree-awarding procedure, student status may be suspended for a maximum of two semesters. Student status may only be suspended for a full semester. No state scholarship may be disbursed during the suspension of student status.

(7) Upon the doctoral student's request, the doctoral council may allow a longer continuous suspension of student status than what is specified in paragraph (6), provided that the student is unable to meet their obligations arising from the student status due to childbirth, accident, illness, or other unexpected circumstances beyond their control. Student status is also suspended if the doctoral student is prohibited from continuing their studies for a fixed period as a disciplinary sanction. Additionally, student status is suspended for the duration of voluntary reservist military service, during which the student is exempt from obligations outlined in the Code of Studies and Examinations. The doctoral student must submit official documentation concerning the military service to

the doctoral administration prior to the start of service. The restrictions set out in paragraph (6) do not apply in the cases described in this paragraph.

(8) For students who began their studies in or after the 2016/2017 academic year in the framework of organised doctoral training, the programme consists of a training and research phase, followed by a research and dissertation phase. At the end of the fourth semester, doctoral students are required to take a complex examination, which marks the conclusion of the training and research phase and is a prerequisite for starting the research and dissertation phase. This examination assesses and evaluates the student's academic and research progress. In the case of business doctoral programmes and international joint doctoral programmes, the provisions of Section 21 (2a) shall apply.

Section 22 (1)

(2) For doctoral students who began their studies in the academic year 2016/2017 or later, their student status shall terminate on the last day of the semester in which they obtained their pre-degree certificate (absolutorium), or at the end of their eighth active semester. The last day of the eighth active semester of doctoral studies is January 31 of the following year in the case of a fall semester, or the last day of the month defined by law in the case of a spring semester. After obtaining the pre-degree certificate, the doctoral student shall be considered a doctoral candidate. Within three years after the complex examination, the doctoral student must submit their doctoral thesis in accordance with this regulation. Upon submitting the thesis, the doctoral student obtains the right to proceed with the evaluation procedure and the public defence concluding the degree award process. The deadline for submitting the doctoral thesis may be extended by one year in particularly justified cases (e.g. accident, illness, or other unexpected events) upon a request for equity submitted to the doctoral school. In the case of childbirth, the deadline for submitting the thesis may be extended by up to three academic years upon a request for equity submitted to the doctoral school. The decision on such a request is made by the doctoral council.

(3) The doctoral council shall terminate the student status of the doctoral student by resolution

b) if the doctoral student – except as provided in Section 21 (7) of this regulation – fails to register for three consecutive semesters,

c) if the doctoral student does not resume their studies after a period of suspension of student status,

d) at the end of the eighth semester of doctoral studies in which the doctoral student was registered.

Other cases and conditions for the termination of student status are regulated by the Code of Studies and Examinations

(4) If the doctoral student who began their studies in the academic year 2016/2017 or later fails to complete the complex examination, their student status shall terminate on the day the obligation is not fulfilled.

(5) Section 6 (2) e) of the Code of Charges and Benefits shall be interpreted for doctoral studies in such a way that for a student who has withdrawn, the remaining duration of the training shall be understood in full semesters rather than months.

Structured doctoral training

Section 25 (1) The doctoral training supports the doctoral student in acquiring the knowledge and independent research practice necessary to obtain the doctoral degree. To this end, the doctoral student participates in scientific training and conducts individual research. Doctoral students may also undertake teaching duties, but these do not constitute a part of the academic obligations.

(2) Academic credits may be awarded for teaching activities performed by the doctoral student. A maximum of one-quarter of the credits required to complete the training may be obtained through such activities. The teaching duty and its credit value must be recorded in the academic transcript or in the ES. The fulfilment of the task must be certified by the head of the organizational unit responsible for the given educational module.

(3) For teaching and research activities that are not part of the doctoral training (i.e., not recognized with credits), the doctoral student may receive remuneration under a doctoral student employment contract. The time spent on such work shall not exceed fifty percent of full-time work per week, on average, during a semester. The working schedule of the doctoral student must be determined in such a way that it allows the student to meet their examination and exam preparation obligations. The employment is based on the doctoral student contract regulated in Section 40 (2) of the Code of Charges and Benefits. Further issues related to accounting for the teaching activities performed by doctoral students are governed by a joint order of the Rector and the Chancellor.

