

## COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The Council of the Doctoral School shall decide on the admittance to the comprehensive examination. Students are only allowed to take the exam if they earn at least 90 credits during the first four semesters, and all **subject credits** prescribed in the model curriculum of the doctoral school (except for students preparing individually for acquiring the doctoral degree, whose legal relationship with the university will be established by the registration for and admittance to the comprehensive examination).

The publication related condition for admittance to exam is the publication - or accepted or submitted for publication – of at least **one** scientific publication in a “Web of Science” qualified journal, or a scientific publication electronically published in arXiv (lanl.gov). In the case of students preparing individually, the precondition for being admitted to the exam is formal compliance with the publication and language requirements of acquiring the doctoral degree (no thesis points are required at the time of registration, therefore, instead of the substantial evaluation, only expected numerical indicators have to be met).

At least two weeks before the exam, the student submits a brief summary of the results achieved up to that point, as well as the articles submitted for publication or published, in electronic form. Formal fulfillment of the publication conditions does not guarantee admission to the exam. Before the exam the examination board examines the quality of the publications, their connection to the doctoral topic, and the candidate's contribution to the published results. The committee shall record and justify the admission to the exam or its rejection in the minutes.

Comprehensive exam has to be taken in public, before the Committee. The examination committee consists of at least three members, and minimum of one third of the members shall have no employment relationship with the institution operating the Doctoral School. The chair of the examination committee is a university professor, *or a Professor Emeritus, or a lecturer*, researcher with Doctor of the MTA title. Each member of the examination committee should have scientific degree. The supervisor of the examinee cannot be a member of the Committee. The supervisor shall deliver the supervisory assessment of the student's performance to the chair of the committee in electronic form at least one week before the set date of the exam. The supervisor shall be invited to the comprehensive examination.

The comprehensive examination is divided into two parts: one part assesses the theoretical competence of the student (“theoretical part”), whereas in the “thesis part” the examinees can prove their scientific progress.

During the theoretical part, the examinee takes exam in two subjects. In this part the complex examination committee also evaluates the candidate's knowledge of the literature and of the theoretical foundations of the research field. The list of subject is included with the curriculum of the doctoral school, and is accessible on the webpage of the doctoral school. In the theoretical part of the exam, the doctoral students demonstrate their awareness of literature in the specific branch of science, and their current knowledge in theory and methodology.

In the other part of the comprehensive exam, the examinees provide an account of their awareness of literature in their research topic (in a presentation form), report their research results, present the research schedule for the second part of the doctoral programme, as well as the schedule of the thesis preparation and the publication of results. The presentation will also review the scientific importance and innovation value of the results, and - where applicable – the technology motivation behind the research, and practical applicability of the results. At least one week before the exam, the examinee submit a brief summary of results achieved to date to the committee, together with the papers published or sent for publication. Each member of the examination committee shall assess the theoretical and thesis part one-by-one, separate. The comprehensive exam will be qualified successful, if the simple majority of the committee members decide so regarding both parts of the exam. The doctoral student may retake a failed comprehensive exam on one occasion, within the same exam period.

Minutes including textual assessment shall be drawn up on the comprehensive examination. The outcome of the exam shall be announced on the exam day. The result of the comprehensive exam does not count in the qualification of the doctoral degree, but the successful completion is a precondition of being admitted into the second stage of the programme.