

Training plan of the University of Agriculture and Life Sciences Doctoral School of Economics and Regional Sciences

**(The requirements of this Training Plan apply to
doctoral students who start their studies after 1 September 2023)**

Gödöllő, Kaposvár, 2023.

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PREAMBLE

The research carried out at the Doctoral School builds on the research profiles, scientific results and networks of the two Doctoral Schools previously operating within the framework of the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE), namely the Doctoral School of Economic and Regional Sciences (site: Gödöllő) and the Doctoral School of Management Organizational Science (site: Kaposvár).

Relevant laws and references to legal sources of the Doctoral and Habilitation Regulations (DHR) and abbreviations are listed below:

The Training Plan (TP) of the Doctoral School of Economics and Regional Sciences (DSERS) is based on the following legal sources and regulations:

- Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as ANHE)
- Government Decree No. 387/2012 (XII. 19.) on Doctoral Schools, the order of doctoral procedures and habilitation
- Government Decree 121/2013 (IV.26) on the Education Office
- Act CXXXI of 2015
- Government Decree 87/2015 (IV. 9.) on the implementation of certain provisions of Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education
- and the procedure adopted by Resolution 2020/4/VIII of the Hungarian Accreditation Board for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as HAB)
- Government Decree No 1229/2012 (VII. 6.) on the tasks related to the introduction of the Hungarian Qualifications Framework and Government Decision 1004/2011.(I. 14.) on the establishment and introduction of the National Qualifications Framework
- Standard Classification of Occupations (FEOR-08)
- Accreditation requirements and professional evaluation criteria of HAB (hereinafter referred to as AEC) in the assessment of the establishment and operation of Doctoral Schools
- HAB Decision 2014/4/IV (amendment of Decision 2013/6/III/1 of HAB)
- Doctoral Regulations (hereinafter referred to as DR) of the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (hereinafter referred to as the University)
- Habilitation Regulations (hereinafter referred to as HR) of the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (hereinafter referred to as the University)
- University Regulations for Studies and Examinations (hereinafter referred to as RSE)
- University Employment Requirements Framework (hereinafter referred to as ERF)
- Intellectual Property Policy (IPP)
- Rules of Procedure of the Doctoral School of Economics and Regional Sciences.

DETAILS OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL

Hungarian name	Gazdaság- és Regionális Tudományi Doktori Iskola
English name	Doctoral School of Economics and Regional Sciences
Hungarian abbreviation of the name of the Doctoral School	GRTDI
English abbreviation of the name of the Doctoral School	DSERS
discipline of science: branches of science:	Social Science - Management and Business Administration - Regional Sciences
programmes:	- Regional Economic Development and Management - Sustainable Business and Management
English name of programmes:	Regional Economic Development and Management Sustainable Business and Management
title of the PhD holder awarded:	in Hungarian: PhD, Gazdálkodás- és szervezéstudományok és Regionális tudományok in English: PhD in Management and Business Administration and PhD in Regional Sciences
site of operation:	Gödöllő, Kaposvár
postal address:	2100 Gödöllő, Páter Károly u. 1. 7400 Kaposvár, Guba Sándor u. 40.
length of training programme:	8 semesters
form of training:	full-time training
language of instruction:	Hungarian, English
total credit number:	minimum 240 credits
objective of training:	Within the framework of the training programme of DSERS, the economic, environmental, territorial and human factors of global, regional and territorial processes are taught and researched through the theoretical and methodological approaches of social sciences, including management and business administration, and regional sciences.
funding:	Hungarian state or other scholarship, self-financed, "Cooperative Doctoral Training"
modules for earning credits:	course credits, research credits, publication credits, teaching credits, other credits

1. INTRODUCTION OF THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

1.1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Within the framework of the training programme of DSERS, the economic, environmental, territorial and human factors of global, regional and territorial processes are taught and researched through the theoretical and methodological approaches of the social sciences, including management and business administration, and regional science.