(4) The doctoral student pursues their studies based on the recommended curriculum of the doctoral school. During the training, the student conducts research required for the

dissertation, passes the exams prescribed in the curriculum, and may also perform teaching and other research tasks.

(5) Each semester, the doctoral student registers for the subjects listed in the curriculum either in the academic transcript or in the ES. The subjects may include obligatory, obligatory elective, and elective courses. The doctoral student is required to fulfil the academic requirements of the registered courses during the semester. One opportunity must be provided during the semester to improve the fulfilment of the academic requirements.

(6) The passing of examinations and fulfilment of research requirements must be certified in the academic transcript and/or in the ES system.

(7) The doctoral student may also participate in a period of study abroad while maintaining student status. The acceptance of knowledge acquired during the study abroad must be requested from the competent DC, which shall seek the supervisor's opinion prior to making a decision.

(8) If the doctoral student has demonstrably fulfilled their academic obligations, they may request the issuance of the pre-degree certificate (absolutorium) from the doctoral administration.

(9) Students participating in correspondence training do not receive scholarships, their doctoral schools do not receive state funding for them, and they are required to pay the tuition fee defined in the admission requirements by the doctoral school council.

(10) The fulfilment of the academic requirements of the subjects taken during the doctoral training may also be carried out using electronic teaching methods, in accordance with the University's applicable regulations.

Individual preparation

Section 26 (1) The aim of individual preparation is to enable professionals who hold a diploma obtained in a master's programme (or an equivalent university-level degree and qualification) from a domestic or foreign university, possess substantial teaching and/or research experience, and have a documented record of scientific or artistic achievements, to obtain a doctoral degree in a given field of science. The conditions of admission must be defined in the operational regulations of the doctoral school. The doctoral degree procedure begins with the successful completion of the complex examination. Individual preparation is not available in business doctoral programmes.

(3) Applicants must apply to the doctoral school as individual candidates. Following this, based on the proposal of the doctoral school, the doctoral council designates the committee and subjects for the complex examination. Upon successful completion of the examination, the doctoral council admits the individual candidate, who enters into a self-funded student status, and the doctoral degree procedure formally begins. If the examination is passed, the doctoral school council recognises the minimum number of credits required for admission to the complex examination. Upon request, the doctoral school council may also recognise additional credits based on previously acquired knowledge and competencies.

(4) Individual candidates must fulfil all further requirements of the doctoral degree procedure.

(5) The doctoral council appoints a supervisor for the individual candidate –chosen from among the supervisors of the relevant doctoral school – who will monitor and support the candidate's progress.

(7) A doctoral candidate who has entered into student status based on individual preparation may request the issuance of the pre-degree certificate from the doctoral administration, provided that they have duly fulfilled their academic requirements.

(8) Exceptionally talented applicants may be admitted to doctoral training in parallel with their master's studies, provided they have earned a degree and qualification in a bachelor's programme or are in the final two academic years of an undivided master's programme, and have achieved first place in a relevant section of the Scientific Students' Associations Conference (TDK), or placed first, second, or third in a section of the National Scientific Students' Associations Conference (OTDK), or can verify appropriate publication activity or artistic achievements, as precisely defined in the regulations of the doctoral school. Further criteria of excellence and additional admission requirements (including language proficiency requirements) are determined by the doctoral school or the doctoral council. Applicants must pass a successful entrance examination and demonstrate outstanding academic performance, scientific knowledge, and language skills. Detailed rules regarding the submission of applications and the admission procedure are determined by the doctoral school or the doctoral council in accordance with Section 13 (2) j).

