

**Regulations for postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences,
effective from 1 August 2024**

The Faculty of Social Sciences awards the following postgraduate degrees: Licentiate and Doctor of Social Sciences, Psychology and Philosophy.

According to the Government Decree on University Degrees (1039/2013) the aim of postgraduate education is that the person who has completed it:

1. is well-versed in his/her own field of research and its social significance;
2. has gained knowledge and skills needed to apply scientific research methods independently and critically and to produce new scientific knowledge;
3. is conversant with the development, basic problems and research methods of his/her own field of research;
4. has gained such knowledge of the general theory of science and of other disciplines relating to his/her own field of research as enables him/her to follow developments in them;
5. has gained sufficient communication and language skills and other abilities to work in wide and demanding expert and development tasks and in international cooperation

Eligibility for postgraduate studies

A general prerequisite for the right to pursue postgraduate studies is an applicable higher academic degree, or a relevant degree from abroad which in the country in question provides eligibility for corresponding postgraduate studies.

To gain admission to pursue a licentiate or doctoral degree in social sciences, the applicant must either have a higher academic degree (master's degree) in the field of social sciences, or be one whom the faculty considers otherwise to have gained sufficient knowledge and skills.

To gain admission to pursue a licentiate or doctoral degree in psychology, the applicant must have a higher academic degree (master's degree) in psychology, or be one whom the faculty considers otherwise to have gained sufficient knowledge and skills.

To gain admission to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree, the faculty must find the applicant eligible for doctoral studies in philosophy, speech-language pathology or psychology.

Proving the language skills when applying for the right to study for a doctoral degree

The applicant needs to be proficient in either Finnish or English in order to be able to participate in teaching and to communicate with the university staff. In practice, knowledge in the English language is required always when working in an international science community. When applying for the right to study for a doctoral degree, the applicant must prove his or her language proficiency according to the regulations set by the University of Turku and Graduate School (UTUGS), and Rector's decisions.

Selection of postgraduate students

The objective of the selection process is to have students suitable for a research career track who are skilled, motivated, and committed to research and doctoral studies.

The selection criteria for postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences are as follows:

- a sufficient grade in the advanced studies of a master's degree - usually at least a good evaluation is required
- a sufficient grade for the master's thesis – usually at least 3 / cum laude approbatur
- the level and feasibility of the applicant's research plan
- availability of resources for supervision

The right to postgraduate studies is awarded by the faculty. A maximum of 50 doctoral researchers are accepted into the doctoral programmes operating in the faculty each year.

DOCTORAL DEGREES

At the University of Turku operates the Graduate School UTUGS, and all postgraduate students pursuing a doctoral degree are members of the graduate school via the doctoral programmes. Doctoral students at the Faculty of Social Sciences belong to one of the following programmes:

1. Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences (DPSoc)
2. Doctoral programme on Inequalities, Interventions and New Welfare State (DPIInvest) or
3. Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research (DPCR)

The disciplines covered by the doctoral programmes at the Faculty of Social Sciences are as follows:

- Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences: philosophy, contemporary history, social policy, psychology, speech-language pathology, social work, sociology, economic sociology, political science and East Asian Studies
- Doctoral programme on Inequalities, Interventions and New Welfare State: psychology and sociology
- Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research: psychology

The field of a Doctor of Social Sciences degree can be philosophy, contemporary history, social policy, social work, sociology, economic sociology, political science or East Asian Studies.

Doctor of Psychology degree can be completed in the field of psychology.

Doctor of Philosophy degree can be completed in the fields of philosophy, speech-language pathology and psychology.

Changing the major subject

Doctoral researcher can apply for a change of the major subject for reasons related to their research or career planning, for example. Changing the major must be discussed with supervisors and the responsible persons in both subjects. The final decision on the matter is made by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Process related to changing the major subject:

1. The doctoral researcher discusses the matter with the supervisors.
2. The doctoral researcher and supervisors discuss the matter with the responsible persons in both subjects and any new supervisors.
3. Based on these discussions, the doctoral researcher can apply to change the major subject using the UGIS form.
4. The supervisors, any new supervisors, and responsible persons in both subjects submit their opinions for or against the change using the UGIS form.
5. The dean makes the final decision on the matter.

6. The doctoral programme coordinator forwards the dean's positive decision to the Student Centre, where the change is recorded in the Peppi system.