The doctoral programme prepares students for obtaining a PhD degree in the discipline of management and business administration or regional sciences, and for the conferment of the title of Doctor of Philosophy – PhD in (PhD in Management and Business Administration, PhD in Regional Sciences) at the end of the doctoral programme. The procedure for obtaining a PhD degree includes the award of a pre-doctoral degree certificate stating that all courses have been completed, a complex examination has been passed, and proving the doctoral student's aptitude and ability to carry out research independently and the achievement of new scientific results, the knowledge and competencies of the required foreign language, the successful public presentation and disputation of the doctoral dissertation demonstrating the doctoral student's ability to solve a scientific task independently and creatively.

1.2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

DSERS offers candidates with a Master's degree or its equivalent in any discipline the opportunity to obtain a PhD degree (PhD) in economics, management, business administration and regional studies at Level 8, which is the highest level of competencies in the Hungarian Qualifications Framework. The general requirements and conditions for application and admission to the doctoral training programme are set out in Chapter 3.1 of the DR. The electronic application form (Appendix 2 to the DR) is available on the websites of the University and the Doctoral School. The application deadline is adapted to the calls for application (e.g. mid-semester, Stipendium Hungaricum application period).

DSERS offers the opportunity to obtain a PhD degree both for academics in higher education who train future professionals and for individuals building a career in business, in the public or private sectors.

In the case of applicants who do not have a master's degree in management, business administration and regional sciences, the Council of the Doctoral School examines the content (course descriptions) of their previous studies, professional and managerial experiences and academic activities in management, business administration and regional sciences based on the submitted documentation, and the Council of the Doctoral School may require the completion of the missing courses (egalizations) to obtain the knowledge required for doctoral studies in management, business administration and regional sciences. Upon the approval of the supervisor and the head of the Doctoral School, missing courses should be selected by the doctoral student from the list of compulsory and optional courses of the Doctoral School, as well as from master programmes of business development, management and business administration, finance, marketing, supply chain management, regional and environmental economics, rural development, agricultural engineering and tourism management, taught full-time or part-time at MATE, in a maximum total of 20 credits, which shall not be calculated in the minimum number of credits required for the conferment of the doctoral degree. After admission and enrolment, the Council of the Doctoral School prescribes the missing courses to be completed.

1.3. OUTCOME OBJECTIVES OF THE DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

In accordance with the objectives of the DSERS and the requirements of Level 8 of the Hungarian Qualifications Framework – as stipulated in Government Decree 1229/2012 (VII.6.) –, the competencies of the PhD holder of DSERS in management and business administration and regional sciences for the study of the economic, environmental, territorial and human factors of global, regional and territorial processes are as follows.

Knowledge

The PhD holder of DSERS shall have the necessary knowledge for scientific research on the directions and interfaces, confirmed and controversial issues and correlations, conceptual frameworks and terminology of management and business administration and regional sciences.

The PhD holder of DSERS shall have the methodological research skills necessary for the study of economic, environmental, territorial and human factors in global, regional and territorial processes, and for the independent study of practical and theoretical research questions and topics.

Competencies

The PhD holder of DSERS shall be able to creatively analyse, comparatively and critically evaluate practical and theoretical issues arising in the study of economic, environmental, territorial and human factors in global, regional and territorial processes, and to formulate and communicate new findings on individual, economic and social issues.

The PhD holder of DSERS shall be able to apply and develop methods of analysis of economic, environmental, territorial and human factors in global, regional and territorial processes, to put new theories in practice, to identify unforeseen professional problems and to explore the theoretical and practical backgrounds for research and to find solutions.

The PhD holder of DSERS shall be able to design and implement projects, conduct independent research, develop new techniques and approaches.

Attitudes

The PhD holder of DSERS shall work with perseverance, strong professional commitment and a desire to find new scientific results and explore new opportunities.

The PhD holder of DSERS shall represent, develop and communicate individual and community attitudes, values and behaviours.

Autonomy and scope of responsibility

The PhD holder of DSERS shall have creative autonomy to develop and initiate new fields of knowledge and new practices.

The PhD holder of DSERS shall be able to participate in discussions with stakeholders in the academic and business ecosystems and with experts of the scientific discipline as an equal partner. The PhD holder of DSERS shall take responsibility for raising and answering new ethical questions.

