

UNIVERSITY OF DEBRECEN
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Juhász-Nagy Pál Doctoral School
Rules of operation

Debrecen
2026

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LEGAL BACKGROUND

(1) In preparing the Rules of Operation of the Juhász-Nagy Pál Doctoral School of the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Debrecen, the following Acts and Government Decrees were taken into consideration:

- Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education (hereinafter: NHE Act);
- Government Decree 137/2008 (V.16) on state-recognised foreign-language examinations and the recognition in Hungary of foreign-language examination certificates issued abroad;
- Government Decree 50/2008 (III.14) on the financing of higher education institutions on the basis of educational, scientific and institutional normative funding;
- Government Decree 51/2007 (III.26) on benefits available to students participating in higher education and certain fees payable by them;
- Government Decree 387/2012 (XII.19) on doctoral schools, doctoral procedures and habilitation;
- Government Decree 423/2012 (XII.19) on higher education admission procedures;
- Government Decree 87/2015 (IV.9) on the implementation of certain provisions of Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education;
- Act C of 2001 on the recognition of foreign certificates and degrees.

(2) In preparing its Rules of Operation, the Doctoral School also took into consideration:

- the position of the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (MAB) concerning the establishment and operation of doctoral schools (Annex 4 to the Rules of Procedure of MAB);
- the Organisational and Operational Regulations of the University of Debrecen and other regulations forming part of its annexes that concern doctoral education and the doctoral degree procedure.

DEFINITIONS

The Rules of Operation of the Juhász-Nagy Pál Doctoral School of the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Debrecen use the following definitions in relation to doctoral education and the doctoral degree procedure:

Complex examination: for doctoral students enrolled on or after 1 September 2016, an examination to be completed at the end of the fourth semester, concluding the training and research phase of doctoral education and serving as a prerequisite for entering the research and dissertation phase. It assesses the student's academic and research progress.

Core member: an academic or researcher holding a scientific degree who conducts continuous, high-level scientific activity in the discipline or research field of the Doctoral School and is employed full-time by the University of Debrecen, and who has designated the University of Debrecen for the purposes of determining state funding in accordance with Section 26(3) of the NHE Act. Subject to the approval of the Doctoral Council, a Professor Emeritus of the University of Debrecen, as defined in Section 32(1) of the NHE Act, may also be a core member. A scientific adviser or research professor holding the title Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of

Sciences, employed full-time by a research institute and conducting continuous, high-level scientific activity in the discipline or research area of the Doctoral School, may also become a core member, provided that the University has concluded an appropriate agreement with the research institute. Core members must continue to meet the above conditions for at least five years and undertake to perform supervisory activities within the Doctoral School. Only a person under whose supervision at least one doctoral candidate has obtained a doctoral degree – or two candidates in the case of co-supervision – may become a core member.

Council of the Doctoral School: a regularly convened body assisting the work of the Head of the Doctoral School. Its members are elected by the core members of the Doctoral School and appointed and dismissed by the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council.

Credit: a unit measuring the workload completed by a doctoral student in acquiring knowledge, fulfilling course requirements, conducting research and performing teaching activities.

Doctoral candidate: a person participating in a procedure leading to the award of a doctoral degree. If a doctoral student begins the doctoral degree procedure during the period of doctoral training, the person simultaneously holds doctoral student status and doctoral candidate status.

Doctoral candidate status: the legal relationship between the doctoral candidate and the higher education institution, consisting of the rights and obligations defined by higher education legislation. Doctoral candidate status is established upon acceptance of the application for the doctoral degree procedure.

Doctoral Council: a body established for the organisation of doctoral education and the award of doctoral degrees, with decision-making authority in matters of doctoral education, particularly concerning admission to doctoral training, initiation of the doctoral degree procedure and the award of the doctoral degree.

Doctoral degree: a degree awarded by the University Doctoral Council which may be obtained through participation in organised doctoral training or through individual preparation within the framework of a doctoral degree procedure.

Doctoral degree procedure: a sequence of procedures aimed at obtaining the doctoral degree, substantively based on doctoral education but legally and procedurally independent from it.