Selection of doctoral students

The right to pursue doctoral studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences can be applied via one of the doctoral programmes of the University of Turku which the faculty is included in. The applicant sends his or her application to the relevant doctoral programme in accordance with the programme's application instructions and application periods.

The application periods are organized and coordinated by the Graduate School. During the autumn application period, there is also a call for applications for fixed-term doctoral researcher positions with an employment contract by the doctoral programme. The application periods and detailed instructions are announced on [the Graduate School's website](#).

The selection criteria, instructions for applying and application periods for the Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research are announced on [the website of the DPCR doctoral programme](#).

The formal eligibility of applicants and their application documents are checked in the doctoral programmes. Eligible applications are sent to the disciplines or experts appointed by the doctoral programme steering committee for evaluation. The person in charge of postgraduate education within the discipline or the appointed experts prepare a proposal for selection. After this, the applications will be reviewed by the doctoral programme steering committee. The steering committee will make a proposal on granting the study rights to a doctoral degree to the dean, who will make the final decision. Eligible applications to the Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research are reviewed by the steering committee of the doctoral programme in question. The applicant is informed of the decision by email. The decision may be appealed within 14 days of publishing the results.

Studies required for a doctoral degree

The requirements for a doctoral degree include a doctoral dissertation and 40 ECTS of studies. The studies include major subject studies and other studies supporting the degree. The doctoral dissertation is not measured in credits. Studying full-time, it is possible to complete the degree in 3–4 years. If the student's starting level is a licentiate degree, only the doctoral dissertation is required for the doctoral degree. If the licentiate degree in question does not include studies in research ethics, these must be completed as part of the doctoral degree.

Postgraduate studies 40 ECTS

Approximately 30% of those who complete a doctoral degree at the University of Turku find employment at universities, while 70% move on to public administration, business, the third sector, or other positions. The aim of the doctoral programme is to support doctoral dissertation work and provide skills for both a career in research and other demanding expert positions. Each doctoral researcher must actively participate in organized training and present their own research and its progress. Doctoral researcher must draw up a personal study plan in the Peppi system (<https://peppi.utu.fi/>), which includes the planned content of their postgraduate studies (40 credits) and a preliminary schedule for their completion.

Doctoral researchers are encouraged to consider their own career path and the courses required to achieve it at the beginning of their postgraduate studies. Support for career planning is provided by their own supervisors, the doctoral programme, and the University of Turku Career services (Rekry). The table below describes the areas of expertise required for two different career options, which

doctoral researchers should include in their studies to support their chosen career path. The options are not mutually exclusive, meaning that a doctoral researcher aiming for a research career can, for example, include a visit to the business world in their studies.

The chosen career plan is not binding on the doctoral researcher, meaning that they can update their career and study plan together with their supervisor as the dissertation process progresses. The career paths presented in the table below are therefore **indicative** and are intended to assist doctoral researchers in planning their careers.

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

Research career at a university	Public administration, business and the third sector
Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creating an independent researcher profile - publications produced in addition to the dissertation - networking nationally and internationally - writing academic English 	Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - linking your dissertation to your planned career path - publications produced in addition to the dissertation - networking outside the university - writing academic English
Teaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lectures, thesis supervision, and other teaching 	Teaching: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lectures, thesis supervision, and other teaching - teaching work that supports career options
Mobility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - international conferences - researcher exchanges abroad 	Mobility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - international conferences - visits to public administration, business life, or third sector organizations
Funding acquisition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - applying for research funding (doctoral thesis and mobility) and practical implementation of the project 	Funding acquisition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - research and development projects
Communication, leadership, and presentation skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scientific and popular writing - project management and supervisor training - university pedagogy and scientific communication 	Communication, leadership, and presentation skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scientific and popular writing - project management and supervisor training - entrepreneurship studies

At the beginning of their postgraduate studies, the doctoral researcher must draw up a personal study plan that supports their career goals. The **supervisor** plays a key role in this planning process, as they must guide the doctoral researcher in selecting study modules that will enable them to achieve their career goals. The table below describes the content and requirements of obligatory and optional studies. With regard to optional studies in particular, the supervisor must guide the doctoral researcher in making choices that enable them to achieve their chosen career goals. For example, a researcher aiming for a career in research should include a research visit abroad in their studies,

while those aiming for a career in the private sector would naturally choose entrepreneurship studies. The studies presented below are designed for the doctoral program level, and each subject may provide more detailed guidance on the content of doctoral studies.