1.4. STRUCTURE OF DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

1.4.1. Languages of instruction of the Doctoral Training Programme

Doctoral studies are conducted in Hungarian and English languages.

1.4.2. Forms of structured doctoral training programme

Doctoral studies can be pursued at the University in the following ways:

- a) full-time, structured training with a state scholarship;
- b) full-time, self-financed, structured training;
- c) Cooperative Doctoral programme.

According to Paragraph 16§ of the Doctoral Regulations and the relevant legislation, the doctoral training programme organised by the DSERS lasts for 8 semesters, during which the doctoral student must obtain at least 240 credits.

1.4.3. Stages of the structured doctoral training programme

The structured doctoral training programme consists of two stages: the first four semesters are the "training and research" stage and semesters from five to eight are the "research and dissertation writing" stage. At the end of the fourth semester i.e. at the end of the training and research stage, the doctoral student shall take a complex doctoral exam to examine and assess his/her academic and research progress and as a precondition for the start of the research and dissertation stage. In the first semester of the structured training programme, the doctoral student must prepare a work plan (project proposal) under the guidance of his/her supervisor (see the Rules of procedure).

1.4.4. Obtaining an individual PhD degree

According to Article 17 of the DR of MATE, it is possible to obtain a PhD degree by individual preparation. The entry publication requirement for students who prepare individually is the same as the minimum publication requirement for the submission of a doctoral dissertation. An additional requirement is that the submitted draft dissertation must be at least 80% complete.

For the doctoral student who prepares individually, the Council of the Doctoral School shall approve a supervisor from the supervisors of the relevant Doctoral School to monitor and assist the candidate's preparation, upon the request of the doctoral student.

The individually preparing student shall fulfil his/her training obligations by passing the complex examination. Individually preparing students are not required to obtain teaching credits, however, they may participate in classes at the Doctoral School.

The four semesters of the research and dissertation writing stage may be shortened in particularly justified cases (e.g. successful completion of the preliminary disputation (home defence) of the doctoral dissertation).

The individually preparing doctoral student shall have to submit his/her doctoral dissertation within three academic years after passing the complex examination (after registration for the exam), which is a requirement for the doctoral degree. In the case of special merits (in well-grounded cases), this deadline may be extended by up to one academic year, as laid down in the Doctoral Regulations (DR). The maximum period of suspension of the PhD procedure is two semesters.

1.4.5. Conditions for obtaining the PhD degree

The process of obtaining a PhD degree is regulated by Article 19 of the DR.

The conditions for obtaining a PhD degree are regulated in Article 20 of the DR.

1.4.6. Structure of the Doctoral School's training programme

The Doctoral School's training programme is tailored to the research profile of the Doctoral School. The curriculum of the Doctoral School of Economics and Regional Sciences consists of three modules. Of these, the methodology and professional courses are compulsory for all students.

The DS provides a flexible curriculum for doctoral students, bearing in mind that applicants to the DS come from a wide range of backgrounds and with specific needs. The place and time of each course in the curriculum may change within the academic year, no pre-study requirements have been set for the courses.

Module of compulsory courses

The backbone of the training is the compulsory methodology courses. The methodology courses (Research Methodology, Data Science) focus on qualitative and quantitative research methodology. The emphasis is on modelling and on the practical application of methods. Upon successful completion of the courses, students shall be able to select the required quantitative methods for modern data analysis, use appropriate software, perform calculations, interpret and communicate results.

Research methodology courses introduce students to the main methods of social science research and the applications of each research method. Students shall discuss the importance of critical analysis of the relevant literature, the formulation of research questions and hypotheses, and methods for testing the hypotheses. Methodological courses shall prepare doctoral students for the publication of research results.

The professional course of advanced level (economics) is primarily designed to provide advanced and state of the art knowledge and practical application of economics, and it is a foundation course for electives.

Module of compulsory electives

Our aim is to give students in-depth knowledge in their chosen field of research. Optional courses provide doctoral students with the opportunity to acquire a broad range of knowledge and offer a high degree of choice and freedom. Courses are related to areas relevant to the doctoral training programme.