Doctoral dissertation: a written work, creation or other scholarly work prepared by the doctoral candidate through which, during the doctoral degree procedure, the candidate demonstrates the ability to independently solve a scientific problem at the level required for a doctoral degree. The dissertation may be written in Hungarian, English or another language justified by the subject of the dissertation.

Doctoral programme: an educational and research unit operating within a doctoral school, subject to fulfilment of the requirements laid down in the doctoral regulations and approval by the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council.

Doctoral research topic: a research area suitable for enabling a doctoral student, under the guidance of a supervisor, to acquire competence in applying scientific methods, achieve scientifically assessable results and demonstrate these through scientific publications, conference presentations and ultimately a doctoral dissertation.

Doctoral rigorosum: for doctoral students enrolled before 1 September 2016, a component of the doctoral degree procedure serving as a comprehensive assessment of the candidate's knowledge in the relevant discipline.

Doctoral School: an educational organisation operating at the University with the approval of the Senate and involving different organisational units of the University, in which training preparing students for the award of a scientific degree is conducted. Research groups supported by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, other research groups or research institutes outside the University may also participate in the activities of the Doctoral School.

Doctoral student: a student participating in doctoral education who has the rights and obligations defined by legislation governing higher education.

Doctoral student status: the legal relationship between the doctoral student and the higher education institution, consisting of the rights and obligations of the doctoral student and the institution under higher education legislation. The University certifies doctoral student status by issuing and validating a student identification card.

Doctoral supervisor: an academic or researcher holding a scientific degree whose doctoral research topic has been approved for announcement by the Council of the Doctoral School and who, on this basis, is responsible for directing and supporting the studies and research activities of doctoral students and their preparation for obtaining the doctoral degree.

Doctoral theses: a summary work prepared for the scientific community on the basis of the doctoral dissertation, presenting the scientific results through which the doctoral candidate demonstrates readiness to obtain the scientific degree. The doctoral theses are prepared in Hungarian and English and, where appropriate to the discipline, may also be prepared in another language.

Doctoral training: educational, research and reporting activities organised in the form of individual or group preparation, taking into account the characteristics of the discipline and the needs of the doctoral student. Participation in doctoral training requires a Master's degree. Students who enrolled before 1 September 2016 are required to obtain at least 180 credits during six semesters. Students who enrolled on or after 1 September 2016 are required to obtain at least 240 credits during eight semesters.

Head of the Doctoral School: a university professor of the University of Debrecen responsible for the scientific standard and educational activities of the Doctoral School who is a full or corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, holds the title Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences or Doctor of Science (hereinafter collectively: academic doctor).

Lecturers of the Doctoral School: academics and researchers holding scientific degrees whom the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council, upon the recommendation of the Head of the Doctoral School, considers suitable to perform teaching, research and supervisory duties within the Doctoral School.

State doctoral scholarship: financial support that may be awarded to Hungarian doctoral students participating in organised full-time doctoral training and to foreign doctoral students who, under legislation or international agreements, are entitled to the same treatment as Hungarian citizens.

Study/research period abroad: a component of doctoral education during which the doctoral student participates in a work programme related to the doctoral research topic and approved by the supervisor, ensuring that the relevant study period remains valid within the doctoral programme of the University. Approval of the work programme for a study/research period abroad falls within the competence of the Council of the Doctoral School or, in its absence, the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council.

1. ORGANISATION OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL

Name and details of the Doctoral School

Name: Juhász-Nagy Pál Doctoral School

Field of science: Natural Sciences

Disciplines: Biological Sciences and Environmental Sciences

Degree awarded: Doctoral (PhD) degree

Doctoral training builds on the Master's programmes specified on www.doktori.hu.

Place of operation: University of Debrecen, Faculty of Science and Technology

Postal address: H-4032 Debrecen, Egyetem tér 1, Hungary

Telephone: +36 52 512 900 / 62637

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Head of the Doctoral School

Prof. Dr. Attila Molnár V., University Professor

Telephone: +36 52 512 900 / 62637

E-mail: mva@science.unideb.hu

Members of the Doctoral School

The following doctoral programmes operate within the Doctoral School:

Applied Ecology Programme – Dr. Tibor Magura

Botany Programme – Dr. Attila Molnár V.