Table 2. Obligatory and optional studies included in postgraduate studies (specified in more detail in the curriculum of each doctoral programme).

Obligatory studies	15-25 cr
Research-specific studies (supporting the preparation of the dissertation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - research ethics • Method of completion: Research ethics course offered by the University of Turku Graduate School or equivalent courses, to be agreed upon with the supervisor - Postgraduate seminars in the major subject (studies must include at least one postgraduate seminar) - Subject-specific studies (to be agreed with the supervisor) 	
Optional studies	15-25 cr
Research area-specific studies (supporting the dissertation and knowledge of one's own subject) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - methodological studies - scientific writing and language studies supporting the dissertation - studies supporting theoretical knowledge - communication - university pedagogy - teaching and thesis supervision Mobility and expertise studies (supporting scientific and professional competence) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national and international conferences - research visits abroad - internships in expert positions outside the university - entrepreneurship studies - management training - presentation training 	
Total	40 cr

Credits for so-called regular courses organized by the university are recorded in the study register after the course has ended. Postgraduate students apply for other study achievements (e.g. conferences, research visits, scientific publications) to be entered into the study register using an electronic form available in the UGIS system. As a rule, these studies are approved by the doctoral researcher's supervisor.

Basic and intermediate studies that are not part of the education offered by the University of Turku Graduate School can only be included in the doctoral degree if the supervisor considers it justified in terms of the doctoral thesis or the student's career goals. When approving studies for the degree, their scope in relation to the scope of the entire degree must be taken into account.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Graduate School, doctoral students are encouraged to engage in mobility. Credits are awarded for mobility and networking as follows:

- Domestic and international postgraduate education and special courses
 - o credits according to the course program and participation

- National and international scientific conferences
 - poster presented at a national conference 1 credit and oral presentation 2 credits
 - poster presented at an international conference: 3 credits; oral presentation: 4 credits
- Scientific work, study trips, and methodological training at a domestic/foreign university/research institute
 - 2–20 credits.

Faculty recommendations for the number of credits to be included in postgraduate studies (applies to studies applied for on or after August 1, 2024):

- seminars 1–5 credits (postgraduate studies must include at least one postgraduate seminar)
- scientific publications
 - scientific article 4–6 credits
 - other scientific/professional article intended for a professional audience, such as a review or report 1–2 credits
- science communication
 - e.g., journal or online text, podcast or video presentation 1 credit
- teaching and supervision, may include a maximum of 10 credits in the degree
 - single lecture related to one's own research topic as part of other teaching 1 credit
 - course including planning of teaching and implementation, maximum 5 credits depending on the workload; teaching the same course more than once will not result in more than one registration of credits
 - supervision or examination of a thesis (bachelor's thesis/master's thesis) 1–3 credits, mainly for acting as a supervisor for a thesis seminar lasting one year 3 credits
 - independent supervision, mainly 1 credit/completed thesis
- research visits (2 credits/1 month), may be included in the degree for a maximum of 10 credits
- internship in expert tasks, may be included in the degree for a maximum of 10 credits
- language studies, may be included in the degree for a maximum of 10 credits

When assessing the scope of credits for an academic achievement, it is advisable for the postgraduate student and supervisor to discuss the nature of the achievement and the time spent on it.

As a general rule, 1 credit corresponds to 27 hours of work. However, this is only a guideline. In postgraduate studies, the academic achievement is often different from traditional university studies, and therefore the entire workload does not need to be measured in credits (cf. supervision throughout the academic year or a long research visit). The achievement must be in line with the doctoral programme's curriculum and the postgraduate student's personal study plan, taking into account the total scope of the studies (40 credits).

The studies are completed before the dissertation is submitted for preliminary examination.

Supervision

Doctoral researchers at the University of Turku are assigned at least two supervisors, one of whom is the main supervisor. At least one of the supervisors must represent the major subject in which the doctoral researcher is conducting their doctoral research. In accordance with the rector's decision (September 22, 2020), supervisors must hold a doctoral degree, and at least one of the supervisors

must be a professor, associate professor, or docent. The other supervisor may also be from outside the major subject.