Module of elective courses

The elective courses are designed to broaden the doctoral student's knowledge of a specific professional discipline and to provide a deeper understanding of his/her research topic. The range of electives can be further extended with courses from other Doctoral Schools according to the doctoral student's individual research topic. The doctoral student may also choose courses from other sub-programmes. PhD-students may take extra courses up to 10% (7 credits) of the total number of credits. For these courses a fee is payable in accordance with the University regulations. This must be agreed in advance with the Head or Secretary of the Doctoral School.

In the case of courses taken and completed abroad, the Council of the Doctoral School decides on the acceptance of such courses on the basis of the decision of the course leader who is registered in the curriculum of the Doctoral School. Elective courses can be taken in the autumn and spring semesters as well, if at least 5 students are enrolled in the course, or if fewer students are enrolled for the course, the course can be completed by individual consultation.

1.4.7. Table of curriculum

The compulsory, compulsory elective and elective courses of the Doctoral School are grouped around professional topics and methodological skills. The following list gives the titles, credit values and names of the course leaders. A detailed description of the courses is given in Annex 1.

Model curriculum by stages of training programme from semesters 1-4

courses	semester				credit
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	
compulsory courses					
Economics	x				8
Research methodology	x				8
Data science		x			8
total					24
compulsory course		x	x	x	Minimum 18
Regional Economic Development and Management Programme					
Methods and procedures for publication					6
Qualitative research methods					6
Multivariable statistics					6
The circular and green economy under the ESG framework					6
Corporate sustainability					6
New regional and economic models					6
Sustainable consumption					6
Regional and rural policy					6
Sustainable Business and Management Programme					
Methods and procedures for publication					6
Qualitative research methods					6
Multivariable statistics					6
Executive business economics					6
The circular and green economy under the ESG framework					6

Corporate sustainability					6
Leadership and business administration theory					6
Sustainable consumption					6
Financing models					6
Elective courses			x	x	Minimum 8
Tourism Management					4
Urban marketing					4
Business administration behaviour					4
Natural hazards and their impacts on agricultural production					4
Basics of Python programming					4
Geopolitics					4
Rural and regional policy					4
Other courses announced by other Doctoral Schools					min.4
Research	x	x	x	x	8
Total research					32

Model curriculum: the stage of dissertation writing from semesters 5-8

Courses	Semester				credit
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	
Research	x	x	x	x	15
Total					60

The course leader prepares the course description and the timetable. This is the basis for the student's timetable. For each course, a course description and course requirements shall be provided and approved in advance by the Council of the Doctoral School. Team teaching is highly preferred, which shall be indicated in the course description, together with the involvement of renowned lecturers from other universities or external experts to lecture on important topics.

1.4.8. Allocation and calculation of credits for the PhD degree

As a general rule, one credit requires 30 hours of work (e.g. consultation, study, research, teaching, preparation, etc.) of the doctoral student. Credits are a measure of study, research and teaching (if

any) undertaken by the doctoral student in order to fulfil the requirements of the Doctoral School.

Study activity: minimum 50 credits

The training programme consists of compulsory and optional courses: each compulsory course is worth 8 credits/course. The credit value of compulsory elective courses is 6 credits, while the credit value of elective courses is 4 credits. The minimum number of credits in the training stage is 50 credits, of which 32 credits should be obtained from compulsory courses and at least 12 credits from compulsory elective courses.

The number of course credits to be completed during the first two semesters of the doctoral programme (in the training stage) is 20 per semester. The completion of credits is certified by the lecturer registered in the electronic study system on the basis of the successful completion of the exams, essays, reports, etc. which are required for the course. Credits shall be assigned only to a course which is graded on a five-point scale.

If the doctoral student, through his/her own fault, fails to obtain the minimum number of 20 credits in a given semester, the Council of the Doctoral School may decide to suspend the doctoral scholarship. If the doctoral student fails to make up the shortfall within one year, the Council of the Doctoral School may decide to terminate the student's (active) status.