Admission procedure

Section 27 (1) Hungarian and foreign citizens may apply for organized doctoral training if they hold a degree and qualification obtained in a Hungarian or foreign master's



programme, or if they acquire such a degree before enrollment in the given admission year. In addition, they must possess foreign language proficiency necessary for pursuing studies in the given scientific field, as defined in the regulations of the doctoral school. The detailed rules regarding admission requirements (including language proficiency), the submission of applications, and the admission procedure are determined by the doctoral school or the doctoral council in accordance with Section 13 (2) j). Applications may only be submitted to research topics announced by supervisors of the doctoral school. These topic announcements and additional conditions for applying to doctoral programmes are made publicly accessible on the doctoral schools' own websites and on the national doctoral database at www.doktori.hu.

(1a) Applications to doctoral programmes may only be submitted online via the doctoral application interface by completing the online application form and uploading the mandatory attachments. An application is considered final only after the applicant prints the confirmation form, signs it, and submits it to the doctoral school.

(2) Admission decisions are made public by the doctoral councils in a manner accessible to all interested parties at the University. Applicants are notified of the decision via the doctoral administration. In case of rejection, the decision must be justified, and the applicant must be informed about the possibility of legal remedy. In case of admission, the notification must include the date of enrollment, the documents required for enrollment, and the start date of the academic year. It must also refer to the costs associated with the programme and the responsibility for covering them. The admission decision shall state the name of the doctoral school and the discipline of the doctoral degree.

(3) The procedural fee for applying to doctoral training is 9,000 forints per application. When submitting the application, the applicant must provide proof that the procedural fee has been paid to the doctoral school by attaching the payment confirmation.

(4) Applicants who meet the conditions set out in paragraph (1), and whose application has been approved by the Doctoral Council in accordance with Section 26 (1), may apply for doctoral degree acquisition on the basis of individual preparation.

(5) Doctoral students or doctoral candidates who established their doctoral student or candidate status before the 2016/2017 academic year are entitled to request admission to doctoral training, provided that the eight-semester funding period defined in Section 47 (2) of the Nftv. is not exceeded, including the funding period already used in previous doctoral studies. Admission to a state-funded doctoral programme in the same discipline

is only possible if the applicant has not obtained the pre-degree certificate during their previous training.

(6) A student may also participate in doctoral training by engaging in preparatory activities that are part of the doctoral programme during the final academic year of their master's studies, provided that they meet the admission requirements after obtaining the master's diploma. Simultaneously with the admission decision, credits earned in the master's programme may be recognised based on a decision by the DC.

(7) A person who has prepared individually for obtaining a doctoral degree may also join the doctoral programme if they have met the admission and programme requirements. In this case, student status is established by passing the complex examination. Student status may also be established by passing the complex examination for those who, while studying in general medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry or pharmacy programmes, have prepared individually for the doctoral degree. Credits earned during the final four semesters of the master's or undivided programme may be recognised by the DC.

(8) Exceptionally talented applicants may be admitted to doctoral training concurrently with a master's programme if they have obtained a degree and professional qualification in a bachelor's programme, and have achieved first place in a relevant TDK section or placed I, II or III in an OTDK section, or can provide evidence of relevant publication or artistic activities, as precisely defined by the doctoral school's own regulations. Additional criteria of excellence and further admission requirements (including language requirements) are determined by the doctoral school or the Doctoral Council. The applicant must take a successful admission examination and must also demonstrate outstanding academic, scientific, and language competencies. The detailed rules for submitting applications and for the admission procedure are determined by the doctoral school or the Doctoral Council based on Section 13 (2) j).

Chapter V.

The doctoral degree awarding procedure and the doctoral degree

Conditions for obtaining the doctoral degree

Section 30 (5) In the case of doctoral students admitted in the academic year 2016/2017 and thereafter, the degree awarding procedure begins after the successful completion of the complex examination.