The doctoral researcher is expected to come to supervision sessions prepared, produce the necessary material, be in regular contact with the supervisor, and complete the agreed tasks. Students must commit to their research project by striving for high scientific quality and complying with research ethics rules.

A supervision plan is drawn up for the supervision, in which the doctoral researcher and the supervisor agree on the objectives of the doctoral dissertation work, the schedule, the practical implementation of the supervision, and other issues that are essential for the progress of the work. The plan specifies the responsibilities of both the student and the supervisor, as well as the division of responsibilities between the supervisors. The plan may be supplemented and amended during the course of the postgraduate studies. The supervision plan is valid for a maximum of four years, after which the supervisor assesses the current feasibility of the dissertation project. If the supervision relationship continues after that and the supervisor considers the dissertation project to be feasible, the duration of the plan can be extended as agreed by the parties. The supervision plan is drawn up electronically. The so-called main supervisor is entered into the system as the 'UGIS supervisor' of the doctoral researcher, while the others are entered with 'supervisor' status.

Changes in the supervisory relationship (change of supervisor, addition or removal of supervisor) shall be reported using the electronic supervision plan form signed by all parties. Changes in the status of supervisors in the UGIS system (UGIS supervisor/supervisor) must be reported to the doctoral programme coordinator by email. All parties involved in the supervision relationship must acknowledge the agreed change to the coordinator.

The doctoral programme steering committee handles any problematic issues related to supervision. All parties are heard during the investigation. The investigation process is initiated by contacting the doctoral programme coordinator. A possible change of supervisor is decided by the doctoral programme or, if necessary, by the dean.

Doctoral researchers in the doctoral programme report annually on the progress of their studies in an electronic annual report. The doctoral programme provides more detailed instructions on submitting the annual report at the end of each calendar year.

Follow-up group

A follow-up group may be appointed for doctoral researchers by mutual agreement between the supervisor and the doctoral researcher. The purpose of the follow-up group is to support the dissertation process and its supervision. The follow-up group may include doctoral-level personnel from the University of Turku or experts from outside the university. The supervisor decides on the composition of the follow-up group after consulting with the doctoral researcher. The purpose of the follow-up group is to ensure the progress of the dissertation and studies, to bring an outside perspective to the research, and to support the doctoral researcher and supervisor in the event of a conflict.

- The follow-up group meets once a year to evaluate the progress of doctoral training, and the meeting may be combined with a career discussion. The doctoral researcher convenes the meeting and at the same time submits their progress report to their supervisor and the follow-up group.

- The follow-up group must confirm that the doctoral researcher's workload and contribution to publications are sufficient for the dissertation to be submitted to the preliminary examination process. If necessary, the follow-up group will issue a statement on the progress of the doctoral researcher's work.
- The aim of the follow-up group is to promote the successful progress of the dissertation by offering expertise on the subject area and implementation of the dissertation. If necessary, changes can be made to the study or research plan on the basis of the discussion.
- In the event of any problems, the doctoral researcher may also contact the members of the follow-up group between meetings. Ideally, the doctoral researcher would have the opportunity to discuss the supervisory relationship with the follow-up group in confidence at the meetings.

Doctoral thesis

A doctoral thesis is a scientific presentation within the faculty's field based on independent research which has not been published before. The thesis may be published in Finnish, Swedish or English.

The doctoral thesis must demonstrate the author's in-depth knowledge of their own field of research, related disciplines and general scientific theory, their ability to independently and critically apply scientific research methods within their own field of research, and their ability to independently create new knowledge.

A doctoral thesis published at the Faculty of Social Sciences may be either a monograph or an article thesis.

Monograph dissertation

A monograph dissertation is a previously unpublished research work written by the doctoral researcher and published as a single work.

A monograph cannot be previously published, but the doctoral researcher writing it may publish articles related to the topic before the public defence. A monograph manuscript has not been peer-reviewed previously, and therefore supervisors must take particular care to ensure its scientific quality before the preliminary examination.

Article dissertation

An article dissertation is a publication consisting of an introductory chapter and independent articles already published or accepted for publication (and possibly submitted or sent for review for publication) that address a common research problem or set of problems. The scientific quality and other requirements of an article dissertation are equivalent to those of a monograph. An article dissertation consists of an introductory chapter and at least three scientific articles. As a minimum, two articles must be peer-reviewed and accepted for publication and one article must be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for review. At the start of writing the article dissertation, the doctoral researcher and the supervisor agree on a publication plan for the dissertation.