No credits can be obtained in the doctoral training programme through language learning.

Pursuant to Section 53 (3a) of the ANHEV, students preparing for doctoral studies may take courses in the Doctoral School in the final year of their Master's studies. The credits thus acquired are recognised by the Doctoral School as prior achievement in the event of successful admission. Up to 8 credits of electives may be obtained by transfer of credits or study at another educational institution.

Research activities

Research: 92 credits (in the study and research stages 32 credits can be obtained + in the dissertation writing stage 60 credits can be obtained)

In the training and research stage (semesters 1-4), the supervisor shall award 8 credits per semester for the written research report of the doctoral student. In the first 4 semesters, 32 credits must be achieved.

The purpose of the written research report for the doctoral student is to:

- a) report on his/her performance during the semester and document his/her academic and research achievements;
- b) reflect on his/her development in the context of the training competences (knowledge, attitude, research skills, autonomy and responsibility);
- c) receive feedback from his/her supervisor on his/her performance and development of competencies during the semester;
- d) set academic/research and personal development goals for the following semester;
- e) develop his/her research management skills;

Other research activities: up to 20 credits (5 credits per semester) in the research and dissertation writing stage.

In the research and dissertation writing stage, a maximum of 5 credits per semester may be awarded for research activities other than the doctoral dissertation (research project, participation in a research group), based on the proposal and written confirmation of the supervisor and the leader of the research.

Publication activity: Minimum 8 credits can be obtained in the research and training stage, minimum 46 credits can be obtained in the research and dissertation writing stage.

Publication activity is assessed on the basis of publications published during this period and registered in the Hungarian Scientific Works Repository (MTMT). The ranking of publications shall be based on the journals listed by the Qualification Committee of Economic Sciences of Division IX of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS), or on scimagojr.com or Web of Science.

In the case of a co-authored article, the student is entitled to 70% of the credit value specified in the table of curriculum, unless the student is co-authored by his/her supervisor, in which case 100% of the credit value in the table of curriculum is counted.

For international students, publications in their mother tongue are equivalent to publications in Hungarian.

Teaching activity

Teaching activity: Maximum 24 credits can be obtained in the research and dissertation writing stage (maximum 6 credits per semester).

Teaching a course (14 x 1 time slot) (lectures, seminars) is worth 6 credits (based on NEPTUN TR). Active participation in teaching a course (based on supervisor's certification) is worth 2-4 credits. Active participation may include exam proctoring, marking of papers, teaching only a few classes in a course (e.g. 1-2 seminars/semester). A maximum of 6 teaching credits per semester may be obtained for such activities. If necessary, teaching credits may be replaced (upon the certification of the supervisor) by "training credits" or "publication credits".

Calculation of publication credits

Type of publication	Publications	Credit value
Journal articles	Category "A" in Hungarian	30
	Category "B" in Hungarian	25
	Category "C" in Hungarian	20
	Category "D" in Hungarian	10
	Category D1 or IF>10	55
	Category Q1 or 10 > IF > 5	45
	Category Q2 or 5 > IF > 1	35
	Category Q3 or 1 > IF > 0.5	25
	Category Q4 or 0.5 > IF > 0	15
	Other foreign language articles listed in Scopus and/or WOS	10
Scientific book, book excerpt	in Hungarian	10
	In a foreign language	15
Conference publications	Conference publication in Hungarian (full paper)	2
	Conference publication in a foreign language (full paper)	5

A total of 240 credits shall be required to obtain a pre-doctoral degree certificate. A minimum of 90 credits shall be completed in the first four semesters of the programme. A minimum of 50 credits of training activities shall be completed by the end of the fourth semester, a minimum of 32 credits of research and at least 8 credits of publication activities are required to register for the complex exam. All the "training credits" required by the Doctoral School's curriculum shall be obtained by the end of the fourth semester, which is a prerequisite for taking the complex examination.

Extra credits may be carried over to semesters 5 to 8, but no more than the established maximum

number of credits may be counted in the first four semesters.

