

Doctor of Philosophy

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is an academic degree certifying that the holder has been trained and is capable of conducting original research and producing knowledge. At the same time is demonstrating substantial authority, innovation, autonomy, scholarly and professional integrity, and sustained commitment to developing new ideas or processes.

The PhD degree is awarded to students who:

- Have demonstrated a systematic understanding of conducting research and knowledge of the research methods related to their field research
- Have demonstrated an ability to conceive, design, implement and conform substantial processes of research
- Have contributed towards publications in international peer-referred scientific journals through innovative research
- Are capable of critically analyze, evaluate and produce original ideas in issues pertaining to their field research
- Can transfer with an effective manner to their colleagues, the scientific community and society in general, knowledge, findings and applications that emerge from research in their field of expertise
- Are capable of promoting within the academic and professional frameworks, technological, social, and cultural advances

1. Introduction

Applications for enrollment for a PhD can be submitted to the Teaching Staff General Assembly of the Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences (DPESS) twice per year. More specifically, applications are submitted within first and 10th of February and October. Applications of candidates, apart from the required documents (application form, copy of diplomas, CV, etc.) should be accompanied by a specific form completed by a Faculty member (Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor) of the DPESS of the University of Thessaly, stating the intention to undertake the supervision of the candidate. The Teaching Staff General Assembly evaluates requests of each candidate and suggests whether the application will be accepted or rejected.

2. Duration of study

The minimum duration of study for obtaining a PhD degree is three full calendar years from the date of the appointment of the three-member Advisory Committee. The maximum duration of study is eight years from the date of the appointment of the three-member Advisory Committee. To obtain the PhD degree a candidate is required to gain 180 ECTS credits (see section 5).

3. Selection criteria

Applicants should hold a Master's Degree or equivalent from international institutes (recognized by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Center). Master's Degree holders who fail to present a master thesis during their studies do not qualify for inclusion in the program.

In addition candidates are required to submit:

- (a) Proof of English language competency (TOEFL > 510, or any other equivalent recognized diploma)
- (b) Two recommendation letters from a Faculty member
- (c) Draft proposal for a doctoral thesis (approximately 3000 words)
- (d) Letter of interest explaining their intention to fulfill a PhD program
- (e) Additional information that can be used during the evaluation (i.e. publications, presentation in conferences, etc.)

4. Three-member committee

A three member committee is formed between the advisor and two other members. The supervisor suggests two other members to form the three-member Advisory Committee and proposes the title of the dissertation. The dissertation must be original. The two other members of the three-member advisory committee can be Faculty members of the same department, other Department of Thessaly University or other University or Technical Universities, emeritus professors, professors or A, B, and C researchers of recognized domestic or foreign research centers who hold a doctorate. The three-member Advisory Committee should have the same or related scientific specialty with the one of the candidate. To ensure the research advising experience of the three-member committee, the three members of the Advisory Committee should have advised together at least five completed Dissertations. Each Faculty member may supervise (as main supervisor) up to five (5) candidates.

5. Procedure for obtaining a PhD degree

To obtain the PhD degree a candidate is required to gain 180 ECTS credits. Doctoral candidates get 120 points from the dissertation, 30 points from attended coursework, 20 points from an internship, and 10 points from publications. The table below outlines the ECTS credits for each category.

Credits - ECTS	
Category	Credits
Advanced Statistic and Research Methods	15
Elective Courses	15
Internship	20
Publications	10
Dissertation	120

Coursework

Candidates must obtain 30 credits from attending class coursework. Fifteen of those are awarded from attending an Advanced Statistic and Research Methods class and another 15 from elective courses that relate to the research field of the candidate.

Courses can be selected by the Graduate Programs of the DPESS or any other domestic or international Graduate Program. Selection of a course from another Department needs the written approval of the supervisor.

Internship

The internship is offered in order for the applicant to gain experience and bridge the theoretical knowledge with practical application. The internship may include participation in a research project with the obligation of the candidate to provide, writing and submitting a proposal for funding a research project, implementation and evaluation of intervention programs, etc. The internship is overseen by the supervisor who is responsible for keeping the appropriate records.

Publications

In order to defend their dissertation candidates must show evidence of at least two publications in journals that appear in international databases (e.g. Sport Discus, Scopus, ISI, Medline). One of the publications must be in an international journal.

In addition, doctoral candidates must (a) submit for approval to the three-member Advisory Committee a research proposal for their dissertation within one year from the date of admittance, (b) defend publicly their proposal, within one year (at least) after enrollment in the program, (c) submit to the Teaching Staff General Assembly an annual progress report and publicly present the progress of their research work, and (d) attend all seminars that are required by the supervisor and are organized by the DPESS for PhD students.

The Dissertation proposal must be approved by the Internal Bioethics Committee of the DPESS. A copy of the approval of Internal Bioethics Committee should be submitted to the Secretary of the Department with a copyright signed agreement of the Dissertation data by the Ph.D. candidate and the three-member Advisory Committee.

During their studies Ph.D. candidates must comply with the ethics rules (the rules are presented on the website of the Department).

6. Writing and submission of PhD thesis

The writing style and presentation of the dissertation is unified for all doctoral candidates and is described on the program's website. The dissertation can be written, if the candidate wishes, in English.

After writing and submission of the dissertation by doctoral candidate to the supervisor, he or she is required, not later than a month, to appoint the seven-member examination committee.

7. Evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation is assessed by a Dissertation Examination Board consisting of 7 members: the supervisor and the other two members of the Advisory Committee and 4 other members from domestic or international departments from relevant disciplines. Two of the seven members of the Board should be professors. The dissertation is presented orally in a presentation open to the public. The Examiner's Board decides on the originality of the work and its contribution to scientific knowledge, and awards the Degree upon agreement of 5 of the 7 members.

The dissertation is evaluated first as successful or rejected. In case of negative recommendation, the Advisory Committee sets a new date for the re-evaluation of the dissertation, at least three months after the first one. In case of second failure the candidate's registration is terminated.

Upon completion of the dissertation, students submit the final copy to the library in a hard and electronic copy.

The Degree is conferred from the Teaching Staff General Assembly.