The articles may be either published or accepted for publication in scientific journals, conference proceedings or edited volumes, or a third article sent for peer review. When the research is submitted for preliminary examination, the doctoral researcher must include in the manuscript a letter of endorsement from the editor of the journal or the editor of the edited volume for articles not yet published but accepted for publication. In addition to at least two peer-reviewed articles, the dissertation may also contain unpublished articles. Each article must contain new results. As articles

cannot be edited at the time of the publication of the dissertation, a slight repetition or overlap of articles may be allowed.

Articles may be international or national publications. It is recommended that sub studies in an article dissertation should aim to be published in international scientific journals.

The doctoral researcher should have a clear independent role in the writing of the articles and in the preparation of the results. Articles may also include co-authored articles. The doctoral researcher must be the primary author (first author or have shared primary authorship) of at least three articles. When the research is submitted for preliminary examination, the doctoral researcher and supervisor must present to the faculty a written statement of the co-authored publications and the independent contribution of the doctoral researcher's work included in them. The report is sent with the manuscript to the pre-examiners and the opponent to enable them to assess whether the overall output of the doctoral researchers meets the faculty's requirements for the scope of the article dissertation.

The same article may be used in more than one dissertation based on the above statement. However, an article dissertation cannot include parts of the doctoral researcher's previous dissertation. There is no limit on the date of publication of articles; they do not expire.

Summary

The summary is placed at the beginning of the work, before the articles. The summary section is prepared by the doctoral researcher alone. The recommended length of the summary is 30-100 pages. The summary is not just an extended abstract of the articles, but an analytical introduction to the work.

The summary presents the research question, its motivation, its scientific position within the field, and the research goals, methods, results and conclusions. In the summary, the author also brings together the articles included in the thesis and brings out the significance of each to the whole of the research and the research results. The summary should therefore not present any new research or materials. Instead, the summary must critically evaluate the research presented in the articles and the significance of their findings at the time when the summary is published.

Publishing permission

Including articles in the printed thesis that have already been published requires a written publication permit from the publisher. The doctoral researcher is responsible for getting the permit.

Evaluation

An article thesis is evaluated based on both the articles and the summary. The articles are evaluated both for their content and for the author's contribution to each article, and for the cohesiveness of the articles and the summary. The summary is central to the evaluation.

Preliminary examination

The preliminary examination process for a dissertation begins when the supervisors and the doctoral researcher consider the manuscript ready for preliminary examination. Before the manuscript is submitted for preliminary examination, the text must be checked using the electronic plagiarism detection system in accordance with the university's guidelines. The main supervisor performs the check and provides the Turnitin ID number(s) to the faculty (or issues a certificate) confirming that the

check has been carried out. The authenticity check is noted on the form used by the supervisor to propose the preliminary examiners (or a separate signed certificate is submitted to the faculty). Further information about the check: see the university's [Instructions for Turnitin](#) and [FairUtu](#).

The preliminary examiners are proposed by the supervisor or the person responsible in the major subject using the [UGIS system form](#). Before the preliminary examiners are appointed, the author of the dissertation is given the opportunity to comment on the matter. The dean appoints at least two preliminary examiners who have completed a doctoral degree and, if possible, have the scientific merits required of a docent. The preliminary examiners must be from outside the University of Turku.

In exceptional cases, one preliminary examiner may be from another faculty at the University of Turku. The supervisor of the dissertation cannot act as a preliminary examiner.

The recommended deadline for issuing a statement on the permission to defend the dissertation is two months. The statement cannot be conditional; it must either approve or disapprove the granting of permission to defend the dissertation. The faculty's point of view is that the work submitted for preliminary examination is ready for publication. If the preliminary examination statements support the granting of permission to defend the dissertation, the faculty council will immediately take the matter up for decision. If the statements deny permission to defend the thesis on the grounds that the manuscript still requires considerable work, the author must submit the finalized manuscript to the faculty after making the necessary corrections. The faculty may then consult the preliminary reviewers to have the work re-evaluated as appropriate. The student may also choose to interrupt the preliminary review process; in this case, the supervisor will advocate for the preliminary review to be restarted once the work has been corrected, and the dean will again appoint preliminary examiners for the work. The faculty may grant permission to defend the dissertation once two preliminary review statements have been received recommending that permission be granted.