<i>types of activities</i>	<i>number of credits to be completed</i>	
	<i>in semesters 1-4</i>	<i>in semesters 5-8</i>
training activity	min. 50	
research activity		
- research	32	60
- other research activities		maximum 20
- publication activity	minimum 8	minimum 46
teaching activity		maximum 24
number of credits to be completed	minimum 90	minimum 150

1.4.9. Requirements of the complex exam

At the end of the training and research stage (at the end of the 4th active semester), a complex examination must be taken. The complex examination is the presentation and comprehensive evaluation of the doctoral student's professional knowledge in the research field. The conditions for the complex examination are laid down in § 12/A of Government Decree 387/2012 (XII. 19.) and regulated in § 23 of the DR.

Participants in the structured training programme shall register and apply in writing for the complex examination in the NEPTUN TR. Since the student enters the doctoral degree procedure after passing the complex examination, the application for the complex examination is also the application for the doctoral degree procedure. Doctoral candidates who prepare individually shall follow the procedure set out in Appendix 4.c of the Doctoral School DR.

Board of the complex examination

The complex examination shall be taken in front of a board. The members of the complex examination board are defined in sections (3) and (4) of paragraph 14§ of the Doctoral Regulations (DR).

The members of the examination board proposed for the "Complex Examination" shall be as follows:
Chairperson: (preferably the head of the Doctoral School or a University professor who is a core member of the Doctoral School)

Secretary: associate professor or assistant professor with a PhD degree, who is not involved in the evaluation of the dissertation.

Members: (maximum 5, minimum 3) The board shall not include the student's supervisor or a colleague with whom the student has co-published an article or with whom the student has other conflicts of interest.

The board shall consist of the following members:

1/3 of the members of the board shall be external experts (PhD or M.Sc.), their number depends on the number of the members of the board.

The board shall be composed in such a way that its professional competence is appropriate to assess the research of the candidate(s).

Conditions of applying for and taking the complex exam

Students who have completed at least 90 credits in the "training and research stage" (first four semesters) of the doctoral programme may apply for the complex exam.

To be admitted to the complex exam, the student must complete all the "training credits" required by the Doctoral School curriculum by the end of the fourth active semester.

The complex exam must be taken at the end of the examination period of the fourth active semester in order to include the training credits completed in that semester.

The date of the complex exam: end of June - beginning of July or January (mid-term). The doctoral student shall be notified of the date of the complex exam and a record of the complex exam shall be drawn up (Annex 5.b. to the DR).

Parts of the complex exam

The complex exam consists of two parts

1. Theoretical part 1: The doctoral student shall present the international and national literature on the research topic, the evolution and development of the research topic, the novelty of the planned research (research gap) and how the planned research fits into the mainstream of international research. The doctoral student is expected to integrate the knowledge acquired during the training programme into his/her research.

Subjects of the complex exam: economics, research methodology

2. The doctoral student shall give a detailed description of the research methods used in the research project, highlight the difficulties he/she has encountered in carrying out the research and analyse and evaluate the threats to the timely completion of the research.

The exam is graded in two ways: pass or fail.

If the complex examination is unsuccessful, the doctoral student may retake it once in the same examination period. A doctoral student participating in a structured training programme or preparing individually must submit his/her doctoral dissertation within three academic years after the complex examination.

1.4.10 Procedure for obtaining the PhD degree

The procedure for obtaining a doctoral degree is regulated in detail in Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Doctoral School. In accordance with Article 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the Doctoral School, the doctoral dissertation can be submitted if the doctoral student has successfully completed the structured training programme and the preliminary disputation (home defence) of the doctoral dissertation, obtained the pre-doctoral degree certificate and fulfilled the publication requirements of the Doctoral School. The submission of the doctoral dissertation is conditional upon the availability of the minutes of the preliminary disputation (home defence) of the doctoral dissertation. The doctoral dissertation shall be submitted no later than three academic years after the complex examination. If the doctoral student prepares individually, the submission of the doctoral dissertation is conditional upon the successful completion of the complex examination and the fulfilment of the foreign language and publication requirements for the degree.