Evolutionary and Diversity Biology Programme – Dr. Zoltán Barta

Fermentation Biotechnology and Bioengineering Programme – Dr. Levente Karaffa

Functional and Restoration Ecology Programme – Dr. Péter Török

Hydrobiology Programme – Dr. István Grigorszky

Quantitative and Terrestrial Ecology Programme – Dr. Edina Kunderát-Simon

Plant Biology and Biotechnology Programme – Dr. Gábor Vasas

Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme – Dr. Tamás Székely

Council of the Doctoral School

The Council of the Doctoral School decides annually on the educational programmes that may be offered, supervisory appointments and, consequently, eligibility to announce doctoral research topics, and makes these publicly available within the professionally appropriate scope.

The Council of the Doctoral School approves supervisors each year simultaneously with the announcement of doctoral research topics.

The duties and powers of the Council of the Doctoral School are defined by the University and Faculty doctoral regulations.

Further responsibilities of the Council of the Doctoral School include:

- announcing scientific research topics;
- appointing supervisors;
- evaluating the preparedness, professional suitability and topic selection of applicants;
- determining the foreign languages accepted by the Doctoral School;
- determining the selectable major and minor subjects of the doctoral rigorosum;
- organising preliminary defences.

The Council decides on:

- the composition of doctoral admission committees;
- in the case of applicants for the doctoral degree procedure:
- the composition of the doctoral rigorosum committee;
- the subjects of the doctoral rigorosum;
- applications for tuition-fee exemption or reduction, cost-reimbursement reductions and payment by instalments;
- authorisation of study/research visits abroad.

The Secretary of the Doctoral School assists the Head of the Doctoral School in carrying out the administrative tasks of the School. The duties of the Secretary are determined by the Council and/or Head of the Doctoral School.

The supervisor is responsible for directing the doctoral student's studies and research. The supervisor:

- announces the doctoral research topic;
- certifies the completion of research tasks each semester;
- submits an annual written report on the doctoral student's achievements to the Head of the Doctoral School;
- assists the doctoral student in preparing scientific publications and the doctoral dissertation and supports applications for international scholarships;
- makes recommendations concerning the doctoral student's training and research plan and is responsible for its scientific quality and implementation.

Forums of the Doctoral School

The Doctoral School has two forums.

The General Forum is open to all lecturers and students of the Doctoral School.

Functions: general information, exchange of information and discussion of major issues.

Frequency: annually and whenever necessary.

The Scientific Forum consists of the core members and a representative of the PhD students.

Its responsibilities include the election of members of the Council of the Doctoral School, discussion of regulations and applications, and making proposals concerning the appointment or removal of teaching members of the Doctoral School.

Records, administration and administrative areas of the Doctoral School

The Doctoral School maintains:

- records of its members, lecturers, researchers and supervisors;
- records of students, doctoral students and doctoral candidates;
- administration related to the issuance of pre-degree certificates (absolutoria);
- administration of doctoral degree procedures;
- records concerning part-time doctoral students;
- archives of ongoing cases, reports and other correspondence;
- computerised records covering the entire administrative system.

Computerised records and correspondence are managed by the relevant departmental administration.

2. THE ROLE OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL IN THE ADMISSION PROCEDURE

Hungarian and foreign citizens may apply for organised doctoral training if they hold a Master's degree and professional qualification obtained at a Hungarian or foreign university, or an

equivalent university-level qualification, or will obtain such a degree during the semester of admission, and possess at least one state-recognised intermediate-level “C-type” language examination certificate or an equivalent qualification.

If the applicant is a Hungarian citizen who is neither a student nor an employee of the University of Debrecen, a certificate of good conduct issued no more than three months previously must be attached to the application. Foreign citizens may replace the certificate of good conduct with an official declaration issued by the competent authority of their home country certifying a clean criminal record.