(6) For doctoral students who established their student status between the academic year 2016/2017 and December 20, 2022, the conditions for obtaining the doctoral degree are as follows:

- a) the fulfilment of obligations prescribed by the doctoral regulations, the acquisition of the credits required in the doctoral training; in the case of doctoral students who established student status via individual preparation and the complex examination, the doctoral school council may recognise further credits based on previously acquired knowledge and competencies;
- b) proof of knowledge of two foreign languages necessary for pursuing research in the field of science, as specified in the doctoral regulations, which, in the case of deaf candidates, may also be demonstrated by knowledge of a non-Hungarian sign language;
- c) the demonstration of independent scientific work through articles, studies, or other means; for the Doctor of Liberal Arts (DLA) degree, the demonstration of results of independent artistic creative activity is required;
- d) the independent solution of a scientific or artistic task in accordance with the requirements of the degree; submission of the dissertation or artwork; defense of the results in a public discussion;
- e) at the time of submitting the doctoral dissertation, the registration of works evidencing scientific achievements or artistic creative activity in the Database.

(7) In the case of those who commenced their doctoral training after December 20, 2022, the conditions for obtaining the doctoral degree are as follows:

- a) the fulfilment of the obligations prescribed by the doctoral regulations, the acquisition of the credits required in the doctoral training; in the case of doctoral students who established student status via individual preparation and the complex examination, the doctoral school council may recognise further credits based on previously acquired knowledge and competencies;
- b) proof of knowledge of one or more foreign languages necessary for pursuing research in the scientific field, as defined in the doctoral school's regulations, which, in the case of deaf candidates, may also be demonstrated by knowledge of a non-Hungarian sign language;

c) demonstration of independent scientific work through articles, studies, or other means; for the Doctor of Liberal Arts (DLA) degree, the demonstration of results of independent artistic creative activity is required;

d) the independent solution of a scientific or artistic task in accordance with the requirements of the degree; submission of the dissertation or artwork; defense of the results in a public discussion;

e) upon submission of the doctoral dissertation, the registration of works evidencing scientific achievements or artistic creative activity in the Database.

(8) If the regulations of the doctoral school prescribe a more favourable language requirement under point b) of paragraph (7) than those defined under point c) of paragraph (3) or point b) of paragraph (6), those provisions shall also apply to students who began their doctoral training before December 20, 2022, but had not yet obtained their doctoral degree by December 20, 2022.

(9) In the case of business doctoral programmes and international joint doctoral programmes, taking into account the provisions set out in the section “conditions for obtaining the doctoral degree” of this regulation, the conditions for obtaining the degree are regulated by the doctoral council and the doctoral school, with the consent of the UDC in the case of international joint doctoral programmes. In business doctoral programmes, individual preparation is not possible. The research and dissertation phase may begin no earlier than at the end of the third active semester, following the successful complex examination. Business doctoral programmes may only be announced as self-financed programmes.

The complex examination

Section 32 (1) The following rules apply to doctoral students who commenced their studies in the academic year 2016/2017 or later.

(2) The complex examination must be organized in accordance with the principles set out by the National Doctoral Council, pursuant to Section 72 (5) of the Nftv. The requirements for the complex examination must be published in the manner specified by the operational regulations of the doctoral school.

(3) The complex examination must be conducted in public, before an examination committee. The committee shall consist of at least three members. At least one-third of the committee members must not have an employment relationship with the University. The chair of the committee must be a university professor, habilitated associate

professor, habilitated college professor, Professor Emeritus, or a faculty member or researcher holding the Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (DSc) title. All members of the committee must hold a doctoral degree. The doctoral supervisor of the doctoral candidate may not be a member of the examination committee. Individuals who are close relatives of the candidate, or whose impartiality in the evaluation of the case cannot be expected, cannot be appointed to the committee. A person may only participate in one role in a given doctoral degree award procedure.

(4) The complex examination consists of two parts:

a) a theoretical part, during which the doctoral student demonstrates familiarity with the relevant literature of the scientific or artistic field, as well as up-to-date theoretical and methodological knowledge, and

b) a report on scientific or artistic progress.

(5) The parts of the complex examination may be conducted on separate days, in any order, but must be completed by the end of the given academic semester.

(6) The doctoral student may retake a failed complex examination once, during the same examination period.

(7) Minutes must be recorded of the complex examination. The result of the examination must be announced on the day of the last exam component.