The supervisor's proposal of people involved in the defence (once the faculty has granted permission to defend the dissertation) is made using the [UGIS system form](#).

Publication

An abstract in both Finnish and English is attached to the published dissertation. The dissertation is published according to [University of Turku guidelines](#).

Dissertation evaluation

Once the faculty council has granted permission for the defense, the dean appoints an opponent, a custos, and an evaluation committee for the dissertation.

The dean appoints one or two opponents who have completed a doctoral degree and who, if possible, have the scientific merits required of a docent. The supervisor of the dissertation cannot act as an opponent. As a rule, the opponent must be from outside the university. Before the opponent is appointed, the author of the dissertation shall be given an opportunity to comment on the matter. The dean appoints a professor or docent of the faculty who is employed in research and teaching in the Faculty of Social Sciences as the custos of the public defense. An assistant professor or professor emeritus of the faculty may also act as custos.

The language of the defense is determined in advance by the custos after consulting with both the doctoral researcher and the opponent. The language of the public defense is Finnish or Swedish, or

the language in which the dissertation was written. The doctoral researcher and the opponent may also use a different language in the public defence if so agreed.

For the evaluation of the dissertation, the dean appoints an evaluation committee whose task is to ensure the impartiality of the evaluation. The committee consists of at least three members. The chair

of the committee is a professor or associate professor of the subject or department. The other members are the opponent(s), the preliminary examiner(s), and any external experts.

The chair of the evaluation committee must be a professor or associate professor in the same subject or department. The chair shall familiarize the opponent and the other members of the evaluation committee with the faculty's evaluation practices, evaluation scale, and regulations. The chair must

also inform the committee of any other factors that may affect the evaluation. In accordance with the rules on disqualification applicable at the University of Turku, the supervisor of the doctoral dissertation may not act as chair or member of the evaluation committee.

After hearing the evaluation committee, the opponent must submit a reasoned written statement to the faculty regarding the dissertation within one month of the public defence. The statement shall indicate whether the dissertation is approved or rejected and propose a grade for the approved work. The statement shall also indicate how the examination committee was consulted.

The doctoral researcher shall be given the opportunity to respond to the opponent's statement. The response shall be submitted to the faculty before the meeting of the faculty council at which the evaluation of the dissertation is to be discussed. In accordance with the academic tradition of the faculty, the doctoral researcher shall not discuss the grade with the opponent before the council has approved the dissertation and the proposed grade.

The faculty council decides on the approval and grade of the dissertation. The grades used for approved dissertations are *approbatur*, *lubenter approbatur*, *non sine laude approbatur*, *cum laude approbatur*, *magna cum laude approbatur*, *eximia cum laude approbatur*, and *laudatur*.

The following criteria are used when applying the grading scale:

Approbatur: The work is seriously deficient, but it meets the requirements for a doctoral thesis.

Lubenter approbatur: The work has several significant deficiencies without special merits which would compensate for them.

Non sine laude approbatur: The work has deficiencies without sufficient merits compensating for them.

Cum laude approbatur: The work is a good scientific effort. It is conceptually and linguistically clear; the research question, the methodological choices and conclusions are well grounded and the materials are relevant. The special merits of the work compensate for the deficiencies.

Magna cum laude approbatur: The work has special scientific merits without deficiencies which detract from them.

Eximia cum laude approbatur: The work has very significant scientific merits without deficiencies to detract from them.

Laudatur: The work is scientifically ambitious and very praiseworthy.

The author of the dissertation may submit a written request for rectification on the dissertation evaluation to the council within 14 days of receiving notification of the decision.

Doctoral degree certificate

The doctoral degree certificate is awarded by the dean. In the Faculty of Social Sciences, doctoral researchers do not need to apply for graduation separately; the graduation date is automatically the date on which the dissertation is approved.

LICENTIATE DEGREES (120 cr)

For a licentiate degree, a student must complete a licentiate thesis and all required postgraduate studies (40 cr). The degree can be completed in any of the faculty's disciplines.