Further requirements and details of the application and admission procedure are determined by the relevant disciplinary regulations.

Application procedure

Applications for doctoral training may be submitted each year according to the deadlines and conditions announced by the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Admission requirements

- In the case of a degree obtained abroad, recognition of the level of the university qualification by the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre (MEIK);
- at least one state-recognised intermediate-level “C-type” language examination;
- outstanding professional performance;
- clean criminal record;
- in the case of application for part-time doctoral training: employment at a workplace that provides sufficient conditions for high-quality scientific work, with the applicant holding a position conducive to scientific research.

Documents required for application

- completed application form;
- the following numbered annexes to the application form:
 - brief description and justification of the proposed research topic;
 - letter of recommendation from the prospective supervisor(s);
 - professional curriculum vitae;
 - publication list documenting scientific activity;
 - copy of the university degree certificate;
 - copies of documents certifying foreign-language proficiency;

- certificate of good conduct, except for final-year students and employees of the University of Debrecen;
- in the case of application for self-financed training, the employer must additionally provide:
 - consent to the applicant's studies;
 - a declaration as to whether the conditions required for the research will be provided;
 - a declaration as to whether the employer undertakes to finance the cost-reimbursement fee specified in the regulations;
 - if the employer does not undertake the costs, a declaration by the applicant or another party assuming financial responsibility that the costs of the programme will be covered;
 - proof of payment of the admission procedure fee.

Scoring of the doctoral admission procedure

The standard admission scoring system consists of a maximum of 100 points divided into three categories.

The first category evaluates the applicant's professional knowledge and the proposed plans for research to be carried out during the doctoral programme, including the scientific basis and feasibility of those plans. Assessment may be based on an oral examination and/or a written application or research plan. A maximum of 40 points may be awarded.

The second category evaluates the applicant's previous academic performance. This may be based on academic averages for completed semesters and/or the classification of the university/Master's degree. A maximum of 30 points may be awarded.

The third category evaluates the applicant's previous scientific activity on the basis of documented achievements such as publications, Scientific Students' Association (TDK) work, etc. Achievements eligible for points correspond to those recognised by performance credits under Section II.2.c of the Regulations of the Talent Management Programme of the University of Debrecen. A maximum of 30 points may be awarded.

The doctoral admission committee applies the following indicative ranges:

20–30 points:

- full-length publication in a journal with an impact factor;
- prize-winning presentation at the National Scientific Students' Associations Conference (OTDK), 1st–3rd place;
- documented placement in a national or international professional competition.

10–20 points:

- full-length publication in a peer-reviewed journal without an impact factor;
- non-local and non-TDK conference presentation or poster;
- non-prize-winning OTDK presentation and/or paper.

0–10 points:

- non-first-author, non-TDK presentation or poster;
- presentation at a local student conference other than a TDK conference.

An intermediate-level “C-type” language examination is a requirement for admission and therefore does not itself receive points. Additional language qualifications may be awarded extra points. An additional intermediate-level “C-type” examination or an advanced-level “A-type” or “B-type” examination is worth 3 points, while an advanced-level “C-type” examination is worth 5 points.

Announcement of research topics and research areas

Research topics and research areas, as well as the list of eligible supervisors, are announced each year on www.doktori.hu.

Appointment and work of admission committees

The Admission Committee is appointed by the Council of the Doctoral School. Following the admission interviews, the Council of the Doctoral School ranks the applicants and, taking the available admission quota into account, submits its proposal to the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council, which makes the final admission decisions. At the beginning of September, the management of the Doctoral School welcomes first-year doctoral students, provides information and departmental orientation, explains their responsibilities, prepares them for developing their training and research plans, and facilitates their placement within the Doctoral School. Supervisors discuss and define the doctoral students’ semester and annual tasks, assist in preparing the training and research plan, and initiate their academic and research activities.

Information on admission through individual preparation

The purpose of individual preparation is to enable professionals who hold a Master’s degree and professional qualification obtained at a Hungarian or foreign university – or an equivalent university-level qualification – and who have substantial teaching and/or research experience and documented scientific achievements, including a sufficient number and quality of publications, to obtain a doctoral (PhD) degree.