(8) The complex examination is graded on a two-tier scale: passed or failed.

(9) The complex examination may be conducted partially or entirely in electronic format, based on the decision of the DC. Any event conducted partially or entirely using infocommunication tools must fully comply with the mandatory participation requirements and the regulations on keeping minutes. The electronic (online) platform must ensure secret voting through appropriate software solutions.

The doctoral dissertation

Section 33 (1) A doctoral topic is a research subfield that enables the doctoral student – under the supervision of the supervisor – to learn the application of scientific methods, achieve evaluable scientific results, and demonstrate these through scientific publications, scientific presentations, artistic works, and eventually in the form of a doctoral dissertation. The doctoral topic must be approved by the Doctoral School Council. The person announcing the doctoral topic is a faculty member or researcher with

a scientific degree whose topic proposal has been approved by the Doctoral School Council.

(2) The doctoral dissertation (hereinafter: dissertation) is a comprehensive work, written in Hungarian or in a foreign language justified by the discipline, that presents the candidate's objectives, new scientific results, knowledge of the literature, and research methods. It must demonstrate the candidate's ability to independently solve a scientific task in accordance with the requirements of the degree.

(3) The cover page of the dissertation must include the author, the doctoral school, the supervisor(s), and the place and year of completion. The dissertation must contain a table of contents, a summary in Hungarian, and a bibliography. The bibliography must also list the candidate's scientific publications used in the dissertation. The dissertation may include appendices (e.g., collections of images or documents). If a summary is also prepared in a foreign language, its language is determined by the doctoral school. Upon submission of the dissertation, the doctoral student or doctoral candidate must submit a declaration on the originality of the submitted work (Annex 3).

(4a) For doctoral students who began their studies in the academic year 2016/2017 or thereafter, the doctoral dissertation must be submitted to the doctoral administration, which handles the administration of the doctoral school, within three years following the complex examination. This deadline may be extended – based on a request for special consideration submitted to the doctoral school – by up to one year in particularly exceptional cases (e.g. accident, illness, or other unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the doctoral student), and by up to three academic years in the case of childbirth, as specified in Section 22 (2) of this regulation. Submission of the dissertation is conditional upon the acquisition of the pre-degree certificate (absolutorium). Furthermore, the doctoral candidate may only submit a dissertation if they do not currently have another doctoral degree procedure in progress in the same discipline, and have not had a doctoral defense in the same discipline that ended unsuccessfully within the past two years. The person submitting the dissertation must provide a written declaration confirming compliance with these additional conditions at the time of submission.

(4b) In deviation from subsection (4a), doctoral students who completed their complex examination between February 1, 2018 and August 31, 2021 must submit their doctoral dissertation, in accordance with the provisions of this regulation, within four academic years following the complex examination. This deadline may be extended by up to one year in particularly exceptional cases, based on a request for special consideration

submitted to the doctoral school. In the degree award procedure of these doctoral students, the suspension of student status may not exceed four semesters. Other conditions for submitting the dissertation shall be identical to those defined in subsection (4a) and elsewhere in this regulation.

(5) The dissertation must be accompanied by a set of theses. The thesis booklet provides a summary presentation of the results of the candidate's independent scientific or artistic activity. The results must be presented in a coherent and self-contained structure, with the new findings explicitly stated and based on the applicant's scholarly publications or artistic works.

(6) The formal requirements and length of the dissertation and the thesis booklet are determined by the doctoral school.

(7) Upon submission of the dissertation, the doctoral school council shall propose the members of the evaluation committee and the two official reviewers; this proposal is approved or modified by the doctoral council. One of the reviewers must not have an employment relationship with the University. The appointed and invited official reviewers may decline the assignment without justification within 15 days. A person may participate in a given degree award procedure in only one capacity.

(8) Any preliminary discussion of the dissertation prior to its finalization shall be governed by the regulations of the doctoral schools. The preliminary discussion is organized by the doctoral school council.

(9) The dissertation and the thesis booklet must be submitted both electronically and in printed form, in the format, number of copies, and language as specified in the regulations of the doctoral school.

