

Regulations of Doctoral Training at the Doctoral School of Biology, University of Szeged

This regulation has been prepared in accordance with applicable laws and other legal regulations, as well as the Doctoral Regulations of the University of Szeged (EDSz) and the Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Science and Informatics (TDSz). It includes more detailed rules on certain matters within the framework of these regulations. For cases not mentioned herein, the relevant provisions of the EDSz or TDSz shall apply.

The regulation must be approved by the Faculty Council of Natural and Technical Sciences (TMTDT).

I. Rules on topic announcement, supervision, and core membership in the Doctoral School of Biology

I.(1) TOPIC ANNOUNCEMENT

PhD topics are approved by the Council of the Doctoral School of Biology (BDIT) and published on the BDI and the National Doctoral Council (ODT) websites. Those entitled to propose topics (topic proposers) must submit the PhD topic along with a research plan to the BDI Council each year before the PhD admission call is published (March). The topics are published by the BDI on the ODT website.

The BDIT considers as topic proposers those who, prior to September 2013, announced and supervised PhD topics in the Doctoral School of Biology. From September 2013 onward, proposers must be approved by BDIT upon request.

I.(2) SUPERVISION

BDIT considers as supervisors those who, before September 2013, supervised PhD students at the Doctoral School of Biology or in other cooperating doctoral schools of the university. From September 2013, the BDI accepts the topic proposer as a supervisor if a student is admitted to their topic after the entrance examination. The names of supervisors are published by BDIT on the ODT website.

Supervisors shall provide up-to-date, professionally relevant courses and seminars for BDI students.

I.(3) CORE MEMBERSHIP

Core members of the BDI are invited by the BDIT from among those who have successfully supervised students, in accordance with the criteria set by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (MAB) and are submitted for approval to the University Doctoral Council (EDT). New core members are appointed by the EDT based on the University Doctoral Regulations.

I.(4) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Topic proposers, supervisors, and core members must be full-time employees of the University of Szeged or an institution cooperating with the BDI in PhD training and must hold a scientific degree. In accordance with MAB rules, they must maintain their publications and scientometric data in the MTMT2 database.

II. Admission Examination Rules at the Doctoral School of Biology

Applications can be submitted for topics published on the BDI and ODT websites.

The admission committee determines the result of the entrance examination based on the applicant's academic achievements, scientific results, and professional suitability.

II.(1) SCORING RULES FOR THE BDI PHD ENTRANCE EXAMINATION:

II.(1)a. Academic Achievement:

- For those who graduated within the last 3 years (max. 25 points):
(MSc or undivided university diploma average – 3.5) × 50/3
- For those who graduated more than 3 years ago (max. 20 points):
(MSc or undivided university diploma average – 3.5) × 40/3

II.(1)b. Scientific Achievements (max. 25 points for recent graduates, max. 30 points for earlier graduates)

Recognized achievements include: Scientific Student Conference (TDK) or National Scientific Student Conference (OTDK) participation and awards; popular science articles; non-international publications; conference abstracts; international publications with or without impact factor (IF).

Examples of scoring:	
Popular science article	5 points
Participation or award in TDK or similar local student conference	5-10 points
Conference abstract	5-15 points
International publication without IF	10-15 points
Participation or award in OTDK or similar national/international student conference	10-25 points
Non-international publication	15 points
International publication with impact factor	20-25 points

II.(1)c. Professional Aptitude Interview

Up to 30 points for professional preparedness and commitment.

II.(1)d. Language Skills:

For Hungarian-language doctoral programs, a language certificate is not mandatory, but additional points are awarded for at least a state-recognized B2 complex language certificate (5 points), preferably in English or a major European language (German, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian). Additional second and third certificates may yield 3 points each.

For admission to English-language programs, English language proficiency must be demonstrated according to the rules of the TMTDT.

III. Complex Exam

III.(1) A complex exam must be taken at the end of the training and research phase and before starting the research and dissertation phase. The exam measures and evaluates the candidate's academic and research progress.

III.(2) To be eligible for the complex exam, the student must earn at least 90 credits and complete all training credits required by the doctoral school during the 'training and research phase' (the first four semesters). An exception is made for individually prepared candidates applying directly for the degree: their student status begins upon applying for and being accepted to the complex exam.