Obtaining a doctoral degree through individual preparation is an exceptional procedure that may be applied only in particularly justified cases. The reasons justifying its application must

be recorded in writing by the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council during the admission procedure.

Applicants for individual preparation are admitted through the same admission procedure as other applicants for doctoral training. The competent disciplinary Doctoral Council may make acceptance conditional upon successful completion of an entrance examination.

The applicant must submit a written statement from the prospective supervisor confirming that, on the basis of the scientific activity completed to date, the doctoral dissertation can be submitted within two years. The statement must be countersigned by the admission committee of the Doctoral School.

At the same time as accepting the application, the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council appoints the complex examination committee and determines the subjects of the complex examination.

Following acceptance of the application, the individual-preparation candidate takes the complex examination. Successful completion of the complex examination establishes self-financed doctoral student status and initiates the doctoral degree procedure.

Following successful completion of the complex examination, the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council recognises the minimum number of credits required for admission to the complex examination. Upon request, further credits may be recognised on the basis of previously acquired knowledge and competences.

An individual-preparation student is entered into the electronic study administration system after successful completion of the complex examination. This may take place by 10 October or 10 March of the semester following admission.

The competent disciplinary Doctoral Council appoints a supervisor for the individual-preparation student from among the supervisors of the Doctoral School. The supervisor monitors and professionally supports the candidate's work and preparation.

Individual-preparation students are exempt only from the academic requirements associated with the first two years of doctoral training. All other requirements for obtaining the doctoral (PhD) degree must be fulfilled.

Upon successful completion of the complex examination, the individual-preparation student enters the research and dissertation phase of doctoral training. During this period of at least one and no more than four semesters, 120 credits must be completed on the basis of research activities and preparation of the dissertation. In addition, a further 120 credits from the research phase of doctoral training are credited.

Completion of credits is certified by the supervisor in the NEPTUN system on the basis of semester reports.

Students participating through individual preparation pay cost-reimbursement fees. The resulting income must be used for doctoral education. The amount and use of the cost-reimbursement fee are determined by the Council of the Doctoral School. General University regulations apply to the payment of such fees. In justified cases, the Doctoral School may reduce the fee within its own competence.

A student participating through individual preparation may also be admitted or reclassified to state-funded training if an unfilled state-funded position is available within the relevant field of science. Admission or reclassification to state-funded training is decided by the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council upon the student's request.

3. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL

Curriculum and courses

The Council of the Doctoral School approves the curriculum of the Doctoral School, the designation of courses, their credit values and the scheduling of lectures. These must be continuously updated.

Study requirements, credits and supervisory workload

The unit used to measure academic requirements is the credit. In doctoral education, credits measure the academic, teaching and research work performed by doctoral students in fulfilment of their obligations.

Students enrolled before 1 September 2016 are required to obtain an average of 30 credits per semester and at least 180 credits during the six-semester doctoral programme. One credit corresponds to 30 hours of work.

Students enrolled on or after 1 September 2016 are required to obtain an average of 30 credits per semester and at least 120 credits during each of the first four-semester "training and research phase" and the subsequent four-semester "research and dissertation phase", amounting to at least 240 credits in total. One credit corresponds to 30 hours of work.

If, for reasons attributable to the doctoral student, the required number of credits is not obtained in a given semester, the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council decides on suspension of the doctoral scholarship. If the student fails to remedy the deficiency within one year, the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council may terminate the student's status.

Training credits may be obtained through study and successful examination. In general, one credit corresponds to attending one hour of lectures per week for one semester and completing the related examination.

For students enrolled before 1 September 2016, 36 training credits must be completed during the six-semester doctoral programme.

For students enrolled on or after 1 September 2016, the compulsory number of training credits is 12–20. The Council of the Doctoral School may determine the number of training credits that must be obtained in an individual semester.

Completion of credits is certified by the lecturer responsible for the course on the basis of the examination, written assignment, report or other assessment required for the course.