The evaluation procedure and the public defence

Section 34 The dissertation must be defended in a public defence before an evaluation committee. The date of the defence must be announced at least one week in advance on the notice board and website of the relevant faculty, on the ODT website, and at the location of the defence. The doctoral school council may also decide to publish the announcement in the press.

Section 35 (1) For the conduct of the public defence of the doctoral dissertation, the decision on the acceptance of the dissertation, and the evaluation of the public defence, the DC establishes an evaluation committee based on the recommendation of the doctoral school. The evaluation committee consists of a chair, the two reviewers, and two

additional members. The chair must be a university professor, habilitated university associate professor, habilitated college professor, Professor Emeritus, or a lecturer or researcher holding the title Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. All members of the committee must hold a scientific degree. At least one-third of the members, and at least one of the reviewers, must be external experts who do not have an employment relationship with the University. The doctoral candidate's supervisor and any person from whom an objective evaluation cannot reasonably be expected may not be members of the committee. The candidate may submit a written objection to the doctoral council against the composition of the evaluation committee within 8 days, citing only conflict of interest or bias.

(2) Upon the request of the doctoral council, the two reviewers must prepare a written evaluation of the dissertation within two months of its submission, during the academic semester, and state whether they recommend that the dissertation be scheduled for public defence. The dissertation may only be submitted for public defence if both reviewers give a positive recommendation. If one of the reviewers gives a negative opinion, the doctoral council appoints a third reviewer. In this case, the number of members of the evaluation committee increases to six. If there are two negative evaluations, the submission of a new doctoral dissertation on the same doctoral topic may be initiated at the earliest after two years, and only once.

(3) The review must detail the substantive and formal strengths and weaknesses of the dissertation, specifically addressing whether the new, original scientific results presented in the thesis by the dissertation's author are acceptable. The reviewers must also declare whether they recommend the acceptance of the dissertation and the awarding of the doctoral degree to the author. The review may include questions directed at the author of the doctoral dissertation.

(4) The signed reviews must be submitted electronically or in printed form to the council of the doctoral school with relevant academic competence, which forwards them to the doctoral council. The author of the dissertation is required to respond to the reviews in writing. This written response must be submitted to the council of the relevant doctoral school.

(5) The dissertation must be scheduled for public defence within two months from the receipt of both supporting reviews, during the period between September 1 and June 30. However, the doctoral school may organise the defence outside of this period, based on its operational needs. The author of the doctoral dissertation receives the reviews in writing in advance and must provide written responses to the questions raised therein at

least 10 days before the public defence. The doctoral administration ensures that the members of the evaluation committee have access to the dissertation, the reviews, and the written responses. During the defence – the public debate – the author must respond orally to the questions raised in the reviews.

Section 36 (1) The defence is chaired by the chair of the evaluation committee.

(2) At the beginning of the public defence, the chair establishes the quorum, which requires the presence of at least four members of the evaluation committee, including at least one external expert. The defence may only proceed if at least one reviewer is present and the other reviewer has provided a written statement accepting the responses to their questions.

(3) Within the framework of the public defence, the author of the doctoral dissertation presents the theses of the dissertation or the artistic works in a lecture and responds to the questions and comments raised in the written reviews, as well as those posed by the committee members, reviewers, and attendees. Upon the request of the author of the dissertation, based on the evaluation committee's supportive opinion and with the approval of the doctoral council, a closed defence may be held if the dissertation is subject to patent procedures or contains classified data for reasons of national security.

(4) After the chair closes the defence, the committee holds a closed session and decides by secret ballot, using a 1–5 scoring scale, on the acceptance of the dissertation. Acceptance requires at least 60% of the total points that could be awarded by the committee members present. The grades for successfully defended dissertations are: summa cum laude (above 85%), cum laude (71–85%), rite (60–70%). If the evaluation is below 60%, the defence is considered unsuccessful. The chair publicly announces and justifies the result following the vote.