It is the responsibility of the supervisor and the doctoral candidate to organise and publicly announce the date of the preliminary disputation (home defence) of the doctoral dissertation, assisted by the Secretary of the Doctoral School. The preliminary disputation (home defence) of the doctoral dissertation shall be participated by at least 5 professionals with an academic degree and expertise in the relevant discipline, which is the minimum requirement. An attendance sheet shall be kept listing all participants and indicating their academic degree and place of work.

The supervisor of the doctoral candidate shall propose the reviewers of the doctoral dissertation for the preliminary disputation to the head of the Doctoral School. One of the reviewers shall (must) not be employed by the University. The reviewers shall hold academic degrees. If the supervisor and the head of the Doctoral School do not reach a consensus on the reviewers, the Council of the Doctoral School shall decide on the reviewers to be invited. The preliminary disputation of the doctoral dissertation shall be chaired by either an associate professor with a habilitation, or a college professor or university professor employed full-time at the University and with expertise in the subject of the doctoral dissertation. The chairperson of the board shall be invited by the head of the relevant Doctoral School. The chairperson of the preliminary disputation of the doctoral dissertation shall also be a member of the board of the public disputation of the doctoral dissertation.

copies of the dissertation bound in a leather cover and signed by the supervisor and the head of the Doctoral School, 15 copies of the thesis booklet in Hungarian, 1 copy of the thesis booklet in English and 1 copy of the document issued by the University library certifying the publications uploaded to the Hungarian Scientific Works Repository (MTMT) shall be submitted to the Centre for Doctoral and Habilitation Studies. In accordance with the requirements of the Doctoral School, doctoral candidates shall upload their publications to the publication database of the Hungarian Scientific Works Repository (MTMT) to prove that they are his/her independent scientific work. The list of publications shall be included at the end of the thesis booklet. When the public disputation of the dissertation is announced, the doctoral dissertation and the thesis booklet shall be made public on the following websites: www.doktori.hu, on www.uni-mate.hu and on the DI.

The dissertation can only be submitted for public disputation if there are two supporting reviews. If the review of one of the reviewers is negative, the Chair of the Doctoral and Habilitation Council of the University (DHC) shall invite an additional reviewer to the approved board of reviewers (an additional internal reviewer instead of the internal reviewer, an additional external reviewer instead of the external reviewer) to review the dissertation. If both reviews are negative, the procedure of the conferment of the PhD degree is terminated by the Chair of the Doctoral and Habilitation Council of the University (DHC).

The dissertation shall be submitted for public disputation within two months of the receipt of the two supporting reviews, in the academic year. The rules for the date of the public disputation of the dissertation are set out in Section (5) of paragraph 25§ of the DR. The dates of the public disputation are published on the websites of the Doctoral School, the University of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Hungarian Doctoral Council. The dissertation shall be defended in Hungarian by native Hungarian-speaking doctoral students, however, at the request of the supervisor, the dissertation may be disputed in English with the permission of the Doctoral and Habilitation Council of the University (EDHT). If the dissertation is written in a foreign language and the disputation is also in a foreign language, the evaluation shall be written in the same (foreign) language of the dissertation. The relevant rules are set out in section (6) of paragraph 25§ of the DR.

The Doctoral and Habilitation Council of the University (DHC) shall decide on the conferment of the PhD degree and its qualification on the basis of the report of the board of reviewers and the proposal of the Council of the Doctoral School as set out in the minutes. The procedure of the conferment of the PhD degree is concluded by a decision of the Doctoral and Habilitation Council of the University, which makes a resolution to confer the PhD degree. The PhD degree awarding procedure is successful if the board of reviewers considers the candidate's dissertation his/her independent scientific work and his/her presentation and achievement in the public disputation satisfactory. The rules for the qualification of the PhD degree are laid down in Paragraph 26§ of DR.

The language requirements for the doctoral degree are set out in Paragraph 14§ of the Doctoral School. If the doctoral candidate does not meet the entry English language requirement, he/she shall pass a state-accredited complex language examination at Level A2 or higher in English before starting the doctoral degree awarding procedure.