Credits may be assigned only to courses assessed by a grade on a five-level or three-level scale.

The majority of credits required during doctoral training are obtained as research credits: 115–168 credits for students enrolled before 1 September 2016 and 180–228 credits for students enrolled on or after 1 September 2016.

One research credit corresponds to 30 hours of work.

Completion of research credits is certified by the supervisor. The supervisor must certify continuous completion of research work in the Neptun system each semester by signing the course with the appropriate course code and credit value. Research work is not graded or otherwise classified.

Teaching credits may be awarded for teaching activities undertaken by the doctoral student, subject to the decision of the Council of the Doctoral School.

A maximum of 45 teaching credits may be obtained during the six-semester doctoral programme by students enrolled before 1 September 2016, and a maximum of 40 teaching credits may be obtained by students enrolled on or after 1 September 2016.

One teaching credit corresponds to teaching activities of one hour per week over one semester.

The teaching activity and its credit value must be recorded in the student's academic records. Completion is certified by the head of the organisational unit responsible for the relevant teaching module.

Completion of study requirements

The Doctoral School informs admitted students of the courses available under the curriculum and their credit values. On this basis, students prepare a four-semester curriculum schedule forming part of their Training Plan.

Assessment may be oral or written. The method and timing of examinations are determined by the course coordinator. Following prior consultation with the course lecturer, the Head of the Doctoral School may authorise the doctoral student to take the examination at a different time specified by the course coordinator.

A failed grade may be corrected once within the same semester. If the student fails to fulfil the course requirements, does not attend the examination or has no successful examination result, the course must be taken again. A particular course may be repeated once.

Completion of research work is certified by the supervisor each semester as “completed” or “not completed”.

Doctoral students may attend lectures and courses at other higher education institutions where this is recommended by their supervisor and the Head of the Doctoral School. Such courses

may be included in the academic records and examinations may be taken if the host institution permits this.

A state-funded doctoral student may be transferred from another university to the Doctoral School on the basis of individual assessment.

Interruption of studies and study/research periods abroad

(1) Interruption of studies may be authorised on a maximum of three occasions and for a total period not exceeding three years, on appropriately justified grounds such as research or teaching employment, pregnancy, illness, etc., upon the recommendation of the supervisor and with the approval of the Chair of the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council.

The first request for interruption must be accepted.

No state doctoral scholarship is payable during suspension of student status.

Applications for interruption of studies must be submitted to the Chair of the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council, who decides after considering the opinion of the Head of the Doctoral School and the supervisor.

(2) Doctoral students may participate in study/research periods abroad on the basis of a work programme approved by the supervisor that ensures the validity of the relevant study period within the doctoral programme of the University.

The duration of a study/research period abroad counts towards the duration of doctoral training, student status is not suspended and the state doctoral scholarship continues to be paid.

The Doctoral School supports participation in international study/research periods. Recognition of credits or documented achievements obtained at another university or during a period abroad is decided by the Doctoral Council on the basis of prior approval by the supervisor.

Pre-degree certificate (absolutorium) for doctoral students enrolled before 1 September 2016

Students enrolled before 1 September 2016 may obtain a pre-degree certificate (absolutorium) after successful completion of six semesters.

The absolutorium certifies that the doctoral student has fulfilled all academic requirements of doctoral training.

It may be issued following completion of the third year.

Complex examination for doctoral students enrolled on or after 1 September 2016

For students enrolled on or after 1 September 2016, the complex examination is completed at the end of the fourth semester. It concludes the “training and research phase” and is a prerequisite for entering the “research and dissertation phase”. The examination assesses academic and research progress.

Eligibility for the complex examination requires the acquisition of at least 90 credits during the first four-semester training and research phase and completion of all training credits prescribed in the Training Plan of the Doctoral School, except in the case of individual preparation for the doctoral degree.

Application for the complex examination must be made in writing in accordance with Annex 4 of the Doctoral Regulations of the University of Debrecen.

As successful completion of the complex examination enables the student to enter the research and dissertation phase, application for the complex examination simultaneously constitutes application for the doctoral degree procedure.

