

Studies required for a doctoral degree (240 ECTS)

The requirements for a doctoral degree include a doctoral dissertation (200 ECTS) as well as major subject studies and other studies supporting the degree (40 ECTS). If the student's prior degree is a licentiate degree, only the dissertation is required for a doctoral degree.

Doctoral studies 40 ECTS

Of the doctoral students graduated from the University of Turku, approximately 30 percent find employment at universities and 70 percent are employed by public administration, industry, commerce, community sector, or others. The aim of the doctoral programme is to support dissertation work and prepare the student for a research career and other specialist tasks. Every doctoral candidate is expected to actively participate in the offered studies as well as to present their own research and its progress at least once per academic year. The doctoral candidate is expected to draft a personalized study plan (HOPS) in the NettiOpsu system (<https://nettiopsu.utu.fi/hops/etusivu.html>) in which the preliminary contents of one's doctoral studies are described along with a tentative schedule for completion.

In the beginning of the doctoral studies, doctoral candidates are encouraged to think over their own career path and the study units required to attain it. Support for career planning is offered by the candidate's supervisors, the doctoral programme, and the Career Services of the University of Turku (*Rekry*). In the table below are depicted the areas of expertise required for two different career alternatives. It is beneficial to have these included in the candidate's studies in order to support the chosen career path. The alternatives are not mutually exclusive, i.e. a candidate aiming for a research career may, for instance, include a visit in industry and commerce in their studies.

The chosen career plan is not binding as the doctoral candidate may update their career and doctoral studies plan together with a supervisor along the dissertation process. The career paths presented below are therefore indicative and meant to assist the doctoral candidate with career planning.

Table 1. Two examples of career paths and the areas of expertise that support them

Research career in a university	Public administration, industry, commerce, and community sector
Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creating an independent researcher profile - publications produced in addition to the dissertation - national and international networking - writing academic English 	Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - relating the dissertation to the planned career path - publications produced in addition to the dissertation - networking outside the university - writing academic English
Teaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lecturing, supervising theses and other teaching 	Teaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lecturing, supervising theses and other teaching - teaching supporting a career option
Mobility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - international conferences - research visits abroad 	Mobility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - international conferences - visits in public administration, industry, commerce, or community sector organizations
Acquiring funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - applying for research funding (dissertation work and mobility) and carrying out a project 	Acquiring funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - research and development projects
Communications, management, and presentation skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scientific and popular writing - project management and manager training - university pedagogics and scientific communication 	Communications, management, and presentation skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scientific and popular writing - project management and manager training - entrepreneurial studies

In the beginning of the doctoral studies, the doctoral candidate draws up a study plan, which supports their career objectives. The **supervisor** of the dissertation has a central role in the planning, i.e. they guide the candidate to choose study modules which make achieving the career objective possible. The table below describes the contents and requirements of obligatory and optional studies. Especially when it comes to optional studies, the supervisor is expected to guide the candidate towards choices which support achieving the career goal. For instance, one who is aiming for a research career needs to include a research visit abroad in their studies and one who pursues a career

in the private sector benefits from choosing entrepreneurial studies. Studies presented below are intended for the doctoral programme level in addition to which each department may give more specific instructions on the contents of doctoral studies.

Table 2. Obligatory and optional studies to be included in the doctoral studies

Obligatory studies	15-25 ECTS
Studies specific to research topic (support thesis work) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - research ethics - philosophy of science - department's postgraduate seminars - studies in major subject (to be agreed on with supervisor) 	
Optional studies	15-25 ECTS
Studies specific to research field (support the thesis and increase knowledge of one's own major subject) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - methodological studies - academic writing and language studies supporting thesis work - studies supporting knowledge of theory - communications - university pedagogics - teaching and supervision of theses Mobility and specialist studies (support scientific and professional skills) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national and international conferences - research visits abroad - internship as a specialist outside the university - entrepreneurial studies - manager training - presentation skills 	
Total	40 ECTS

As per recommendations of the Graduate School, doctoral candidates are encouraged in mobility. Mobility and networking are accredited as follows:

- National and international postgraduate and special courses
 - credits determined according to course plan and participation
- National and international scientific meetings
 - poster presentation in a national meeting 1 ECTS and oral presentation 2 ECTS.
 - poster presentation in an international meeting 3 ECTS and oral presentation 4 ECTS.
- Scientific work, study trips, and methodological studies at a national/international institution of higher education or a research institution
 - 2-20 ECTS.

Studies are to be completed before submitting the doctoral thesis to pre-examination.