III.(3) Further details of the complex exam are provided in Chapter V of the *Doctoral Regulations of the University of Szeged*.

IV. Specific Rules of the Degree Awarding Procedure at the Doctoral School of Biology

IV.(1) INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC WORK

To obtain the doctoral degree, the candidate must be the author of at least two scientific publications. These must be complete publications that meet the average scientific standards of the field and are published in or accepted by journals listed in the Clarivate Analytics Science Citation Index (SCI) or Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in the year of publication, with a quantified impact factor (IF). The candidate must be the first author of at least one publication.

The thesis booklet must list all publications by the candidate during their research career, including the IF for each journal (see Appendix 1). The total IF must also be stated at the end of the list. Patents related to the dissertation must be listed separately with registration numbers. Publications without IF and incomplete publications can be listed separately as well.

If the candidate is not the first author of a publication, the corresponding author must provide a written statement describing the candidate's contribution and confirming that similar content has not been and will not be declared for another candidate. No additional co-author statements are needed. If co-authors or the corresponding author are foreign nationals, the Doctoral School Council will determine the candidate's contribution based on available information. In case of dispute, the Council will decide.

A publication may be accepted if the candidate's contribution is significant and clearly identifiable, and this is confirmed in writing by the supervisor or corresponding author. Under these conditions, a publication may be used in no more than two doctoral procedures. Examples include: a publication counted as first-author work for one candidate and co-author for another; co-author in two different procedures; or a shared first-author publication counted as first-author in both procedures.

IV.(2) LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Regarding language proficiency, in addition to points 50.1–4 of the University Regulations, the BDI requires the following:

Candidates should preferably provide a language certificate in English. Without additional request, the BDI also accepts a state-recognized B2 (intermediate level, complex) certificate in other major European languages (German, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian), or its legal equivalent. In exceptional cases (e.g., naturalization), the doctoral school may accept a state-recognized C1 (advanced level, complex) certificate in another language, or its equivalent. In such cases, the Council of the Doctoral School shall vote on the matter.

IV.(3) DISSERTATION

The dissertation should be written in Hungarian. In justified cases (e.g., foreign supervisor), the Doctoral School Council (BDIT) may permit the use of English upon individual request.

The dissertation must be descriptive and should not exceed 100 pages. It must allow reviewers to clearly assess the candidate's achievements. It should include the professional background, aims of the research, detailed descriptions of evidence-based experiments (in sufficient detail to assess the scientific validity), interpretation of results, and the conclusions drawn.

Internal defense ('pre-defense') is required. Before submission, the dissertation draft must be presented to a professional audience (in organized training: the candidate's workplace; for non-organized candidates: the relevant department or institution). At least one reviewer must provide a written review. A record must be prepared that includes the date, location, names and signatures of participants, and the reviewer(s)' statement regarding the content adequacy for submission.

The candidate's supervisor must provide a written declaration confirming the candidate's suitability for the academic degree. The pre-defense record and the supervisor's declaration must be submitted with the dissertation.

IV.(4) PLAGIARISM SCREENING OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

According to the most recent amendment of the Doctoral Regulations of the University of Szeged, doctoral schools are entitled and required to perform plagiarism screening on submitted dissertations. This is coordinated by the doctoral school with the support of the University Library.

More information: <http://szerzoknek.ek.szte.hu/hasonlosag-ellenorzes-doktori-iskolak-szamara/>

The doctoral school manages the technical process and makes decisions based on the results.

The doctoral student must:

1. Send an email to the head of the doctoral school (copied to the supervisor), declaring that the pre-defense was successfully completed and that the final version of the dissertation incorporates the reviewers' feedback.
2. Attach the final version of the dissertation (or a download link if the file is large) and send it to the head and secretary of the doctoral school. The school will request the screening from the University Library.
3. The result is received by the doctoral school. Based on this, the head decides whether the dissertation is eligible for public defense. The confirmation and the plagiarism report summary are sent to the student and the supervisor.

IV.(5) AWARDING THE DEGREE

The decision to award the doctoral degree is based on the reports from the examination and review committees and the scores received. The Doctoral School Council (BDIT) issues a resolution, which is submitted to the Faculty Council for Natural and Technical Sciences (TMTDT) for review. The vote is held by secret ballot, and a simple majority of 'yes' votes from members present is required for approval.

Szeged, 2025. 06. 01.