The complex examination is conducted publicly before a committee appointed by the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council.

The examination committee consists of at least three members, at least one third of whom must have no employment relationship with the institution operating the Doctoral School.

The chair of the examination committee must be a university professor, Professor Emeritus or an academic or researcher holding the title Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

All members of the examination committee must hold a scientific degree.

The doctoral student’s supervisor may not be a member of the examination committee.

Before the complex examination, the supervisor provides a written evaluation of the doctoral student’s performance and states whether the student is recommended to proceed with the doctoral degree procedure.

The complex examination consists of two main components:

- a theoretical part assessing the candidate’s theoretical preparedness;
- a dissertation part in which the candidate reports on scientific progress.

In the theoretical part, the candidate is examined in at least two subjects or thematic areas specified in the Training Plan of the Doctoral School. The theoretical examination may also include a written component.

The examination subjects of the complex examination are listed in the Training Plan of the Juhász-Nagy Pál Doctoral School. The list of examination subjects and their syllabi are determined by the Council of the Doctoral School.

In the second, dissertation part of the examination, the candidate gives a presentation demonstrating knowledge of the scientific literature, reports on research results obtained to date, presents the research plan for the second phase of doctoral education and outlines the timetable for completing the dissertation and publishing the results.

The supervisor must be given an opportunity to attend this part of the examination and evaluate the candidate.

The examination committee evaluates the theoretical and dissertation components separately. Minutes containing a written evaluation are prepared.

The complex examination is successful if the majority of committee members consider both parts successful.

A failed complex examination may be repeated once during the same examination period.

A doctoral student may register for the fifth semester only after successful completion of the complex examination.

Requirements for submission of the doctoral dissertation

An important instrument of quality assurance is the requirement that doctoral candidates possess an appropriate number and quality of scientific publications by the time of the defence.

As a condition for admission to the defence, the Council of the Doctoral School requires an appropriate number of impact-factor publications related to the candidate's doctoral research topic.

The candidate must also demonstrate independent scientific activity, including participation in national and international scientific conferences.

The suitability of the publications for satisfying the requirements for admission to the defence is assessed by the Council of the Doctoral School for each candidate.

Submission of the doctoral dissertation requires **two publications in journals with an impact factor**.

A prerequisite for submission of the dissertation is a **preliminary defence**, during which the preliminary reviewers must state whether the manuscript and its proposed public defence meet the scientific standards expected at PhD level.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL IN RELATION TO THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

System of periodic progress reporting

Doctoral students must finalise their research plans by 10 February. The Doctoral School provides organised assistance in preparing these plans. The research plans must be submitted to the Council of the Doctoral School for approval. The Council reviews and evaluates the plans, including the research topic, refinement of the title, methodological recommendations and other relevant elements, and decides on their acceptance.

Doctoral students are subject to regular progress reporting. The first formal progress report takes place at the end of the first year and is followed by progress reports every semester.

Grant and project activities of the Doctoral School

The Doctoral School may participate in grant and project activities. Applications may be submitted for support for research activities, research funding and the acquisition of research equipment.

5. ORGANISATION OF THE DOCTORAL DEGREE PROCEDURE

Requirements for obtaining the doctoral degree

The requirements for obtaining the doctoral degree are:

- successful completion of the doctoral rigorosum in the case of students enrolled before 1 September 2016, or successful completion of the complex examination in the case of students enrolled on or after 1 September 2016;
- documented independent scientific activity;
- submission of the dissertation and successful defence in a public doctoral defence.

Requirements for applying for the doctoral degree procedure

1. For participants in organised doctoral training:
 - recommendation of the Council of the Doctoral School.
2. For candidates following individual preparation:
 - recommendation of the Council of the Doctoral School;
 - successful preliminary defence of the dissertation.

Other provisions

Doctoral candidate status terminates upon completion of the doctoral degree procedure or if the candidate fails to submit the doctoral dissertation within two years of the establishment of doctoral candidate status.