(5) Minutes must be prepared of the defence and the committee's decision. Upon request, the University issues a certificate of the result of the doctoral examination, complex exam, and defence, stating clearly that the certificate does not constitute the awarding of the doctoral degree.

(5a) The doctoral defence may be conducted partially or fully in electronic form based on the decision of the DC. The submission must indicate the proposed format of the defence along with the names of the committee members. Events conducted partially or fully via infocommunication technology must comply in all respects with the mandatory participation requirements and the regulations for recording the minutes. The online platform used must provide a suitable software environment for ensuring secret voting.

(6) In the case of an unsuccessful defence, a new doctoral dissertation on the same topic may be submitted only after a minimum of two years, and only once.

(7) The doctoral degree may be revoked by a resolution of the UDC, in the procedure defined in Section 42/A of this regulation, if it is established that the conditions for awarding the doctoral degree were not met.

Public access to the doctoral dissertation

Section 37 (1) Doctoral dissertations and their theses are public. The doctoral schools, in cooperation with the University of Pécs Library and Knowledge Centre (hereinafter: Library), ensure the full public availability of the dissertation and its theses in both printed and electronic formats, by placing one printed and one electronic copy of the dissertation and its theses in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5).

Independent scholarly work

Section 38 (1) The doctoral student shall report the results of their research conducted within the framework of their doctoral topic through scientific publications or (documented) artistic creative work. The operating regulations of the doctoral school shall specify what kind of published or accepted-for-publication scientific works, or what documentation of artistic activity, must be available at the time of submitting the doctoral dissertation. To ensure the quality of doctoral education, at least one publication must be published in a journal classified as Q1–Q4 in the given field, or in a journal ranked by the competent division of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and at least one must be in a foreign language. These requirements may be fulfilled simultaneously by a single publication in a suitably ranked journal in a foreign language.

(1a) In the case of those who established a student status from September 22, 2022 onwards, to ensure the quality of doctoral education, the requirement – deviating from paragraph (1) – is at least two publications in journals ranked as Q1–Q4 by Scimago in the given field, or classified as A–D by the competent division of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, or a peer-reviewed monograph, or a peer-reviewed book chapter. The doctoral school may stipulate stricter requirements in its own regulations.

(2) The publications may have co-authors, including the doctoral student's supervisor. If two doctoral students are co-authors of the same publication, the supervisor must declare to what extent the results used in the dissertation reflect the individual contribution of the doctoral candidate.

(3) In the recognition of the doctoral student's independent scholarly work, any documented inventorship activity related to the doctoral topic amounting to at least 15% contribution shall be taken into account, provided it has been accepted by the University's Innovation Committee. For other types of intellectual property, or those developed independently of the University, a position statement from the University's Innovation Committee must be obtained regarding their acceptability. The rules for recognizing inventorship shall be set out in the doctoral school's operational regulations.

Knowledge of foreign languages

Section 39 (1) The first foreign language required for obtaining the doctoral degree may only be one of the foreign languages specified by the DC.

(2) The operational regulations of the doctoral school shall specify the language proficiency requirements for obtaining the doctoral degree, as well as the list of accepted languages under its authority. It shall also define how language proficiency must be certified for both Hungarian and international doctoral students. If the operational regulations of the doctoral school require proof of a second foreign language for obtaining the degree, such proof may be provided by a language examination certificate issued by a state-accredited language examination center, the Foreign Language Centre of the University of Pécs, or the Department of Languages for Biomedical Purposes and Communication at the Medical School.

The doctoral degree, the classification of the doctoral degree, the content of the diploma, the doctoral conferment

Section 40 (1) The degree-awarding procedure is deemed successful if the candidate has fully met the publication and examination requirements accepted by the DC for the given doctoral school, has successfully defended their doctoral dissertation, and has proven fulfillment of the language requirements.

(2) The DC shall make a recommendation for the awarding of the doctoral degree following the successful completion of the degree procedure, based on the submission of the doctoral school. On the basis of the submission of the doctoral school, the UDC shall award the degree by secret ballot, with the supporting vote of a simple majority of the members present. The UDC shall issue a diploma certifying the doctoral degree, which shall be signed by the Chair of the UDC and the Rector of the University.