Applying for postgraduate studies towards a licentiate degree

To apply for the right to pursue postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, the applicant submits an application form to the faculty. The application period is ongoing. The general selection criteria for postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences are as follows:

- a sufficient grade in the advanced studies of a master's degree - usually at least a good evaluation is required
- a sufficient grade for the master's thesis – usually at least 3 / cum laude approbatur
- the level and feasibility of the applicant's research plan
- availability of resources for supervision

The formal eligibility of applicants and the application documents are checked by the faculty.

Eligible applications are sent to the disciplines for evaluation. The person in charge of postgraduate education within the discipline prepares a proposal for selection. The dean then makes the final decision on admission.

The applicant will be notified of the decision by email. The decision may be appealed within 14 days of the selection becoming public.

Licentiate degree studies

Licentiate thesis 80 credits

A licentiate thesis must show the student's familiarity with the field and the ability to independently and critically apply methods of scientific study.

The faculty may also accept peer-reviewed articles or articles submitted for publication that deal with the same set of problems, as well as a summary of them (approx. 3–10 pages) summarizing previous research related to the research topic and the objectives, methods, and results of the licentiate thesis. In addition to the summary section, the licentiate thesis must include at least one article that is in the publication process (i.e., submitted for publication) or published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

The articles may also include joint publications, provided that the author's independent contribution to them can be demonstrated. The author of the research is obliged to submit a statement to the faculty on their independent contribution to the work included in the joint publications. A statement signed by the authors of the joint publication or a statement from the supervisor of the work is considered an acceptable explanation. The statement must be submitted at the same time as the research is submitted for review.

The studies required for professional specialist licentiate degrees are included in the disciplinary curricula.

Postgraduate studies 40 credits

The purpose of the studies is to support licentiate research and provide skills for both research work and other demanding expert tasks. Each postgraduate student must actively participate in the organized training and present their own research and its progress at least once per academic year. Postgraduate students must draw up a personal postgraduate study plan, which sets out the planned content of their postgraduate studies (40 credits) and a preliminary schedule for completing them.

The obligatory and optional studies included in the postgraduate studies and the requirements for study credits are the same as for the doctoral degree (see above).

The studies must be completed before the licentiate thesis is submitted for review.

Supervision

The licentiate student is assigned at least one supervisor. The main supervisor is the discipline's professor, assistant professor or a teacher or researcher with at least a licentiate degree. A second supervisor may be appointed from outside the discipline.

The postgraduate student must come to supervision sessions well prepared, produce the needed material, stay in regular contact with the supervisor, and complete the assignments that have been agreed upon. The student must commit to the research project by striving for high academic quality and by adhering to rules of research ethics.

Licentiate thesis evaluation

For the appointment of the reviewers, the thesis author submits to the faculty three bound copies of the licentiate thesis, one of which remain at the university and two are sent to thesis reviewers.

To evaluate the licentiate thesis, the dean of the faculty appoints at least two reviewers. The evaluators may not be persons disqualified under Section 28 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003). The supervisor of the licentiate thesis may not act as a reviewer, and at least one of the reviewers must come from outside the researcher's department. The licentiate thesis is reviewed in a research seminar (does not apply to professional specialist licentiate research). After the seminar, the reviewers will give reasoned statements in writing, and if they are in favor of approving the work, they make a proposal for a grade in the statement. The reviewers may also give a joint statement. The approval and grade of the licentiate thesis is decided on by the faculty council.

The thesis author is offered the chance to respond to the reviewers' statement. The response must be given to the faculty before the faculty council meeting where the evaluation of the thesis in question is discussed.

The grading scale of an approved licentiate thesis is *approbatur*, *lubenter approbatur*, *non sine laude approbatur*, *cum laude approbatur*, *magna cum laude approbatur*, *eximia cum laude approbatur* and *laudatur*. The scale is applied in the same manner as with a doctoral thesis.

The author of the licentiate thesis may submit to the faculty council a written request for rectification on the thesis evaluation within 14 days of receiving notice of the decision.

A licentiate thesis that is part of a degree which includes specialization training is graded on a scale of approved or approved with honours.

Licentiate degree certificate

The licentiate degree certificate is awarded by the dean. Postgraduate students do not need to apply for graduation separately; the graduation date is automatically the date on which the licentiate thesis is approved.

Entry into force of the regulations

By decision of the Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences, these regulations shall enter into force on 1 August 2024 and, with regard to the requirements for article-based dissertations, on 24 April 2024.

If this unofficial translation conflicts with the original Finnish text, the original text shall prevail.