In the latter case, the Chair of the competent disciplinary Doctoral Council notifies the person concerned in writing of the termination of doctoral candidate status. The procedure fee is not refunded.

For part-time students and candidates following individual preparation, a preliminary defence must be held before the dissertation is finalised. Its organisation is the responsibility of the Council of the Doctoral School.

The composition of committees participating in doctoral examinations and dissertation defences must be determined with particular attention to avoiding conflicts of interest.

Following completion of the doctoral degree procedure, the Doctoral School archives a copy of the application form for the doctoral degree procedure.

Independent scientific activity

The candidate must demonstrate scientific activity at the time of submission of the dissertation through publications appearing in peer-reviewed scientific journals or edited volumes.

The requirements regarding the number and place of publication are determined by the Council of the Doctoral School in accordance with the requirements of the discipline.

Where the use of scientometric indicators is appropriate, these must also be taken into consideration.

Proposal for reviewers and the defence committee

The Council of the Doctoral School submits a proposal for the chair and members of the defence committee and for the two official reviewers.

An appropriate number of external experts must be included among the members of the defence committee.

Alternate experts must also be appointed for each function – alternate chair, alternate reviewer and alternate member – to ensure that the defence can proceed even if an appointed participant is unable to attend.

The defence committee consists of a chair, the official reviewers and additional members.

The chair is a senior academic of the University or a Professor Emeritus, and all members of the committee must hold scientific degrees.

The candidate may submit a written objection to the composition of the defence committee within eight days, exclusively on grounds of conflict of interest or bias.

The defence committee comprises a chair, two official reviewers and additional members. One member of the committee performs the duties of secretary.

Only senior academics and/or researchers holding a scientific degree may serve as committee members.

A person who is a close relative of the doctoral candidate, or from whom an impartial assessment cannot reasonably be expected for any other reason, may not serve on the committee.

6. ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION OF DOCTORAL THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

Following amendments to the Government regulations on doctoral education in spring 2007, responsibility for ensuring electronic public access to doctoral dissertations and theses was transferred from the Ministry to the universities.

7. OBLIGATIONS OF PhD STUDENTS

Part-time students and students following individual preparation within the Doctoral School are required to pay the applicable cost-reimbursement fee.

Following acquisition of the pre-degree certificate (absolutorium), students of the Doctoral School must make their academic records available to the Secretary of the Doctoral School for the purposes of preparing the required institutional records.

Students of the Doctoral School must provide the Head and Secretary of the Doctoral School with a copy or electronic version of the public announcement relating to doctoral examination and defence events.

Before the defence of the dissertation, students must provide the Secretary of the Doctoral School with a list of publications produced up to the award of the degree and a list of independent citations for publication on the Doctoral School website.

When submitting the doctoral dissertation, the doctoral candidate must provide the Secretary of the Doctoral School with the dissertation, the Hungarian and English thesis booklets and an electronic version of the dissertation. Fulfilment of this obligation is certified by the Head of the Doctoral School to the competent Doctoral Council.

The Secretary preserves these materials and/or forwards them to the appropriate University electronic repository or website in accordance with the applicable regulations.

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL

The income of the Doctoral School consists of funding received on the basis of enrolled PhD students, financial resources obtained through the grant and project activities of the Doctoral School, and other forms of support.

9. PARTICIPATION OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL IN HABILITATION PROCEDURES

The Council of the Doctoral School develops proposals concerning the requirements for habilitation procedures in the fields of biological sciences and environmental sciences.

Upon request by the competent higher-level habilitation councils, the Council evaluates applications submitted by candidates for habilitation.

Applicants for habilitation are expected to meet the following requirements:

- possess an independent and clearly identifiable professional and scientific profile;
- publish regularly in international scientific journals relevant to their field and have a number of publications in internationally peer-reviewed journals exceeding 50% of the current publication requirement for the title Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences;
- depending on their specific field, have a number of independent, professionally significant citations to their work exceeding 50% of the current citation requirement for the title Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences;
- have at least five years of university teaching experience and have successfully taught courses at the University of Debrecen for at least four semesters;
- have documented scientific and professional public-service activity.