(3) The person concerned may appeal the decision of the UDC in accordance with Section 12 of the Code of Studies and Examinations.

Section 41 (1) The doctoral diploma includes the name and seal of the University of Pécs, the name of the diploma holder suitable for identification, their place and date of birth, the classification of the doctoral degree, the field and branch of science or branch of art, as well as the place, year, month, and day of the award. The diploma templates are included in Annexes 4 and 5 of this Regulation.

(1a) In the case of a joint diploma issued as a result of an international joint programme, the diploma shall contain the electronic signature of the head and a graphical representation of the seal imprint of the higher education institution, instead of the original handwritten signature and physical imprint of the seal. The formal and substantive characteristics of the diploma must be specified in the agreement concluded for the joint programme, in compliance with applicable legislation.

(2) The diploma is issued by the University in both Hungarian and English. The procedure for obtaining the necessary data for issuing the diploma is defined in the Rules of Procedure of the UDC.

Section 42 (1) The University confers the doctoral degree in a ceremonial public session of the Senate, during which the new doctors receive their diplomas with a confirming signature. As part of the conferral, the candidates take an oath. The doctoral graduation ceremony is organized by the Rector's Cabinet within six months following the decision on awarding the degree. The Rector may, for reasons of special equity, permit the ceremony to be held in a different form.

(2) Those awarded the doctoral degree may use the title dr. (PhD/DLA/DBA) after the conferral. Upon the doctoral candidate's request, the University may issue a certificate confirming the UDC's decision prior to the conferral ceremony, signed by the Rector.

Revocation of the doctoral degree

Section 42/A (1) The doctoral degree shall be revoked by decision of the UDC – with due regard to the provisions of Section 52/A of the Nftv. – if it is established that the conditions for awarding the degree were not met. This particularly applies if it is proven that the holder of the awarded doctoral title or equivalent scientific degree obtained it by presenting another's intellectual work, in whole or in part, as their own; or used false or falsified data in their work; and thereby misled or kept in error the body or person acting in the doctoral procedure. Proceedings for the revocation of the doctoral degree may only be conducted if the holder of the title is still alive at the time of initiating the procedure.

Chapter VIII.

Recognition of doctoral degrees obtained abroad

Section 45 (1) The University conducts the recognition procedure in accordance with the provisions of Act C of 2001 on Recognition of Foreign Certificates and Diplomas, meaning that it declares the legal status of the foreign diploma to be equivalent to that of a diploma issued by the University (recognition). Recognition of a doctoral degree certified by a foreign diploma falls within the competence of the higher education institution that is authorized to award a doctoral degree in the corresponding scientific or artistic field. In the decision recognizing the scientific degree, the University authorizes the applicant to use the doctoral title.

(2) The UDC may recognize a scientific degree obtained abroad as a doctoral degree, based on the recommendation of the doctoral school and doctoral council competent in the given field of science or discipline, if the degree was issued by a foreign higher education institution that is authorized under the laws of the foreign state to confer scientific degrees, and the requirements for obtaining the degree are equivalent to those prescribed for obtaining a doctoral degree, or can be made equivalent by imposing supplementary conditions and fulfilling them. The recognized degree does not carry a classification.

(3) The applicant, whose personal data is verified by official identification, may indicate which Hungarian diploma they request recognition to be equivalent to. A person who is not a citizen of an EU member state and does not hold Hungarian citizenship is entitled to apply for recognition of their diploma only if they possess a residence permit issued for the purpose of gainful employment or family reunification. Recognition is based on the legal status of the foreign institution, the legal status of the diploma, the duration of studies, and the academic and examination requirements. If there is a substantial difference between the applicant's training and the training leading to the corresponding domestic qualification, the UDC may make the recognition of the foreign doctoral degree conditional (on passing a doctoral examination, defending a doctoral dissertation, etc.). Detailed rules are provided in the UDC's rules of procedure and the regulations of the doctoral councils.